

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0927

Address: 34 Fitzroy Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1883-1884

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 04.13

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 34 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is located on Allotment no. 19, Section 64, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1923. The land, formerly the site of Geelong's Immigration Depot in the 1850s, was granted to Thomas Mallett in March, 1882, for 89 pounds.

In 1883-84, Thomas Mallett built a 6 room brick house, including a kitchen and servants' room. The house was designed by the Geelong architectural firm of Watts and Jackson. Thomas seems to have added a room in 1888, and a verandah the following year, and lived there until 1891, when the property, known then as 48 Fitzroy Street, was purchased by an engineer, James Hepburn. He resided there until about 1896, when the house was extended to include a bathroom. Hepburn moved to Fyans Street (or Fyansford), letting the house in Fitzroy Street to a succession of tenants until his death c. 1906, when the property passed to his widow, Elizabeth Hepburn.

Presumably after Elizabeth died between 1910 and 1915, the house was purchased by William Player Miller, gentleman, of Sydney Avenue. He sold it in 1920 to collector, James Harrison. In 1919, re-numbering occurred in the street, and the house became no. 34. Harrison carried out significant plumbing and drainage work on the property in 1920 and again in 1930, and also structurally altered the house internally, reducing the number

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

of rooms from 8 to 6. James resided there until his retirement and ultimately, his death in the 1950s. In 1960 the residence was jointly owned and occupied by William and Alice Gertrude Willmott.

Description

The house at 34 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is set on a contextually large allotment for the local area. The house has a modest front setback, with similarly-sized side setbacks, having a driveway along one side. The paved driveway leads to a rear gabled garage built of brick and of recent construction. The front garden consists of a recent central paved path, open grassed areas and perimeter plantings. The front is bound by an early cast iron palisade fence with a smooth finished bluestone plinth and is approximately 1300 mm high.

The single storey, dichromatic brick, Victorian styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a rear gable that projects to one side and the return bullnosed verandah. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Two early rendered brick chimneys with projecting cappings adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return bullnosed. It is supported by early cast iron columns with decorative capitals and has early cast iron valances and brackets.

The symmetry of the front facade is accentuated by the early central doorway with an early four panelled timber door, sidelights and transom window. It is flanked by early timber framed double hung windows. There is a projecting bay at the side.

Another early feature of the design is the constructional decoration brought out by the cream brick quoinwork about the building openings and corners.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 34 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, has significance as a relatively intact example of the Victorian style. Built in 1883-84 for Thomas Mallett to a design by the Geelong architects, Watts and Jackson, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 34 Fitzroy Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the rear gable that projects to one side and the return bullnosed verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, dichromatic brick wall construction, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves, two rendered brick chimneys with projecting cappings, cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals, cast iron verandah valances and brackets, central doorway with a four panelled timber door, sidelights and transom window, timber framed double hung windows, side projecting bay, and the cream brick quoinwork about the building openings and corners. The front cast iron palisade fence with bluestone plinth contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 34 Fitzroy Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the early 1880s. In particular, this house has associations with Thomas Mallett, original owner, from 1883-84 until 1891. The house also has associations with the Geelong architects, Watts and Jackson.

Overall, the house at 34 Fitzroy Street is of LOCAL significance.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

References

- Drainage plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1920, 1930, 1994.
Copy of Conveyance Memorial dated 3 March, 1882, Barwon Water.
Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
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 (Bellerine Ward), 1883 -1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan 1923, Public Records Office, Melbourne.