



Brinsmead House **14 Balliang Street**

History

Built as a verandahed four-room weatherboarded house on an allotment sold in 1882 to one William Brinsmead, it belies its c1885 construction date by a seemingly earlier construction type.¹ The nearby police reserve of 1867 may have yielded a pre-existing dwelling, possibly sold with the land.

William Brinsmead arrived in Geelong between 1866 and 1874, making a living as a dealer in Wellington Street, Ashby (now Geelong West) until at least the 1870s². A Mrs. Brinsmead kept a Mercer Street boarding house in the 1880s while a Melbourne firm of that name also operated a branch in Ryrie Street.³ William Brinsmead's large Connemara farm was singled out in the *Tourists' Guide to Geelong and Southern Watering Places* of the 1890s as the best in the locale.⁴

Before then he was listed in Balliang Street (in this house) as a 'gentleman'.⁵ Although he retained the land, Brinsmead moved to Leopold, leasing the house to

Thomas Johnson, Robert Topping, John Richard and A. Ruffin.⁶ A William Gliddon, of 16 Balliang Street, owned the house in 1917, selling to a Mrs. E. Phipps within 8 years. The Phipps family carried out still visible renovations in 1925.

Description

Possibly relocated on this site, this is a low double fronted simply hipped-roof timber house, comprised of two main bays, one seemingly added to the other. The brick chimneys have corbelled tops (extended) and appear as early as the house. Simple openings, with simple mouldings, all evoke a similar early character.

External Integrity

The verandah has been rebuilt, the fence removed and a pergola added to the east.

Streetscape

Shares early character of some adjacent houses and the old church-hall complex, but most of these houses have been altered, lowering the street's expression of this early period. Contributes to precinct 10.3.

1 RB1885. 733

2 Geelong West RB1874 Villamanta Ward

3 WD1884-57

4 INV 12.74, p.108

5 GD1886-7

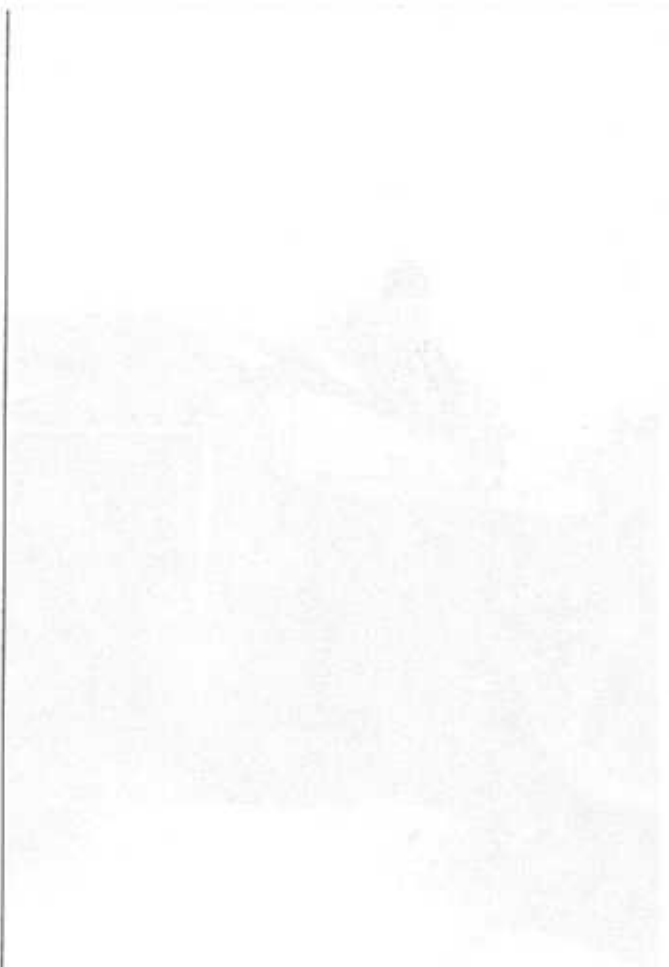
6 RB1890. 848; RB1895-6, 1467; RB1899, 1737; RB1910, 1781

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

Significance

Historically, occupied by and erected for the locally known Brinsmead family with possible older links to the pre-subdivision period.

Architecturally, evocative of early Geelong cottages but its uncertain historical background makes this equally uncertain.



17

18