

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0985

Address: 26 Lonsdale Street South Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1893-1896

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.24

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 26 Lonsdale Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 23, Section 29b, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan, and was part of the original holdings of Samuel Law.

Law appears to have built the 8 room brick residence (with bathroom, pantry and wash house) in the period 1893-96. At the same time, he also had built two neighbouring semi-detached houses fronting Lonsdale Street. After his death, the property passed to his daughter, Alice Louisa Madden Law, who owned it from at least 1910 to 1920, letting it out for rental to numerous tenants, including a nurse, a teacher and a bus proprietor.

In 1921, the house was acquired by Leopold William, or Walter Hill, an engineer, who was its owner / occupier for the next 40 years. Ownership remained with the Hill family in the person of Miss E. Hill, before passing in 1973 to Umberto Gesu and Rosemary Anne Calderazzo. They immediately carried out improvements to the toilet, bathroom and laundry facilities. At the same time they demolished an existing stable at the rear of the house and constructed a rear addition of very similar design to the original building.

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Description

The house at 26 Lonsdale Street, South Geelong, is set on a wide corner allotment (corner of Lonsdale and Yarra Streets). The house has modest front setbacks to both Lonsdale and Yarra Streets. The front and side are bound by an introduced unpainted red brick fence with decorative iron panels and gates, and is approximately 1800 mm high. This house is also of identical design and construction to the semi-detached houses at 22-24 Lonsdale Street.

The asymmetrical, single storey, unpainted pressed red brick, Late Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a minor hip that projects towards the Lonsdale Street frontage, introduced rear hipped roofs that project towards the side, and a return bullnosed verandah. These roof forms are clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron. Two early and two introduced unpainted pressed red brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with decorative timber brackets and incised cream brick rectangular panels are features of the eaves.

The building is also characterised by early timber framed double hung windows. The window openings are arranged as a set of three under the projecting minor hipped roof, and as single windows throughout the exterior. The shallow arched window heads are accentuated by the brick voussoirs. Under the verandah is also an early timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights.

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

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 26 Lonsdale Street, South Geelong, has significance as an externally intact example of the pressed red brick Late Victorian Italianate style. Built between 1893 and 1896 for Samuel Law, this house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street. This house also neighbours two semi-detached houses of identical design and construction, forming an unusual residential grouping.

The house at 26 Lonsdale Street is architecturally significant at 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 lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, unpainted pressed red brick wall construction, unpainted pressed red brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots, narrow eaves with decorative timber brackets and incised cream brick rectangular panels, timber framed double hung windows, shallow arched window heads accentuated by brick voussoirs, timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals and the cast iron verandah valances. The significance of the house also relies on the retention of the neighbouring semi-detached houses of identical design and construction.

The house at 26 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 the Law family, and especially Samuel Law, original owner from 1893-96, and later with Alice Law until 1920.

Overall, the house at 26 Lonsdale Street is of LOCAL significance.

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References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1924, 1967, 1968, 1974, 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.