

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0897

Address: 149 Corio Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1854-55

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 10.01 & 10.02

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 147-151 Corio Street (between Bellerine Street and Swanston Street), Geelong, is located on Allotment 4A, Section 11, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. The land was first owned by R. Sutherland.

The three single storey, semi-detached, 4-roomed weatherboard houses were built in 1854-1855, with one house built with a stable. The 3 houses appear to have been leased to tenants soon after completion, with little continuity of tenancies until after World War I. Between 1896 and 1899, the houses were owned by Abraham Levy of Ballarat and Melbourne. During that time they were addressed as 145-149 Corio Street and the occupants were as follows:

No.	1896	1899
145	Lionel Fawcett, clerk	Michael Foley, labourer
147	Charles Warner, tailor	William Gill, traveller
149	Jeremiah Murphy, stevedore	Patrick McMahon, brewer

In 1903 the houses were sold to Miriam Freedman, householder, of Victoria Parade (now Eastern Beach Parade), who also acquired the adjoining site at 151-155 Corio Street. Between 1905 and 1910 ownership of the properties at 145-149 passed to Miriam's

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husband, Samuel Freedman, a tobacconist before his retirement in c.1920. After the death of Samuel Freedman between 1925 and 1930, the houses, by now addressed as 147-151 Corio Street, were administered by his Estate for a period, before being sold to Rachel Sarah Goldenberg, householder of 4 Victoria Parade in the 1930s. During this time some longer-term tenants included the labourer Peter Christian Boysen, who lived at 149 Corio Street from 1915 until at least 1939. Between 1940 and 1950 the houses were sold to Horace Leslie Alfred Hambling, a clerk.

Ownership of 147-151 Corio Street has been difficult to establish in more recent years, but the owner of 151 Corio Street, P.G. Lockyer, first appeared as occupier on Geelong Water and Sewerage Trust records in 1961. Other owners in the period 1960-1972 included Mrs. Sarah Giles, householder (147 Corio Street), Mrs. Hilda Wenlock (149 Corio Street), and Miss Eileen Cunningham (151 Corio Street). By 1989 plans show that a brick party wall had been built, dividing the house at 151 Corio Street (which was designated "one flat") from the houses at 147 and 149 Corio Street (designated "two flats"). Brick walls were also erected on the Prospect Lane end and at the other end of the group of houses.

Description

The semi-detached houses at 147-151 Corio Street, Geelong, are set on a wide allotment with a minimal front setback. The front gardens consist of concrete paths and perimeter flower and shrubbery beds.

The three, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled semi-detached houses are characterised by a continuous gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a concave verandah that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Four early unpainted brick chimneys with multi-corbelled tops adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the front elevation.

At the west end, the parapetted brick boundary wall (which rests on a bluestone base wall) is early and as a concrete coping and narrow window. The east parapetted brick boundary wall has been introduced, as has the brick verandah walls separating each house.

An early feature of the design is the front facade, with each house having identical features and colours. Each house has an early, central timber framed doorway with a four panelled timber door which is flanked by early timber framed double hung windows.

A decorative feature of the design is the front verandah which is supported by timber verandah columns and adorned with decorative cast iron valances (part of which may be missing on the west end).

Statement of Cultural Significance

The semi-detached houses at 147-151 Corio Street, have significance as a relatively rare example of three Victorian styled semi-detached residences in Geelong. Built in 1854-55, the houses are an early legacy of residential developments during Geelong's fledgling years.

The semi-detached houses at 147-151 Corio Street are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. They demonstrate original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the continuous gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the concave verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, parapetted brick (on bluestone base) east boundary wall with concrete coping and narrow window, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, four unpainted brick chimneys with

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multi-corbelled tops, narrow eaves on the front elevation, identical symmetrical compositions, colours and features of each house including the central timber framed doorways with four panelled timber doors and flanking timber framed double hung windows, and the timber verandah columns and decorative cast iron valances.

The semi-detached houses at 147-151 Corio Street are historically significant at a LOCAL level. They are associated with early residential developments in Geelong during the town's fledgling years in 1854-55.

Overall, the semi-detached houses at 147-151 Corio Street are of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1920, 1961, 1989.
Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968. Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books 1853 - 1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan, 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

