

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Offices

Project File No: 0988

Address: 27 Malop Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1860c

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 08.10

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 27 Malop Street, Geelong, on the corner of Malop Street and Clare Street, is located on Lot 1 of subdivision plan TP 9244, which is part of Crown Allotment no. 11, Section 9, of the 1858 Geelong Town Plan. The original owner of the land was J. Watson.

This site originally accommodated a weatherboard corner shop with 2 rooms and a weatherboard store, which had been built for Jeremy Finn in 1855. The following year in 1856 it was purchased by James Cowie, an influential political figure of the time. By 1860, stables, a loft and a "salting house" had been erected on the site, and the Villamanta Ward Rate Books described the premises variously over the period from 1860 to 1873 as "brick", "brick and weatherboard" or, as was the case from 1869 to 1872, as "weatherboard", making continuity difficult to establish. In 1872, the long-term tenant, Edward Frank Hawarth (a well-known Geelong leather merchant), who had converted the building into a leather warehouse and office, having purchased the property from James Cowie. He owned/occupied the property for the next 20 years. From 1875 the rate book descriptions of the brick shop included 5 offices, a store room or strong room and shortly after 1875, a second storey.

When Hawarth died in c.1895, the property passed briefly to Frank Hawarth, a tanner of

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Breakwater, but was sold when he also died in 1904. The new owners in 1904 were Aurel Victor Jung Just and Frederick William Drumond Moore, solicitors, of Geelong West and Laurel Bank Parade respectively. They had been partners since 1896 and had taken over the legal practice of Thomas Napier Whyte, elder brother of Louis Australia Whyte, owner of the "Heights". The firm was then known as Whyte Just and Moore, and they have occupied the 2-storeyed suite of offices until the present day (2002).

Description

The Office building at 27 Malop Street, Geelong, is set on a typically narrow allotment and takes up the full width of the site.

The two storey, brick (now painted), Victorian styled office building is characterised by a rudimentary crowning parapet with a projecting cornice, chamfered corner, curved end to the rudimentary side parapets and the gabled roof. This roof is clad in galvanised corrugated steel.

An early feature of the design is the masonry quoinwork and masonry heads and sills that emphasise the building corners and window openings on the Malop Street facade. The segmentally arched, timber framed, double hung windows on the ground and first floors of the Malop Street facade are early, as is the timber framed doorways with segmentally-arched timber framed transom windows above. The shopfront on the eastern end of the Malop Street facade has been altered and the canopy above introduced.

The west elevation fronting Clare Street indicates a series of additions. The smooth finished masonry plinth near the Ryrie Street end changes to a bluestone plinth (now painted) and then a plain brick wall construction (now painted). The early windows have segmental arches and are timber framed and double hung, with another early window on the ground floor having a transom window above. The other timber framed windows indicate additions and/or alterations. The rear northern section of the building with the vehicular door opening represents a more recent addition. The timber jalousies also appear to have been introduced.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The office building at 27 Malop Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably externally intact example of a Victorian styled commercial building. Built in c.1860 for James Cowie, an influential political figure, the building was occupied by the leather merchant, Edward Hawarth for many years. However, it also has significance as the long-term location of White Just and Moore, solicitors, from 1904 until the present day (2002). The building appears to be in good condition.

The office building at 27 Malop Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the rudimentary crowning parapet with a projecting cornice, chamfered corner, curved end to the rudimentary side parapets and the gabled roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the two storey height, brick wall construction (but not the overpainting), galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, masonry quoinwork, masonry window and door heads and sills.

The office building at 27 Malop Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with commercial developments in Geelong in the mid 19th century. In particular, this building has associations with James Cowie, influential political figure and original owner from c.1860, and with Edward Hawarth, well-known Geelong leather merchant from 1860 until the mid 1890s. The building also has long-term associations with the local legal firm of Whyte Just and Moore Solicitors from 1904 until the present day (2002).

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Overall, the office building at 27 Malop Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1917, 1967, 1968.
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall's "Invicta" Geelong Directory 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Villamanta Ward), 1855-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Investigator, Journal of the Geelong Historical Society, March, 1988, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Copy of original photo of Malop Street, looking east from Gheringhap Street (undated), Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Brown, P. L., The Heights, in "Historic Geelong Houses and Historic Buildings in the City Area", 1975, Geelong Historical Records Centre.