

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0924

Address: 44 Fenwick Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1929

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 08.06

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 44 Fenwick Street, Geelong, is located on Plan V5629F725, and is part of Allotment no. 8, Section 50, of the 1858 Geelong Town Plan. The original owner of the land, situated over a railway tunnel, was 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 44 Fenwick Street was purchased and occupied by David Matthews, a retired gentleman. By 1939 his widow, Eliza, had inherited the property. Rae Hume (snr.), a decorator of 39 Villamanta Street, purchased the house as a residence for her daughter, Rae (jnr.), in the 1940s. In 1950, it was bought by fruiterer Francesco (Frank) Giuffre and his wife, Gino (Jean) Amelia. Some drainage work was carried out on the property in 1956.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Description

The house at 44 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 tubular steel rails 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 curvilinear parapet at the front. The flat roofed semicircular glazed verandah at the front may have been introduced. The roof forms are clad in terra cotta tiles, with the curvilinear parapet, side fence 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 bank of three timber framed double hung windows under the projecting gable and is decorated with leadlighting. Above the bank of windows is a flat window hood suspended by chains. The other timber framed windows on the front and side facades also appear to be early.

Other early features of the design include the blockwork under the projecting gable and the ornamentation under the curvilinear parapet.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 44 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 good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 44 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 curvilinear parapet 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 narrow side fence and driveway arch, two tapered and roughcast brick chimneys, wide eaves, bank of three timber framed double hung and leadlighted windows, other timber framed windows, decorative blockwork under the projecting gable and the ornamentation under the curvilinear parapet. 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 42 Fenwick Street also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 44 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 42 Fenwick Street.

Overall, the house at 44 Fenwick Street is of LOCAL significance.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

References

Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1929, 1956, 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 1858, Public Records Office of Victoria.