



70 Bellerine Street

History

Visual inspection suggests this property dates from circa 1870. However, prior to 1897, the rate books do not provide a clear indication of ownership. Further historical research is required to identify the exact date of construction and the name of the original owner. In 1897 the rate books describe the residence as a seven room weatherboard cottage with stables and land. Sarah Watts was the owner of the property which was leased to a tenant. In 1902 the owner was Mary Maguire who retained possession until at least 1920. During that time 70 Bellerine Street was rented out to a variety of tenants. Mary Maguire also owned 53 Bellerine Street from 1901 until her death in 1940. In 1940 Mrs Annie Stringer appears as the registered owner and occupier. The Sands and MacDougall's Directory lists a Mrs Stringer residing at these premises in 1972. In recent years the property has passed through the hands of a number of different owners and occupiers.

Description

This reasonably intact double fronted Early Victorian building retains its early form, timber beaded board facade, a slate hip roof, and a typical Early Victorian window opening. The central entrance has sidelights, a highlight, and a protruding bay. An unusual timber verandah with notable timber details, including thick round timber columns, and curvilinear Art Nouveau brackets, are later c1915 alterations. An early brick structure forms part of the residence at the rear. The verandah floor is concrete however it would have once been timber. A corbelled brick chimney protrudes from the roof. The building forms part of the residential streetscape.

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Significance

70 Bellerine Street has architectural significance at a local level. The building is a representative and reasonably intact example of an Early Victorian residence, a housing type once common in the Geelong region. The structure retains characteristic siting, and form as well as a number of original details and an unusual c1915 timber verandah.

