

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0959

**Address:** 104-106 Kilgour Street East Geelong 3219

**Approx. Date:** 1853-54

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 02.01

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 104-106 Kilgour Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment no. 7, Section 19B, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858, which shows a Mr. Fraser as the original owner of the land.

This property forms two, 3-roomed semi-detached brick houses central party wall. It has a history of long periods of single ownership, punctuated by intervals of dual ownership. The duplex dates from 1853-54, each house originally consisting of 2 rooms with an attached weatherboard kitchen. The kitchen seems to have been replaced with a brick kitchen by 1855-56, with each of the 2 houses comprised of 3 rooms from that time. The houses seem to have been built for a Mrs. McMurrich, who let out one of the pair, initially to John Campbell, whose tenure seems to have been brief. Mrs. McMurrich continued to occupy her half of the building until at least 1870.

Short-term owners in the 1890s were Henry Johnston and James Sinclair, after which the property passed into the hands of George McMurrich, possibly a son of Mrs. McMurrich, in the decade commencing in 1897. After a brief period of ownership by Louis Edward Richardson, the 2 houses were acquired by Highton investor, Thomas Horwood in 1910, who seems to have retained possession of both until the 1930s, notwithstanding the

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Geelong Rate Book (Barwon Ward) for 1925 showing Bertha Campbell as owner / occupier of no. 104. Thomas Horwood upgraded toilet and kitchen facilities in both houses in 1922. By 1939, the two dwellings were rated as one, the owner / occupier in that year being Gladys Jane Fraser, a householder and possibly a descendant of the original holder of the title, who was followed by T.R. McMurrich in 1946, possibly a relative or descendant of the previous Mrs. McMurrich. T.R. McMurrich carried out major improvements to all wet areas in no. 106 in that year. In c.1950 the two dwellings were again rated separately under two separate owners, no. 104 being owned and occupied by Gordon Joseph Lynch, a Ford Co. employee, and no. 106 by Thomas John James, an employee at International Harvester Pty. Ltd.

Alexander Boyd, a retiree, who had drainage work carried out at no. 104 in 1958, held both houses as owner / occupier in 1960, according to the Geelong City Rate Book (Barwon Ward) for that year, but appears to have relinquished no. 106 by 1968 to a Mrs. H. Knight. Alexander Boyd and H. Knight held nos. 104 and 106 respectively until the 1970s. Major improvements to toilet and laundry facilities and drainage were carried out in 1987. The building at 104-106 Kilgour Street seems to have remained substantially the same from 1856 to the present day.

### Description

The two semi-detached houses at 104-106 Kilgour Street, Geelong, are set on a small narrow allotment. The front verandah of the houses is also set on the front boundary line, which has an introduced capped timber paling fence/balustrade.

The symmetrical, single storey, painted brick, rudimentary Victorian styled semi-detached houses are characterised by a simple gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a skillion verandah that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. A large central brick chimney (with overpainting) adorns the roofline. The sides of the buildings have brick parapets and gable copings.

A feature of the design is the front facade. The verandah is supported by introduced timber columns. Under the verandah are two shallow-arched, centrally located, timber framed, 12 paned double hung windows. Flanking the windows are two shallow-arched timber framed doorways with four panelled timber doors and blind transoms. Accentuating the shallow-arches of the front openings are early brick voussoirs.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The two semi-detached houses at 104-106 Kilgour Street, Geelong, have significance as rare surviving examples of rudimentary Victorian styled housing in Geelong dating from the mid 19th century. Built in 1853-54 for a Mrs McMurrich, the houses are largely externally intact and in fair condition when viewed from the street.

The two semi-detached houses at 104-106 Kilgour Street are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. They demonstrate original and rare design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the skillion verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, modest single storey height, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, brick wall construction, centrally located brick chimney, brick gable parapets and copings, shallow-arched timber framed 12 paned double hung windows, shallow-arched timber framed 4 panelled timber doors with transoms, brick voussoirs, and the timber verandah columns.

The two semi-detached houses at 104-106 Kilgour Street are historically significant at a LOCAL level. They are associations with some of the earliest residential developments in

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Geelong in the mid 19th century, and are therefore a rare legacy of this form of housing from this period. In particular, these houses are associated with the original owner, a Mrs McMurrich who had them built in 1853-54, with later rear brick kitchen additions constructed in 1855-56.

Overall, the two semi-detached houses at 104-106 Kilgour Street are of LOCAL significance.

### References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1922, 1946, 1958, 1987, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.

Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, 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 Telephone Directory (052 area), 1974, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1853-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.