

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1016

Address: 1 McKenzie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: c.1850

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 05.10

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 1 McKenzie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment no. 2, Section 20A, of the 1858 Town Plan of Geelong. The land was originally owned by Ebenezer Davies.

It seems likely that this weatherboard house (which originally boasted two rooms) was built for Ebenezer Davies before 1854-55. Ebenezer Davies worked tan-pits in Marnock Vale, close to Rocky Point, where James Harrison leased a site from Davies to conduct his first refrigeration experiments. Ebenezer sold the property to John Field for 55 pounds, and Field sold it to Samuel Taylor for 77 pounds, both these transactions occurring in September 1855. John Ludlam, who appears as owner of the property in the 1855-56 Valuation Book, bought it from Taylor for 160 pounds in October 1855, but lost on the speculation, receiving only 150 pounds from next buyer, Elisha Smith, in November the same year.

The first owner/occupier was David Marshall, who lived in the house from 1857 to c.1880, extending it to 4 rooms in the 1860s. In the 1890s, the cottage was in the possession of Robert Balding. He had been Borough Surveyor for Newtown & Chilwell Council in the 1860s, before taking up a similar position with Geelong Town Council in 1868, a position

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he held until July 1892. Balding was a noted teetotaler, and member of the Independent Order of Rechabites and the Geelong Total Abstinence Society. He was also an architect, and most noted for his designs of the Wesleyan churches in South Geelong, Highton, Queenscliff, as well as Colac "and several in the interior of the country." Another prominent design by Balding was the former Geelong Exhibition Building (now demolished) that was located in the Mall, Geelong.

Following Robert Balding as owner was Christina Hornsey and then John Henry McMurrich, (a dyer) before 1905, when the house was acquired by Elizabeth Roney, a householder, of Castlemaine. She retained the property for at least 10 years, leasing it to a long-term tenant, James Diamond, a labourer. It was purchased by Charlotte Greagen from Catherine Richardson in 1920. Sanitary improvements carried out by Greagen in April 1920 may indicate that the place was renovated substantially at that time.

Charlotte Greagen, and either her husband or son, Edward Arthur Greagen, a linesman, lived in the house until the 1940s, and Charlotte continued to live there until at least 1950. New owners, Alexander Kluczynski, an employee at the Cement Works, and his wife, Julie, lived at this address for the next 25-30 years.

Description

The cottage at 1 McKenzie Street, Geelong, is set on a small narrow allotment, compared to other allotments in the local area. The house has no front setback, with the front verandah forming the front boundary. There is also no northern side setback, with the house situated along the side boundary. At the side to the south is an introduced gabled garage with galvanised deck wall cladding and a Colorbond roller door. Under the verandah at the front are three recently-planted standard roses.

The modestly scaled, asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian vernacular styled cottage is characterised by double gable roof forms that traverse the site, together with a skillion verandah that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in introduced galvanised corrugated steel. A central early brick chimney (now painted) with a multi-corbelled top adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The asymmetrical composition is defined by the side early timber doorway (with introduced timber door and screen door) and the early side timber framed, double hung 12 paned windows.

The verandah is supported by recent square timber columns.

Most of the original exterior wall cladding, roof cladding and openings appears to have been replaced.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The cottage at 1 McKenzie Street, Geelong, has significance as a moderately intact example of a Victorian vernacular style. Built before 1854-55 for Ebenezer Davies, the house has been altered, with most original fabric having been replaced. However, it is in good condition when viewed from the street.

The cottage at 1 McKenzie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the double gable roof forms that traverse the site, together with the skillion verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the modest scale, asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow

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eaves, brick chimney (but not overpainting) with multi-corbelled top, side timber doorway at the front, timber framed, double hung 12 paned windows at the front, and the square timber verandah columns.

The cottage at 1 McKenzie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the mid 19th century. In particular, this cottage has associations with Ebenezer Davies, original owner prior to 1854-55 who worked the tan pits in Marnock Vale close to Rocky Point. Davies leased a site to James Harrison at Marnock Vale, where he conducted his first refrigeration experiments. The cottage also has associations with Robert Balding, later owner and 19th century Geelong architect, Surveyor for the Borough of Newtown and Chilwell, and later the Geelong Town Council.

Overall, the cottage at 1 McKenzie Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

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