

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0882

Address: 43 Bourke Crescent Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1890

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 07.10

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 43 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment 4, Section 77, on the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

This house was built in 1890 to a design by the Geelong architect Joseph Watts for Patrick (or Philip) Brady, a police constable. It was originally described in the Geelong Rate Books (Barwon Ward) as a 6-roomed house with kitchen and land. Brady occupied the dwelling until about 1900, when he seems to have received a promotion to Senior Constable at Queenscliff. The residence was leased for the next 10 years or so. A bathroom and pantry were added by 1904. By 1915, after his retirement from the police force, Brady resumed occupation of the house and it appears he carried out interwar Bungalow design changes soon after. These changes may have occurred in 1922 when it is known that he upgraded fittings and facilities. There may also have been some structural alterations at about this time, as the rate books described it as a 5-roomed home from 1925. After Brady's death in the 1930s the property passed to his daughter, Mary Josephine Brady, who leased it briefly before taking up residence herself by 1950, and she remained there, as owner / occupier, until the early 1960s.

Joseph Watts was born in 1816 at Peterborough, Northampton, England. His father is

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said to also have been an architect. Watts arrived in Victoria on the Duke of Richmond in 1853, classing himself as a bricklayer. He is first mentioned as an architect in 1865 and with the partnership of Watts and Jackson between 1881 and 1883, he was a most successful architect in Geelong throughout the 1870s and 1880s.

Description

The house at 43 Bourke Street, East Geelong, is set on a wide allotment for the area, and has a front setback of approximately 4-5 metres. There are also narrower side setbacks. The recent front garden consists of perimeter flower beds and grassed areas. The front is bound by an introduced brick and steel balustrade fence and gates which are approximately 1000 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, eclectic early Edwardian and interwar Bungalow styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with a rear projecting minor gable to one side and an early (c.1920s) verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves. Two early unpainted brick chimneys with rendered bands, dentillated stringcourses and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline.

The timber framed double hung windows - with triple lighted upper sashes, arranged in a bank of three under the verandah and as a pair on one front corner, are all early and possibly date from the c.1920s period. The other timber framed multi-paned windows on the other front corner, and the timber framed doorway with a timber and glazed door, transom and multi-paned sidelight, are also early and possibly date from the c.1920s era.

A possible original feature of the design is the timber framed portal leadlighted window on the front facade.

The early front verandah is supported by tapered timber posts (with timber fretwork between) below which are wide shingled bases. Other early (c.1920s) features of the design include the window hoods supported by decorative timber brackets, eaves brackets and timber panels about one of the front corners, curved timber verandah brackets, and the decorative verandah gable infill (shingling and paired ventilators).

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 43 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, has significance as an unusual example of an eclectic early Edwardian and interwar Bungalow style. Originally built in 1890 to a design by the Geelong architect Joseph Watts for Patrick Brady, police constable, the house appears to have been altered in the c.1920s, incorporating interwar Bungalow features. The house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 43 Bourke Crescent is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original/early design qualities of an eclectic early Edwardian and interwar Bungalow style. These qualities include the hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the rear projecting minor gable to one side and the verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, modest eaves, two unpainted brick chimneys with rendered bands, dentillated stringcourses and terra cotta pots, timber framed double hung windows with triple lighted upper sashes, timber framed multi-paned windows, timber framed doorway with a timber and glazed door, transom and multi-paned sidelight, timber framed portal leadlighted window, tapered timber verandah posts (with timber fretwork between) and wide shingled bases, window hoods supported by decorative

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timber brackets, eaves brackets and timber panels about one of the front corners, curved timber verandah brackets, and the decorative verandah gable infill (shingling and paired ventilators).

The house at 43 Bourke Crescent is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular, this house has associations with the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts, who was responsible for the original design in 1890 for the owner and police constable, Patrick Brady. The Brady family were long-time owners of the property, for it was not until the 1960s when it was purchased by new owners.

Overall, the house at 43 Bourke Crescent is of LOCAL significance.

References

- Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 19(date illegible).
Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Electoral Roll, District Corio, Sub-district Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968. Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books 1890 - 1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan, 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
D. Rowe, 'Architecture of Geelong 1860-1900', Bachelor of Architecture Thesis, Deakin University, 1991, sheet 218.
R. Hill, 'Joseph Watts', Geelong Biographical Register in the Investigator, vol.25, no. 1, 1990.