

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Shop & Residence

Project File No: 0938

Address: 24-26 Garden Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1881, 1890

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 06.11 & 06.12

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 24-26 Garden Street, Geelong, is part of Crown Allotment 6, Section 59, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The land was first owned by T. Forster (or Foster).

The site is comprised of two distinct buildings. The first is a 4 roomed weatherboard house at 24 Garden Street, seemingly built for William Bignall in 1881, and which originally appears to have had a kitchen and [rear?] verandah. The second building is a weatherboard shop with 5 rooms, abutting the cottage. It was built in 1890 for Mrs. Jane Bromley, who at that time also owned the house at 24 Garden Street. She was possibly the wife of a Charles Bromley who lived a few doors away in the late 1880s. Mrs Bromley was owner/occupier of both premises in 1891 and 1892 (then numbered 32-34 Garden Street) and from 1893 she lived at the shop at 34 Garden Street and was the storekeeper. She retained the house at 32 Garden Street and rented it to a draper, Alfred Evan Kirwood, who seems to have also operated the shop briefly when Jane left the district to live in Melbourne in 1898.

By 1910, Ellen Bourke and Anne Reid had acquired both properties, now described in the Geelong Rate Books (Bellerine Ward) as "WB shop & 7 rooms", as joint owners/occupiers. This arrangement continued until 1920, when the shop and dwellings

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(then 24 and 26 Garden Street) were acquired by Mary Bath. She lived in no. 26, and leased no. 24. The next owner was William Gronheit, a storekeeper, who occupied the shop and its 5 rooms, but leased the house until the early 1930s. Other owners of the two properties have been: Nellie Carr, a householder of Newtown, until at least 1950; Ivan Schultz, a grocer, jointly with Jean; A. and J. Motteram, grocers; and Mrs. M. A. Richards.

Description

The shop and house at 24-26 Garden Street, Geelong are set on a corner allotment and abut the street boundaries. The shop building is situated on the south-eastern corner of the site, at the corner of Garden and Malop Streets, while the house is located on the north-eastern corner, at the corner of Garden Street and Days Place. Both the house and shop abut each other on the Garden Street frontage, while part of the shop building has a timber picket fence and gate which are approximately 1300 mm high.

House, 24 Garden Street

The symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled house at the corner of Garden Street and Days Place is characterised by a hipped roof form clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron. An early unpainted brick chimney with a corbelled top adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The symmetry of the house design is accentuated by the early central timber framed doorway with flanking early timber framed double hung windows. The panelled timber door and metal security door are recent additions, although the blocked up transom window above the door is early but altered.

The other timber framed window at the side is also early. The building appears to have been restumped in 2001 or 2002.

Shop, 26 Garden Street

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled shop building is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with a hipped roof (having a chamfered corner) and a side convex verandah that project towards the Garden Street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. An early unpainted brick chimney with a multi-corbelled top adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves, and above the eaves are a range of signage boards of varying colours and designs that have been introduced.

The chamfered building corner has an early timber framed doorway with transom window above. The timber and glazed door appears to be a recent addition. The large timber framed windows near the corner also appear to have replaced earlier windows, and there is another single timber framed doorway with a timber door and introduced timber screen door to the west on the Malop Street facade.

A feature of the shop design is the recessed hipped roof form with the projecting verandah. It is supported by introduced stop chamfered timber columns with projecting moulded capitals. The verandah also has decorative cast iron valances and brackets.

Under the verandah are two timber framed doorways with timber doors.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The shop and house at 24-26 Garden Street, Geelong, have significance as a reasonably intact Victorian styled corner store complex. The house was built in 1881 for William Bignell and the shop in 1890 for Jane Bromley and by the early 1890s both buildings were owned and occupied by her. Both buildings appear to be in fair-good condition when

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viewed from the street.

The house at 24 Garden Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron, unpainted brick chimney with a corbelled top, and the narrow eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, central timber framed doorway with transom windows and the flanking timber framed double hung windows, and the other timber framed window at the side.

The shop building at 26 Garden Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the hipped roof (having a chamfered corner) and the side convex verandah that project towards the Garden Street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, unpainted brick chimney with a multi-corbelled top, narrow eaves, timber framed corner doorway with transom window above, other timber framed doorway to the west on the Malop Street facade, timber framed windows near the corner, stop chamfered timber verandah columns with projecting moulded capitals, cast iron verandah valances and brackets, and the timber framed doorways under the verandah. The timber picket fence and gate in front of the verandah also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house and shop at 24-26 Garden Street are historically significant at a LOCAL level. They are associated with residential and commercial developments in Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, the house probably has associations with William Bignall, original owner, from 1881, and the shop with Jane Bromley from 1890. Both the house and shop were owned and occupied by Jane Bromley from 1891-92.

Overall, the house and shop at 24-26 Garden Street are of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1917, 1985.
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
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Geelong Town Plan 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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