

PLACE NAME
ADDRESS
AREA 8

Craft Cottage
21 Pleasant Street
DATE/PERSON 13.5/RP

LEVEL: B
NEG: 3.18



DATES Construction: c1865
USE Present Use: Commercial
Original Use: House
Alterations?:

FORM

Detached
Single storey
Double fronted

STYLE

Conservative
Classical

DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)

ROOF

I Slate

WALLS

I Rendered

ROOF FORM

* Chimneys
* Gable decoration

VERANDAH

FENESTRATION

I Doors
* Windows
Window hoods

FINISHES

INTERIOR

Plan
Some fireplaces
& cornices

GARDEN & SETTING

OTHER COMMENTS

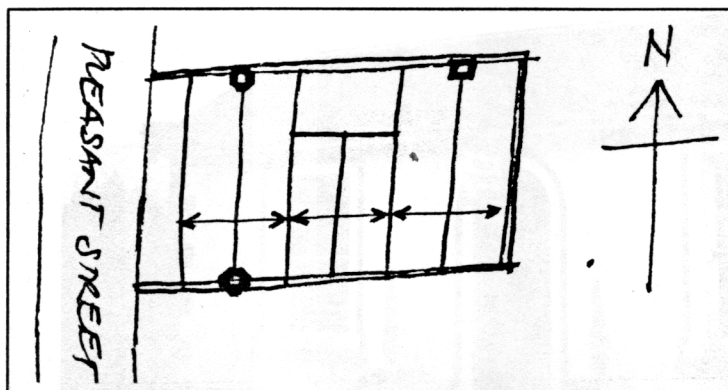
CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Condition: Fair
Integrity: Minor Modif

THREATS

DESCRIPTION

A symmetrical, double-fronted, Conservative Classical cottage, with parallel gables across the site. It has a rendered front, of a central round-headed opening with a keystone, in which the door is recessed. This and the particularly large windows have a moulded architrave which splays at the sill, as pendants. The windows have fine perimeter glazing bars. The front chimneys are octagonal; the roof is slate. There are wavy fretwork bargeboards. There are two similar gable extensions, the middle one being recessed to form a courtyard. The interior plan and some elements (cornices, fireplaces), appear intact.



HISTORY

This cottage has significance for its associations with the early building trade in Geelong. It was constructed in c1865 for, and possibly by, Elijah Seeley³⁶², well known Geelong bricklayer and building contractor, and the father of the Geelong architect, Thomas Frederick Seeley³⁶³. Elijah also owned an adjoining brick cottage at 23 Pleasant Street³⁶⁴. A police station listed as "police barracks" stood nearby on the NW corner of Prospect Road and Pleasant Street³⁶⁵.

Elijah Seeley, bricklayer, was rated in 1865 for two houses in Pleasant Street with NAV's of 14 pounds and 18 pounds³⁶⁶. These were identified in 1866 as brick houses³⁶⁷, and in 1870 as brick buildings of four rooms³⁶⁸. In 1871 a more detailed description was given when Seeley's two houses in Pleasant Street were listed as four roomed brick cottages with cellars, each with an NAV of 25 pounds³⁶⁹. This was the last time Seeley was listed as the owner of the cottages.

Seeley, who came from Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, England, arrived in Victoria in 1857 with his family which included his son, Thomas Frederick, born in 1848. Elijah became one of Newtown's best known early residents. He was a member of the Newtown and Chilwell Fire Brigade. He was listed in Bottrell's reminiscences of old Geelong

362. Newtown rate book 1865-66, North Ward, No 256.

363. R. Aitken, "Edwardian Geelong: An Architectural Introduction", unpublished thesis, Deakin University, 1979.

364. Newtown rate book 1865-66 No 255.

365. Ibid 1885-86 No 253. The first constable operated from there in the early 1860s. In 1909 a police station was listed in Aphrasia Street, replacing the building in Pleasant Street.

