

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0937

Address: 8 Garden Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1885

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 06.14

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 8 Garden Street, Geelong, is located on parts of Allotments 10 and 11, Section 58B, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The land was originally owned by H. Wills (possibly Horatio Wills, a Victorian pastoralist and pioneer, father of Thomas Wentworth Wills, and regarded as the most influential of the originators of Australian Rules football in 1858).

The weatherboard house built at this site appears to have been built in 1885 for Miss Isabella Cameron, possibly the 35 year-old spinster daughter of Samson and Cordelia Cameron, who were residents of Geelong in c.1848, before moving to Melbourne. It was probably designed by the Geelong architects, Watts and Jackson, as the form, style and details are very similar to their other work for the period, such as 'Park Villa' at 234 Latrobe Terrace.

This house in Garden Street originally consisted of 7 rooms, verandah, bathroom, kitchen, pantry and servant's room, but the kitchen and servant's room no longer appeared in the Rate Book descriptions of the property after 1896. By this time, the house had been sold to Robert Scott of Pevensey Crescent. In c.1900, James Gardiner, an accountant, purchased the house and occupied it until 1915-20, when it was sold to Edward Belcher,

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an estate agent, who in turn sold it to R. R. Bingley in 1920.

By 1930, the property was in the hands of Albert William Jones, a retired gentleman, who resided in South Australia. Within a few years, Mrs. Rett Hocking seems to have purchased the place, and she carried out various improvements to plumbing and drainage on the site before relinquishing it to Ruby May Bodey by November 1939. Body lived at Jung, via Horsham, and at first let the house, before residing there by 1960.

In the 1960s and 1970s the house was converted to flats, called "Narawong" Flats.

Description

The house at 8 Garden Street, Geelong, is set on a contextually wide allotment for the local area. It has a typical front setback of approximately 8 metres, and one wide side setback. The front garden consists of perimeter flower beds and shrubs, including a row of roses at the front, and some mature exotic trees, including a golden ash and towering palm. The front is bound by a cast iron palisade fence with a timber capping and posts, and is approximately 1 metre high. There is also an introduced gabled garage outbuilding at the front, to the north.

The symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian Eclectic styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with projecting pyramidal bay window roofs at the front, and a return concave verandah that projects at the front and sides. At the rear are gabled and flat roofed additions with a lantern light. The main roof and bay windows are clad in slate tiles, while the verandah is clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Two rendered brick chimneys with projecting cornices adorn the roofline, and the bay window roofs and the junctions of the main roof ridges have decorative cast iron finials (although a finial is missing at the rear). Broad overhangs and decorative timber brackets are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by early round cast iron columns with decorative capitals, and adorned with cast iron verandah brackets and valances that have a rinceau pattern, a typical design trait of the architect, Joseph Watts. There is also timber verandah balustrades having geometric diagonal pattern.

The symmetry of the design at the front is accentuated by the early central doorway with an early 4 panelled timber door, sidelights and highlights, and the flanking timber framed double hung bay windows. The other timber framed windows also appear to be early near the front of the house.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 8 Garden Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Victorian Eclectic style. Built in 1885 for Miss Isabella Cameron and probably 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 8 Garden Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Eclectic style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with the projecting pyramidal bay window roofs at the front, and the return concave verandah that projects at the front and sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition at the front, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, slate roof cladding for the main roofs, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding for the verandah, two rendered brick chimneys with projecting cornices, decorative cast iron finials, broad eaves and decorative timber brackets, round cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals, cast iron verandah brackets and valances with a rinceau pattern, timber verandah balustrades, central

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doorway with the 4 panelled timber door, sidelights and highlights, flanking timber framed double hung bay windows, and the other timber framed windows. The front fence, towering palm, golden ash and garden also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 8 Garden Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the 1880s. In particular, this house has associations with Miss Isabella Cameron, original owner from 1885. The house also has probable associations with the Geelong architects, Watts and Jackson.

Overall, the house at 8 Garden Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1917, 1920, 1935, 1937, 1950, 1990.

Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall's 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), 1885-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

D. Rowe, 'Architecture of Geelong 1860-1900', Bachelor of Architecture Thesis, Deakin University, 1991.