

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0900

Address: 154 Corio Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1885-90

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 09.27

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 154 Corio Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 1 of Subdivisional Plan TP13673, which is part of Allotment 15, Section 11, of the 1858 Geelong Town Plan. The site originally belonged to a Mr Brodie.

The 4 room weatherboard house at this site seems to have been built between 1885 and 1890, possibly for James Norris, the first designated owner in the Geelong Rate Book (Bellerine Ward) of 1896. James Sweeney was next to own the property for a few years before his death between 1900 and 1905, after which time the house was administered by Sweeney's Estate. Around this time a bathroom was added. The next owners were Margaret Doherty, until 1910, and Mary J. Hooper of Ballarat East. By 1920 the dwelling was owned and occupied by Charles Joseph Gawley, a labourer, who had been a tenant there in c.1905. Gawley immediately replaced a toilet closet, sink and bath, and improved drainage on the property. He appears to have resided there until 1950, apart from a brief period in c.1930 when Henry Bond, an inspector, may have been the occupant. In 1950, the house was bought by Kazimierz Nowicki, a Ford Company employee, who owned and occupied it until the 1960s. The Sands and McDougall Directories and Electoral Rolls list a Mrs. Valeria Nowicki as the occupant from 1968.

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Description

The house at 154 Corio Street, Geelong, is set on a narrow allotment, which is typical for the local area. The house has a modest front setback which is equivalent to the front setback of the neighbouring house. This house extends across the full width of the site to the side boundaries. The front has a garden that consists of flowers and shrubs that extends onto the front nature strip. The front is bound by a timber picket fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a rear gable and skillion, and a concave verandah that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The symmetrical composition of the design is accentuated by the early central timber framed doorway with early four panelled door, and the flanking early timber framed double hung windows. The other timber framed double hung windows also appear to be early.

A feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by recent square timber columns with decorative cast iron valances.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 154 Corio Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Victorian style. Built between 1885 and 1890, possibly for James Norris, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 154 Corio Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, rear gable and skillion and the concave verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, narrow eaves, central timber framed doorway with four panelled timber door, timber framed double hung windows, timber verandah columns and the cast iron verandah valance. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 154 Corio Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with James Narrow, possible original owner between 1885 and 1890.

Overall, the house at 154 Corio Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

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

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1920, 1991.

Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Council Rate Books (Bellerine Ward) 1885-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan 1858, Public Records Office of Victoria.