



# Royal Australian Historical Society

## Knowing your history

29 January 2024

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### History House Project – Change of Plan

The History House project has been an ongoing RAHS project to update and improve our heritage listed building and members' services. The RAHS had an approved DA for the work. However, in late 2023, the combination of rapidly increasing building costs and the challenges of raising finances in the current economic environment made it difficult to progress with the project in the current form.

In 2023, the RAHS Council made the difficult decision to let this development application lapse in favour of a refocused History House project focusing on needed conservation works and reopening the building to members and the public.

We want to thank all our members for their support and patience. Your building donations are invaluable to us and will be used to ensure that History House remains part of our living heritage and a place for local and community history.

### **What's next?**

In the first half of 2024, we will review the project goals, focusing on the heritage section of the building and the existing fabric. The History House Conservation Management Plan contains a schedule of works that will provide the framework for this component of the revised project. We also need to undertake urgent maintenance work deferred because of the larger building project and decide on a solution to our accessibility and lift issues.

We are also planning to reopen History House in 2024. The library is now open to researchers by appointment. From April 2024, we will organise lectures and events at History House for members and the history community and continue our popular online events. We plan to improve services to members, including upgrading the technology in our auditorium so we can host hybrid events.

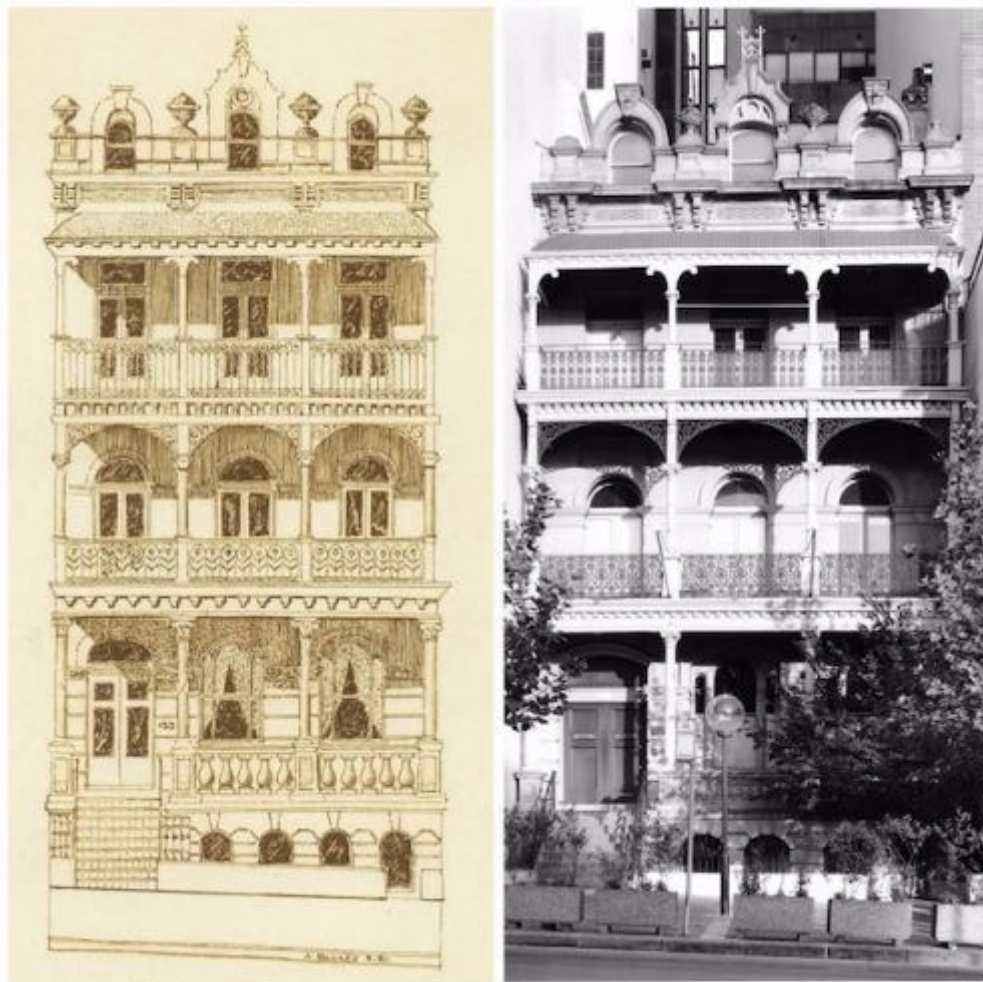
We understand that you may have questions. Please feel free to contact me, or RAHS General Manager Suzanne Holohan, if you would like more information or if there is anything specific you would like to discuss at [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au).

We thank our donors, members and friends for their generous support and understanding during this challenging time. We are immensely grateful for donors like you who make it possible for the RAHS to pursue its goal of promoting Australian History at History House.

Dr Iain Stuart

RAHS President

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Pencil sketch alongside a photograph of History House

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