

Prominent Architect's Home

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Loma Loma, originally known as *Belmont*, was built in 1888 in the Victorian Italianate style, for the architect William Gordon, as his own home.



Born in 1857 at Glebe, William and younger brother Charles formed the architectural practice of Gordon & Gordon in early 1881. The practice, which lasted some twenty-five years, was responsible for the design of many of early Albury's finest buildings.

Suburban Allotment 58 on which William's home was built had an area of about seven acres close to what is now the corner of Lester and Sackville Streets. The land was originally purchased from the Crown by William Lester, in December 1853 for £6.7. Under Lester's ownership this land, which had views to the south over the Murray River and to the southeast over Albury was held with Suburban Allotment 57 and was known as *Montague's Farm*.

Lester who arrived in Australia in 1823 from England and squatted at the 45,000 acre *Morebringer* run east of Bungowannah, died in November 1858 aged 53. He was one of the earliest Murray River pioneer settlers in the area. Later James Pearce Smith a grazier from *Sunbury* Howlong, owned the land.

In early 1902 Mr & Mrs Gilbert H Roxburgh who had married at Gooramadda in 1899, brought William's home and land which they renamed *Loma Loma*. The Roxburgh's allowed the *Loma Loma* grounds, described in 1907 as "spacious and picturesque," to be used for town events including garden fetes and concerts to raise funds for various purposes.

When Mrs Eileen Roxburgh advertised *Loma Loma* for sale in 1929 the house consisted of "drawing room, dining room, six bedrooms, library, kitchen, storeroom, pantry, bathroom, large underground cellar, and three large verandas." This sale was not successful.

Originally the grounds covered about seven acres, but these were subdivided for housing in the late 1930s. Eileen died in Sydney in December 1933, aged 56. Following Gilbert's death in January 1943 *Loma Loma* passed to his eldest daughter Margaret Eliza Roxburgh.

In November 1965 Margaret Roxburgh offered the property for sale. In the following year *Loma Loma*, described by the *Border Morning Mail* as "one of Albury's leading homes" was demolished. The site, which had by then had been reduced to about one acre, was subdivided. Work on the site included a new road named, Loma Place.