



William Weekes house
124 McKillop Street

History

Crown Allotment 6 of Section 15B was sold to William R H Weekes in 1853 for £360. Weekes also purchased Allotment 15 which backed onto this lot (see Weekes Place).¹ By early 1854, a stone house had been built on this site and leased out in years to come by numerous tenants.² Weekes' widow, Jane, and trustees James Carr and James Orr, sold this site as lot 2 of the grant's subdivision to John Daniel (q.v. Geelong ironmonger) in 1886 for a little over £127. Daniel converted the title to Torrens in 1893.³ William Weekes was Geelong's first town surveyor and speculated extensively in 1850s real estate, in particular the Chevy estate (now Wallington).⁴

Described in 1854 as two-rooms and of stone, it was soon stone and timber, totaling four rooms (2 rooms of stone, plus a weatherboard kitchen and room).⁵ This house was

listed as such in municipal ratebooks from the 1850s into the 1880s.⁶ By then, it had become six rooms (5 rooms plus kitchen), remaining so into the 1940s.⁷ Many tenants occupied the house throughout this period, including Henry Cordell, Joseph Izod, Thomas J Parker, Charles Ross, John Rees, Francis Hocking (piano tuner), Ernest Burgess (teacher) and for a long period (1930s-1960s.), Miss Mary McAlpine.⁸ Charlotte Wilson and Burgess were owner occupiers after Daniel's tenure.⁹

Description

A simple hipped roof (slated) double-fronted stone (basalt) house with an elegant concave-profile front verandah. The verandah may have been added in the 1880s, but the chimney is typically topped with simple corbelled brickwork (since rendered) and multi-paned glazing details evoke the early construction date. The iron and stone fence may also have been added later in

1 RGO 29505
2 RB 1854.588
3 *ibid.*
4 *Investigator* 9.1979 p91, GHRC comment
5 RB 1858-9, 726
6 RB 1859-60, 702; RB1880, 642; RB1890, 611
7 *ibid.*, RB1940,1031
8 D1915-61
9 RB 1920, 1578; RB1930, 1856; RB1940, 1031

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

the 19th century. Cast-iron verandah detail is set in panels, with supporting brackets and timber posts.

External Integrity

(Given above)

Capitals probably missing from verandah posts, front door replaced (?) and door panels glazed.

Streetscape

Adjoins more recent housing but other 19th century houses are at 120, 114 and 112; it is a contributing part of sub-precinct 7.05 and constitutes part of a low-level streetscape.

Significance

Historically, of interest from its Weekes connection and as an exemplar of 1850s Geelong housing which, because of its stone construction, has maintained a high integrity to its construction date.

Architecturally, a typical example of Geelong's 1850s housing but distinguished by its stone construction, most other examples being of timber or rendered masonry.