

# Buda

42 Hunter Street, Castlemaine, Victoria

**Buda is a single storey 1863 Italianate villa with a grand 1890s Classical Baroque front entrance and octagonal additions, complemented by three acres of mature dry climate garden. The garden is designed in a series of picturesque compartments, some containing oriental inspired garden structures such as the bird aviary, pergola walk and tennis pavilion.**



Buda Garden, Tennis Pavilion

The property is primarily the artistic creation of Ernest Leviny (1818-1905), a Hungarian émigré, silversmith and jeweller, trained in Vienna and Paris and noted for his contribution to the development of a unique Australian artistic style, combining indigenous Australian motifs with classical allegories.

In 1863, he purchased Delhi Villa (which had been built around 1861) from Reverend James Smith, a Baptist missionary returned from India. Leviny developed Delhi Villa as a family home for his wife and eight children. Later in life he renamed it Buda.

On the death of their father in 1905, the Leviny sisters re-decorated Buda house and garden in the style of the emerging Australian Arts and Craft Movement. Their collective craftworks, furniture and paintings of a number of important Australian women artists of the time, including examples of Margaret Preston and Norbertine Bresslern-Roth's work, together with the complete contents of the house were bequeathed to the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Historical Museum at the request of Hilda, the last remaining sibling, on her death in 1981.



Buda House, its contents and garden, displays the creative and artistic genius of Ernest Leviny and his daughters. The combined works are strongly influenced by the hot dry climate of the locality, showing early development of an indigenous character to an "Australian Settler" aesthetic style, created by the buoyant success and aspirations of the European gold seekers in the Victorian goldfields. The later modifications by the Leviny daughters illustrate a feminine decorative art form associated with the emergence of the early 20th century Australian Arts and Crafts Movement.



Entrance



Front elevation

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Aviary



Old Kitchen



Sitting Room