

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0907

Address: 36 Eastern Beach Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1923-24

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 06.27

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 36 Eastern Beach, Geelong, is located on part of Section 57, which was originally set aside for pilots' quarters in the Geelong Town Plan of 1858.

A 9 room brick residence was built on this site in 1923-24 for William Robert Henry, timber merchant. He owned and occupied the house until his death in the 1940s. It appears that his will may have stipulated that the property was to be administered by the Trustees of his Estate after his death. His daughter, Ida Marion Henry, had the right to reside there for the remainder of her life, whereupon the property was to be sold. Internal structural alterations in the 1930s reduced the number of rooms in the house from 9 to 8. The address of the property was 22 Victoria Parade until 1960, when the street was renamed and renumbered, to become 36 Eastern Beach. Ida Henry seems to have died in c.1968, triggering the sale of the property by Henry's Estate to C. J. and M. G. O'Donnell, who renovated upstairs and downstairs bathroom facilities and installed an internal W. C. on the first floor.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Description

The house known as 'Windlesham' at 36 Eastern Beach, Geelong, is set on an average-sized allotment for the local area. The house has a substantial front setback and narrower side setbacks. The front garden consists of an early concrete pathway, open grassed areas and mature perimeter garden beds. The front is bound by an early unpainted brick fence with regularly spaced piers, open brick balustrades and brick gate piers surmounted by encased concrete orbs. This fence is approximately 1300 mm high, and there is a decorative steel gate. Behind the fence is a mature hedge, approximately 1600 mm high.

The substantial, asymmetrical, predominantly single storey, unpainted red brick interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a recessed gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a large gambrel and minor gable that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in early terra cotta tiles. An early unpainted red brick chimney with terra cotta pots adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return verandah under the gambrel and projecting minor gable. It is supported by early concrete columns on unpainted brick piers.

Another early feature is the timber framed double hung windows arranged as projecting bays (including a corner bay) or in banks or singularly. There is also an early timber framed leadlight window under the front verandah, and an early timber framed doorway.

Other early decorative features of the design include the terra cotta finials, balustrade shingling in the attic, attic windows and the stuccoed gable infill.

Statement of Cultural Significance

'Windlesham' at 36 Eastern Beach, Geelong, has significance as a largely intact example of a substantial interwar Californian Bungalow design. Built in 1923-24 for William Robert Henry, timber merchant, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

'Windlesham' at 36 Eastern Beach is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a substantial interwar Californian Bungalow style. These qualities include the recessed gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the large gambrel and minor gable that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, predominantly single storey height (with attic spaces within the roofline), unpainted red brick wall construction, terra cotta tile roof cladding, unpainted red brick chimney with terra cotta pots, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, return verandah under the gambrel and projecting minor gable supported by concrete columns on unpainted brick piers, timber framed double hung windows arranged as projecting bays (including a corner bay), in banks and singularly, timber framed leadlight window under the front verandah, timber framed doorway, terra cotta finials, balustrade shingling in the attic, attic windows and the stuccoed gable infill. The front brick fence, boundary hedge and front garden also contribute to the significance of the place.

'Windlesham' at 36 Eastern Beach is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of substantial residences in Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with William Robert Henry, timber merchant and original owner from 1923-24. The Henry family continued to own the property until c.1968.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

References

- Drainage plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1924, 1962, 1968.
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall Directory of Geelong 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Barwon Ward), 1923-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.