

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0901

Address: 158 Corio Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1885

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 09.28

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 158 Corio Street, Geelong (between Bellerine and Swanston Streets), is located on Lot 1 of Subdivision Plan 21116, which is part of Allotment 16, Section 11, shown on the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. The site was originally owned by a Mr Brodie.

A 4-roomed weatherboard house was built for John Blackney, a fisherman, in 1885. With his death between 1896 and 1900, the property (at that time numbered 150 Corio Street) was bequeathed to his widow, Sarah Blackney, who continued the family's occupation of the dwelling. It was possibly extended to 6 rooms in c.1900. Between 1905 and 1910, the property was sold to an engineer, James Albert Cowley (it was about this time when the property was addressed as 158 Corio Street). Cowley's tenure of 5-10 years ended when the house was purchased by Walter Hill, caretaker, by 1920. Extensive improvements were made to toilet, bathroom and laundry facilities in 1921, and the Hill family resided there for the next 30 years. After the death of her parents, Miss Bertha Jemima Hill gained the property in the 1940s, and it remained under her ownership until her death prior to 1960, after which the residence was administered by her Estate. D.E. Morris occupied the house in 1968, and students rented it in 1972.

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Description

The fisherman's cottage at 158 Corio Street, Geelong (corner of Corio Street and Cogans Place), is set on a contextually wide allotment for the local area. The house is situated on the front and side boundaries, leaving a wide side setback at the front. The recessed rear section of the house has allowed for a narrow garden strip along the Cogans Place frontage.

The symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, rudimentary Victorian Picturesque styled fisherman's cottage is characterised by a double gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a rear skillion wing and a concave verandah that projects towards the Corio Street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves. The symmetry of the design is accentuated in the front section of the house (which may be the original section), with the central early timber framed doorway and flanking timber framed four paned double hung windows. The timber framed leadlight window on the Cogans Place elevation appears to have been introduced, possibly at an early period. The nine paned timber framed window under the rear skillion is also early. Both the rear gable and skillion may have been introduced at an early time, possibly in c.1900.

A feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by recent stop chamfered timber columns with projecting capitals, and has a decorative cast iron valance. The open timber balustrade has been introduced, as has the timber lattice and vertical boarded infill to one side.

Other features of the design include the curving gable bargeboards and turned timber finials.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The fisherman's cottage at 158 Corio Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably externally intact example of a rudimentary Victorian Picturesque style. Built in 1885 for John Blackney, a fisherman, the house may have been extended in c.1900. It appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The fisherman's cottage at 158 Corio Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original or early design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian Picturesque style. These qualities include the double gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the rear skillion wing and the concave verandah that projects towards the Corio Street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, symmetrical composition, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves, central timber framed doorway and flanking timber framed four paned double hung windows, timber framed leadlight window on the Cogans Place elevation, nine paned timber framed window under the rear skillion, stop chamfered timber verandah columns with projecting capitals, decorative cast iron verandah valance, curving gable bargeboards and the turned timber finials.

The fisherman's cottage at 158 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 cottage has associations with John Blackney, fisherman and original owner from 1885.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1921, 1991.
Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968. Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books 1880 - 1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan, 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.