CITY OF GEELONG WEST

URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM

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BUILDING ADDRESS

35 VILLAMANTA STREET.

HISTORY

For many years ownership of 35 Villamanta Street was with the estate of J.W.Sparrow, however by 1893 Edward R. Sparrow is listed as owner and occupier. E.R.Sparrow was an auctioneer of the prominent Geelong firm of Robinson Burns and Sparrow. The rate book entries are unclear about 1875 and again in 1890-1. A construction date of 1879-80 is indicated, however there is speculation that the house was already built by 1873 although this has not been confirmed. Early tenants of the house were Duguld Rankin (wine merchant), H.C.Neilson (draper), and in 1880 Samuel Day (Baptist Minister).

E.R.Sparrow died in 1918 leaving an extensive estate. Sparrow Park was named after Edward Sparrow from whose estate the four and half acres was purchased in 1936.

DESCRIPTION

35 Villamanta Street is a large single storey Victorian villa of polychrome brick with a concave profile verandah decorated with cast iron. The front elevation is symmetrical with a pair of bay windows reflected in the form of the verandah. The large garden was extended by the purchase and demolition of 31 Villamanta Street. The roof is slate and the chimneys are a distinctive design of brick and render decoration. The Potter Street frontage has a weatherboard outbuilding which may be the former stables. There are similarities in form with 234 Latrobe Terrace, however the detailing is different. The fence and gate are a later addition however the house appears to be largely in its original condition externally. The rate books describe the house variously between seven and nine rooms with pantry, stables, store and wash house.

SIGNIFICANCE

This building has historical associations with the prominent Sparrow family and is one of relatively few large Victorian residences found in Geelong West. It s importance is enhanced by its good integrity and large garden. It is of regional significance

POLICY/RECOMMENDATIONS

National Estate Register, GRPS.

REFERENCES

Borough of Geelong West Rate Books, 1876, 1878, 1880-1, 1884-5, 1893-4, 1900-1. The Morrow Pioneers Index. GHRC.

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P. Gibbs and Geelong Discovery Guides, '12 Villamanta Street Houses', a poster Deakin University, 1981.