

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0883

Address: 57 Bourke Crescent Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1912

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 07.11 & 07.12

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 57 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, is located on part of Lot 7 and Lot 8, Section 77 of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881 (this being Lot 1 on Subdivisional Plan PS329053).

Carl Adolph Weckworth, a builder of Fitzroy Street, erected a 7-roomed weatherboard house (with bathroom, washhouse, and shed) in 1912, before selling it to wool classer, Michael John Leahy, in 1913. Leahy occupied the dwelling until 1920, when it was sold to Llewellyn Roberts, also a wool classer, who was described as a retired farmer in the Geelong Rate Book (Barwon Ward) of 1930. Roberts upgraded toilet, laundry, bathroom and kitchen facilities in the period 1921-1925. By 1939, the property had been purchased by railway employee James Eugene Love and his wife Theresa Bridget, who occupied the house as joint owners until the 1950s, by which time Love had retired and may have died, as ownership of the residence passed to his wife by 1960. "Bessie", as she seems to have called herself, had sewerage connected to the house in 1963 and continued to reside there until at least the mid 1970s.

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Description

The house at 57 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, is set on a large corner allotment for the area, and the setback fronting Kilgour Street is equivalent to the front setbacks of the neighbouring houses. The property is bound by a capped timber paling fence, which is approximately 1200 mm high fronting Bourke Crescent and approximately 1900 mm high on Kilgour Street. The property is well landscaped with several trees and shrubs.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, rudimentary Federation styled house is characterised by a steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with gable roofs and a return hipped and broken back verandah that project at the front and side. There is also another minor verandah that projects towards the Bourke Crescent frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. An early unpainted brick chimney with a painted and rendered top having projecting coursing and terra cotta pots adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

The timber framed casement and double hung windows are early. There is a window hood on the Bourke Crescent frontage that is supported by decorative timber brackets.

Other early decorative features of the design include the gable infill (stucco panelling and timber battening), and the remaining turned timber verandah columns, verandah arches and fretwork with introduced weatherboard cladding behind.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 57 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, has significance as an intact example of a rudimentary Federation style. Built in 1912 by Carl Weckworth, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 57 Bourke Crescent is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Federation style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, together with the gables, return verandah and small verandah that project at the front and side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, timber framed windows, window leadlighting, unpainted brick chimney with a rendered top having projecting coursing and terra cotta pots, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, timber framed casement and double hung windows, window hood supported by decorative timber brackets, turned timber verandah columns, arches and fretwork valances, and the decorative gable infill (stucco panelling and timber battening).

The house at 57 Bourke Crescent is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in the early 20th century. In particular, this house has associations with Carl Weckworth, builder and original owner from 1912, who sold the property to Michael Leahy in 1913.

Overall, the house at 57 Bourke Crescent is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1925, 1963, 1994.
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.