

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Semi-detached Residence

Project File No: 0984

Address: 24 Lonsdale Street South Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1893-1986

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.21

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 24 Lonsdale Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 22, Section 29b, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881, land originally belonging to Samuel Law.

The first occupant of the semi-detached house at this site recorded in the Geelong Rate Books (Barwon Ward) was Robert Wilson Hill, engineer, who rented the place from owner Samuel Law in 1896. Law was also responsible for the neighbouring semi-detached house, and also the detached house of identical design and construction fronting Lonsdale Street. The house at 24 Lonsdale Street was described as a 7-room brick house with wash house. After the death of Samuel Law, the house was managed by his Estate until some time between 1905 and 1910, when it was bought by Ada Larcombe, a Belmont householder, who held the property until 1925. Ada Larcombe, who now owned both properties at 22 and 24 Lonsdale Street, may have had structural changes made to this house because from 1910 the Rate Book described the house as having only 6 rooms, with a pantry and wash house. Ada also carried out a major upgrade of the wet areas in 1920. For most of this period, Robert Hill remained in occupancy, succeeded by Eliza Hill, presumably his widow, in 1925. The Hills seem to have bought the house at about this time, as it was administered by the Hill Estate (Eliza) from 1925 to the 1950s, when it passed to Edith Lesley Hill, the registered owner in 1960. By 1968, the two properties, at

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22 and 24 Lonsdale Street had been acquired by R.E. Bacon-Hall, who improved toilet, bathroom and laundry facilities on both properties, and who appears to have sold this house to Mrs G Armstrong.

Description

The semi-detached house at 24 Lonsdale Street, South Geelong, forms part of a complex of unpainted pressed red brick Late Victorian Italianate styled houses with modest front and side setbacks. The front garden of this house at 24 Lonsdale Street consists of perimeter plants, and young and mature trees. The front is bound by an introduced brick pier and aluminium palisade fence, approximately 1500 mm high. Neighbouring the semi-detached complex of houses is a detached house of identical design and construction fronting Lonsdale Street.

The asymmetrical, single storey, unpainted pressed red brick, Late Victorian Italianate styled semi-detached house is characterised by a hipped roof form that traverses the site (as part of the complex of houses), together minor hipped roof forms and return bullnosed verandah that project towards the front and side. These roof forms are clad in introduced light red corrugated colorbond, with the ridge line adorned by a cast iron finial. Three early pressed red brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline, together with another three identical chimneys that form part of the other semi-detached house. Narrow overhangs with decorative timber brackets and incised rectangular panels are features of the eaves.

The front of the house has early timber framed double hung windows with shallow arched heads accentuated by brick voussoirs. There is also an early timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights under the verandah.

A feature of the design is the front bullnosed verandah. It is supported by cast iron columns with decorative capitals. It is also decorated by cast iron valances.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The semi-detached house at 24 Lonsdale Street, South Geelong, has significance as one of few semi-detached Late Victorian Italianate styled houses in Geelong. Built between 1893 and 1896 for Samuel Law, the house is largely externally intact and in good condition when viewed from the street. This house also neighbours a detached house of identical design and construction, forming an unusual residential grouping.

The semi-detached house at 24 Lonsdale Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the hipped roof forms and the return bullnosed verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, corrugated profile to the roof cladding, pressed red brick wall construction, three pressed red brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots, narrow eaves with decorative timber brackets and incised rectangular panels, timber framed double hung windows with shallow arched heads accentuated by brick voussoirs, timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, cast iron finial on the roof ridge, cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals and the decorative cast iron verandah valances. The significance of the place also relies on the retention of the neighbouring semi-detached and detached houses of identical design and construction.

The semi-detached house at 24 Lonsdale Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in South Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with Samuel Law, original owner from 1893-96, and Robert Wilson Hill, local engineer and original occupant. The house also represents one of the few 19th century town houses in South Geelong.

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Overall, the semi-detached house 24 Lonsdale Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1920, 1975, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.

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

Sands & McDougall Directory, 1972.

Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Directory, 1968.

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

Geelong City Council Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1893-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan, 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.