366. Ibid 1865-66 Nos 255, 256.

367. Ibid 1866-67 Nos 255, 256.

368. Ibid 1870-71 Nos 255, 256.

369. Ibid 1871-72 Nos 255, 256.

as owner of one of the "early homes of Newtown"; being one of those living in Pleasant Street "in the early days". Bottrell tells of how Seeley was "one of the foundation members of the Newtown and Chilwell Fire Brigade" and "for a long time was station keeper"³⁷⁰. Other early residents of Pleasant Street included a grain merchant, Adamson, of the firm Burrows and Adamson; Brockbank, an ironmonger, of the firm White and Brockbank; Dr. Grieves, and Lynch "one of the principal Constables in Newtown and Chilwell"³⁷¹. Seeley's son, Thomas Frederick, worked in his father's contracting business which he took over on his father's death. Later, he founded a partnership with the architect George King in the firm Seeley and King, which successfully carried out residential, commercial and industrial work³⁷².

The second owner of the brick cottage, later known as 21 Pleasant Street, was James Brown, gentleman. He let the cottages to various tenants. From 1885 the buildings were listed as brick buildings of four rooms with kitchens³⁷³, and from 1888 as brick cottages of five rooms³⁷⁴. A photographer, John Wesley Brown, became the owner of the cottages in 1895³⁷⁵. As early as the 1850s a number of notable photographers lived in Geelong including Turner in 1856, J. Norton in 1858, Wilmot from the 1860s until 1919-20, Kruger in the 1870s and 1880s, G. L. Massingham in the late 1880s, 1890s and 1990s and Marshall, who was operating from 1890 to 1920³⁷⁶. Brown lived at 21 Pleasant Street and let No 23 to various tenants including W. Cocking, quarryman, from c1901-1905. By 1911 Brown was letting both 21 and 23 Pleasant Street, brick houses of five rooms, to two carpenters, Thomas Hallway (21), and Joseph Haywood (23). By 1919, 21 Pleasant Street was owned and occupied by the teachers Marguerite and Wilma Florence Moore. From this date the brick cottage was described as a dwelling of seven rooms. The Moores were owners/occupiers still in 1935³⁷⁷.

SIGNIFICANCE

This rendered brick cottage has regional historical significance for its early associations with Geelong's important building trade, and was constructed c1865 for, and most probably by, Elijah Seeley, well-known Geelong bricklayer and building contractor, and the father of the Geelong architect, Thomas Frederick Seeley. It has regional historical significance as a surviving Conservative Classical cottage which has some architectural pretensions. These are expressed in quoins, architrave moulds and keystones. It is a design full of interesting elements including: architrave pendants, round headed recessed entry, fretwork barges, perimeter glazing bars and octagonal chimneys. Its development is illustrated by the sequence of additions.

370. J. H. Bottrell, Newtown Hill and Round About, in Geelong Advertiser, 19 January, 1929.

371. Ibid.

372. R. Aitken, "Edwardian Geelong: An Architectural Introduction", unpublished thesis, Deakin University, 1979; and Cyclopedia of Victoria, vol.2, pp.452-453.

373. Newtown rate book 1885-86 Nos 255, 256.

374. Ibid 1888-89 Nos 297, 298.

375. Ibid 1895-96 Nos 380, 381.

376. Investigator, March 1979, pp.18-24.

377. Newtown rate book 1919-20 No 474,; 1935 No 558.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
Area 8
Place

The second house on the block, 1011, is a two-story, brick house with a gabled roof. It was built in 1910 and is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. The house has a symmetrical facade with a central entrance and two side windows. The interior is well-preserved and features original woodwork and a fireplace. The house is located on a quiet street and is surrounded by mature trees. It is a well-maintained property and is a good example of the architecture of the early 20th century.

This building, which is a two-story, brick house with a gabled roof, is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. It was built in 1910 and is a well-maintained property. The house has a symmetrical facade with a central entrance and two side windows. The interior is well-preserved and features original woodwork and a fireplace. The house is located on a quiet street and is surrounded by mature trees. It is a good example of the architecture of the early 20th century.

The third house on the block, 1013, is a two-story, brick house with a gabled roof. It was built in 1910 and is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. The house has a symmetrical facade with a central entrance and two side windows. The interior is well-preserved and features original woodwork and a fireplace. The house is located on a quiet street and is surrounded by mature trees. It is a well-maintained property and is a good example of the architecture of the early 20th century.