

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0247

Address: 247 Bellerine Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1893-1896

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.26

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 247 Bellerine Street, Geelong, on the north-east corner of Bellerine and Lonsdale Streets, is located on part of Allotment no. 11, Section 16a, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881, originally the property of J.G. Carr.

The first entry for this house in the Geelong Rate Books, Barwon Ward, may have been in 1896, when ownership of a weatherboard house in Bellerine Street East (Part 11, Section 16b) was credited to Henry Dowling. In 1899, Samuel Hedley Fagg, timber merchant of Maud Street was recorded as the owner of a weatherboard house of 5 rooms, with a kitchen and bathroom. Samuel Fagg let the house to a succession of tenants, including an iron monger, a warder, a cab proprietor and a householder, before undertaking plumbing and sewerage work on the property and then selling it to William Callander, gentleman, in 1923. There may have been renumbering of houses in the street as the address of the house in 1908 appears to have been listed as 265 Bellerine Street. During his period of ownership, Samuel Fagg's house was described as having 6 rooms plus bathroom, which appears to have also included the kitchen. William Callander was owner/occupier of the property until 1930. By 1939 it had been acquired by William Ryan, a labourer, before passing to Elizabeth May Lunnie who appears to have added a room to the house in c.1950. She retained ownership until January 1986.

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Description

The house at 247 Bellerine Street, South Geelong, is set on a corner allotment (corner of Bellerine and Lonsdale Streets) and abuts the street boundaries. The street frontages are bound by a timber picket fence, approximately 1200 mm high, with the eastern-most section of the fence in Lonsdale Street being approximately 1600 mm high. There is also a horizontal timber paling fence on the Lonsdale Street boundary, being approximately 1800 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Late Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with rear hipped roofs (that project at the side) and a return convex verandah that projects towards the front and sides. These roof forms are clad in dark red corrugated colorbond. Two early rendered brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with paired timber brackets and decorative panelling and paterae between are features of the eaves.

The original symmetrical composition of the front of the house is accentuated by the early central timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, and an early four panelled timber door. This doorway is flanked by early timber framed double hung tripartite windows. Most other timber framed double hung windows visible from the street are also early. The timber framed windows and weatherboard wall cladding - recessed from the front of the house under the verandah to one side - have been introduced.

A feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by cast iron columns with decorative capitals, and has introduced (but appropriate) valances and brackets simulating cast iron decoration.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 257 Bellerine Street, South Geelong, has significance as a reasonably externally intact example of the Late Victorian Italianate style. This house was built between 1893 and 1896 possibly for Henry Dowling, and appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 257 Bellerine Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the rear hipped roofs (that project at the side) and the return convex verandah that projects towards the front and sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, corrugated profile to the roof cladding, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, two rendered brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets and decorative panelling and paterae between, central front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights and a four panelled timber door, front timber framed double hung tripartite windows, other timber framed double hung windows, cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals, and the verandah valances and brackets simulating cast iron decoration. The front timber picket fences also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 257 Bellerine Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in South Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with the original owner, Henry Dowling, from 1896, and with Samuel Fagg, member of the successful timber merchant family, from 1899 until 1923.

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Overall, the house at 257 Bellerine Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1922, 1986, 1992, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.

Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall Directory, 1972.

Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Directory, 1968.

Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Council Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1893-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan, 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.