

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Orlig House

Project File No: 0922

Address: 32 Fenwick Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1855-56

Integrity: Low

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 07.27

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 32 Fenwick Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment no. 5, Section 46, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. The land was originally the property of Thomas Towle and John Maurice Turpin.

The Conveyance Memorial 53/46 states that William Gundry purchased the land from Towle and Turpin on 5 September 1857, as part of a parcel of land "together with all houses etc.", for 325 pounds. He also purchased the adjoining lot (now 34 Fenwick Street) from John Turpin for 300 pounds. However, the Valuations Book (Kardinia Ward) for 1854-57 credits ownership of the property to William "Grundy" as early as 1855-56, when a 5 room brick "workshop" was constructed on the site, replacing Towle and Turpin's uninhabited 5 room iron building which attracted a rateable valuation of 75 pounds the previous year. This 5 room brick "workshop" appears to form part of the current building on the site today. Gundry's workshop grew to 2 storeys and 8 rooms, with a stable, by 1857-58. The net annual value of the property was 100 pounds in that year. Gundry was a non-resident landlord, the occupant of the premises being Dr. William Shaw M.D., at least from 1857-1861. The property was acquired by Joseph Wheeler Sparrow in 1869-70, and it appears that there may have been some internal structural alterations to the building soon after, as the Geelong Rate Books (Kardinia Ward) for 1870-71 described

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

it as having only "6 rooms and a kitchen". Medical practitioners continued to be favored tenants - Dr. Rupert Pincott being the occupant from 1869 to 1871.

Edward Rogers Sparrow, an auctioneer, inherited the property on his father's death in 1876, and he seems to have been responsible for the addition of a balcony, mentioned in the Rate Books from 1876 until at least 1893. A cellar was added to the description of the building in 1896, the year in which a third medical practitioner, Dr. Sydney R. Robinson, chose to reside and practice there, which he did until the turn of the century. The address of the premises at this time was 68 Fenwick Street. By 1890 the 2 storey brick building boasted 8 rooms (including kitchen), a bathroom and cellar. The resident from 1905 to 1910 was a householder named Eliza Jacobs. Changes were made to sanitary facilities, fixtures and plumbing in 1916.

By 1925 the property was in the possession of Florence Elizabeth Kelly, but only for a short time, as, in 1930, it was being administered by her Estate. In c.1937 the building was sold by Kelly's Estate to occupant householder, Mary Mockridge, who immediately set about effecting improvements in toilet, kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities. After a change in ownership in the 1940s, the property again changed hands in 1950, when financiers Jasper Albert and Jessie Marie Hocking purchased the premises from Myrtle Lilian Kennedy, and resided there until Jasper's death in the 1950s, leaving Jasper's widow as sole proprietor. Jessie Hocking resided in the house until at least 1972.

Description

'Olrig House' at 32 Fenwick Street, Geelong, is set on an averaged-sized allotment for the local area. The building takes up the full width of the site, and abuts the front boundary. There is a mature palm tree to one side.

The substantially altered, two storey rendered masonry building is characterised by a two stepped, hipped roof forms clad in slate, with a crowning parapet having a projecting moulded cornice at the front. There is an arched entrance to one side on the ground floor, with introduced decorative iron gates and a timber and glazed door within. The timber framed double hung windows, arranged in banks of three, have been introduced, possibly during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. The other first floor window appears to be a later introduction, as is the rear two storey concrete block wing.

Statement of Cultural Significance

'Olrig House' at 32 Fenwick Street, Geelong, has significance as the early and long-standing location of the medical practice of Dr William Shaw, M.D., from 1857, Dr Rupert Pincott from 1869 and later with Dr Sydney Robinson.

'Olrig House' at 32 Fenwick Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although greatly altered, the building demonstrates some design qualities of the 19th century. These qualities include the two front hipped roof forms clad in slate, and the rendered masonry wall construction and form of the front section.

'Olrig House' at 32 Fenwick Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with early Geelong medical practitioners from as early as 1857. Between 1857 and 1869, the building was occupied by Dr William Shaw and owned by William Gundry, who had this building constructed in 1855-56, having replaced a 5 roomed iron building. Acquired by Joseph Wheeler Sparrow in 1869-70, the building was occupied by Dr Rupert Pincott between 1869 and 1871. A third medical practitioner occupied the building from 1896: Dr Sydney R. Robinson. In the mid 20th century the building was occupied by financiers.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Overall, 'Olrig House' at 32 Fenwick Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1916, 1937, 1985.
Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Kardinia Ward) 1854-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Valuations Books 1854-1870, Geelong Historical records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.