



House 17 England Street

History

Like 9 England Street, this site resulted from Silas Harding's subdivision of Crown Allotment 5, Section 11 in 1852-4.¹ It was part of a large corner lot (100 x 54 feet) sold to James Sinclair in 1853 for £284/5/-.² Sinclair sold the entire allotment to the Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd. in 1873 who resold to James George (a Geelong 'gentleman') in 1882 for £704.³ Mortgages followed until George's death around 1914; he was replaced by Thomas George.⁴

Sinclair's ownership is hard to trace but Richard Martin (agent?) is rated as owning this house at the England Street (Prospect Place) corner with Corio Street from c1861, leasing it out as he did with another in the street.⁵

One Richmond (bank's agent?) continued the tenure until 1882 when James George takes up a weatherboard

verandahed five-room house with kitchen⁶. This differs from the previous valuer's descriptions of a verandahed four-room house and may, with the increased value, suggest improvements; this house and its adjoining twin, being listed as empty in 1883 which may indicate that works were in progress⁷. The rear rooms on the north boundary may have been added then.

Nineteenth century tenants included Matthew Lovenbury and Alfred Hargreaves (1860s-80s), Mrs. Oldfield and John Simmonds (fitter) in the 1880- 90s⁸. John Salter (gentleman) was an owner-occupier this century, followed by two fishermen in c1920⁹.

Description

Once one of a pair, this is a double-fronted, gabled roof weatherboarded house, with a timber verandah ornamented with a paneled iron frieze and cast brackets. The timber slatted balustrade, set hard on the street alignment, is typical of early houses. Similarly slim mouldings to architraves, inside and out, suggest the pre-boom era,

1 RGO SN5824

2 loc. cit. X-699

3 loc. cit. 230-313, 306-565

4 RGO 471.487- will dated 12.12.14

5 RB1863-4, 599; RB1861-2, 640

6 RGO 306-565; RB1884, 515; RB1883, 513

7 RB1883, 512-3; RB1882, 520

8 RB1885, 518; RB1895-6, 608; RB1872, 523; RB1882, 520

9 RB1910, 615; RB1920, 609

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

as do the corbelled chimney tops, (once shared with number 19). A distinctive part of the house is the fretted scalloped gable fascia at the north end. The house has an early roof gutter (ogee-profile).

External Integrity

Minor changes only are visible from the street, these being mainly associated with its separation from 19 England Street when the latter was demolished.

Streetscape

Given the demolition and non-replacement of 19 England Street, 17 is the first period link between this street and the main axis of the precinct, Corio Street, (refer Urban Area 3.1). Its survival is crucial to unite the already incomplete England Street and Austin Park domain with the rest of the precinct.

Significance

Historically, one of Geelong's early houses. Architecturally, it possesses valuable early timber detailing.