

Como House - South Yarra, Melbourne Victoria 3141.

www.watermetermuseum.org

Como House is a National Trust property located at Corner Williams Road and Lechlade Avenue, South Yarra, Victoria.

The original house was built in 1847 for lawyer Edward Eyre Williams. The property was expanded during the 1850s and 1870s, creating the grand mansion seen today, combining Australian Regency and Italianate architectural styles.

In the 1860s, it became the home of the influential Armytage family, wealthy pastoralists who lived there for about 95 years. The house was renowned as a centre of Melbourne society, hosting balls, parties and gatherings for Victoria's colonial elite.

Known affectionately as "the white house on the hill," Como overlooks the Birrarung (Yarra River) and is surrounded by historic gardens.

It was the first house museum in Australia acquired with its original contents, including furniture, household technology and decorative arts.

Much of the original servants' quarters, interiors and family furnishings remain intact, providing a rare glimpse into upper-class Victorian life.

The Historic Water Meter Museum visited in Mid-January 2026 and after an extensive search located the water that services the main property grounds.



Jan.2026



Installed is an **RMC 40mm oval flanged Multi-Jet Water Meter** and connected prior to it is a rare original **1-1/2" Davies-Shephard Dirt-Box Filter**.





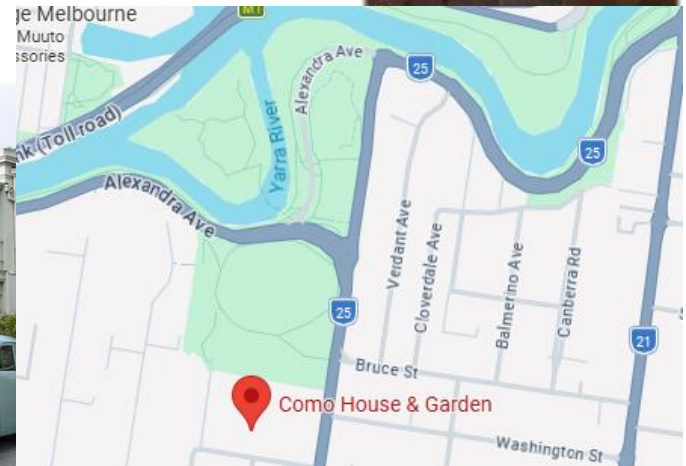
Contents within the Property

Above of mention is a 1870's automatic knife sharpener, but made by the iconic later water meter manufacturer **George Kent** from England.



Right: A hand operated water pump supplied by **John Danks & Sons** one of Australia's best-known nineteenth and early twentieth century engineering and plumbing supply and manufacturing firms who also made water meters.

Pictures by A.Manu and from the National Trust.



Rippon Lea Estate - Elsternwick Melbourne, Victoria 3185

www.watermetermuseum.org

Rippon Lea Estate is one of Melbourne's grandest surviving nineteenth-century mansions and gardens, located at 192 Hotham St Elsternwick. It was built in 1868 for wealthy businessman and politician Sir Frederick Sargood, who made his fortune supplying soft goods during Victoria's gold rush era. The estate was named after his mother's surname, Rippon, while "Lea" is an old English word meaning meadow.

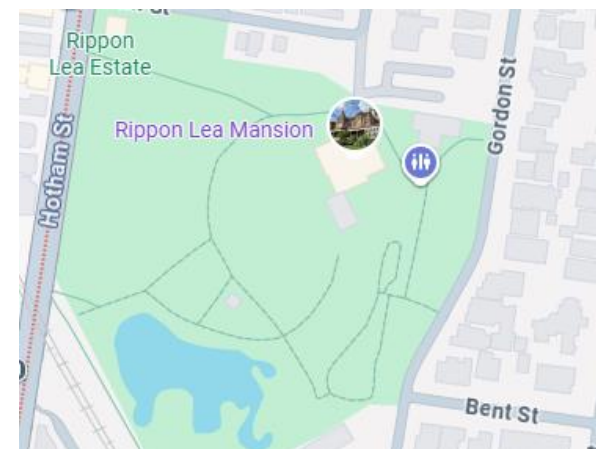
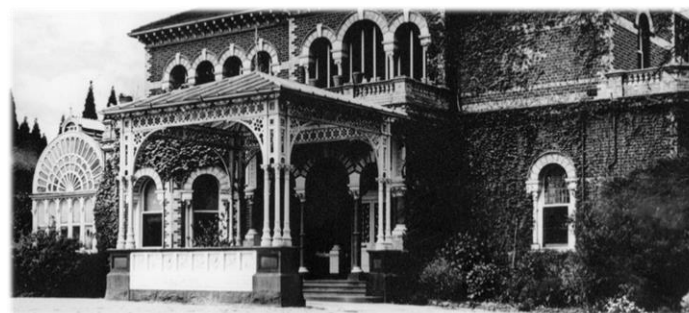
The mansion originally contained 15 rooms and stood within a vast self-sufficient estate of gardens, orchards, paddocks and ornamental lakes. The property was technologically advanced for its time, featuring its own water supply system, electricity generation and indoor toilets.

During the 1880s and 1890s, the estate was expanded substantially. The house grew to 33 rooms, while celebrated landscape designer William Sangster helped transform the gardens, creating the picturesque lake, lookout hill, fernery and extensive pleasure grounds that visitors enjoy today.

Following Sir Frederick's death in 1903, the estate passed through several prominent Melbourne families.

In 1972, the property was acquired by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), saving it from subdivision and redevelopment. Today Rippon Lea is listed on Australia's National Heritage List and is recognised as one of the finest surviving Victorian-era suburban estates in the country.

The Water Meter Museum visited the site on 12 Jan.2026 however, due to time constraints and staff being unaware of the meter's location, it could not be located.



<https://www.ripponleaestate.com.au>