

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0923

Address: 42 Fenwick Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1929

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 08.05

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 42 Fenwick Street, Geelong, is located on Plan V5367F379, and is part of Allotment no. 8, Section 50, as shown on the 1858 Geelong Town Plan. The land, which is situated over a railway tunnel, was originally owned by J. Warren.

Patrick Joseph Kirwan had a 6 room weatherboard house built on this large block of land in 1925. After Kirwan's death in 1928 the house was administered by his Estate until it was sold in 1929 to William Stanislaus Davies of Shannon Avenue, Newtown. He appears to have demolished the timber dwelling and erected two adjoining 5-roomed brick houses in its place. This house at 42 Fenwick Street was purchased and occupied by Raymond Jones, a surveyor. By 1939 Harold Paul Huon had acquired the property and retained possession for the next 10-12 years. He upgraded sanitary facilities on the site in 1951, possibly with a view to selling, as the Geelong Rate Books (Kardinia Ward) show that the retired fruiterer, Basil James Ohlsen, was the owner/occupier in 1960. The property was occupied by G. Campanaro in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

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Description

The house at 42 Fenwick Street, Geelong, is set on a contextually narrow allotment for the area. It forms part of an unusual pair of semi-detached houses linked by a shallow archway, with both houses sharing similar design and constructional characteristics of the interwar Spanish Mission Revival style, and similar front and side setbacks. The front garden of this house consists of perimeter flower beds and grassed areas. The front is bound by a white roughcast brick fence having a terra cotta brick top, and is approximately 1000 mm high. At the rear is a roughcast brick garage with a front parapet having a terra cotta tile capping.

The asymmetrical, single storey, roughcast brick, interwar Spanish Mission Revival styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a projecting front gable and flat parapetted and arcaded loggia at the front. The roof forms are clad in terra cotta tiles, with the parapetted loggia and shallow archway over the side driveway also having a terra cotta tiled capping. Two early tapered and roughcast brick chimneys adorn the roofline. Wide overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the arched openings on the main facade. Under the projecting gable is an arched, timber framed, multi-paned window, and a projecting decorative steel balconette balustrade. The small arched opening has an early timber framed multi-paned window and introduced steel security grille. Beyond the arcaded loggia are other early timber framed double hung windows.

Another early feature of the design is the terra cotta blockwork under the projecting gable.

The building shows signs of lateral movement as evidenced in the wall cracks on the front facade.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 42 Fenwick Street, Geelong, has significance as part of an unusual pair of intact, interwar Spanish Mission Revival styled houses constructed in 1929. This house appears to be in fair condition when viewed from the street, with some wall cracks apparent on the front facade.

The house at 42 Fenwick Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original and unusual design qualities of an interwar Spanish Mission Revival style as part of a pair of houses that are linked by a shallow archway over the side driveway. These qualities also include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the projecting front gable and flat parapetted and arcaded loggia at the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, terra cotta roof tiles, roughcast brick wall construction, terra cotta tiled cappings to the front arcaded loggia and driveway arch, two tapered and roughcast brick chimneys, wide eaves, arched timber framed, multi-paned front window with a projecting decorative steel balconette balustrade, small arched timber framed multi-paned window, timber framed double hung windows behind the front arcaded loggia, and the terra cotta blockwork under the projecting gable. The rear roughcast garage with a terra cotta tiled capped parapet, roughcast front fence and the striking visual and stylistic associations with the house at 44 Fenwick Street also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 42 Fenwick Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with William Davies, original owner from 1929 who was responsible for the design and construction of this and the neighbouring house at 44 Fenwick Street.

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Overall, the house at 42 Fenwick Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1929, 1951, 1989.
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) 1923-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan 1923, Public Records Office of Victoria.