

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1038

Address: 237 McKillop Street East Geelong 3219

Approx. Date: 1905

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 02.24

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 237 McKillop Street, is located on parts of Allotments 18 and 19, Section 94, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The land was originally owned by G. F. Belcher.

Moolap farmer, John McMaster, had a 6-roomed weatherboard house built at this site in 1905, on land purchased from Elizabeth T. Gardiner. A stable was added before McMaster's death in c.1910. There may have been some internal alterations to the house in the early 1920s when the owner/occupier, George Robertson, a teacher, undertook sanitary improvements on the property. Between 1921 and 1923, the house was also re-addressed from 235 McKillop Street to 237 McKillop Street, and was described as having only 5 rooms (although there were 6 rooms by 1925). Warrant Officer George William Bryceson owned and occupied the home in the 1930s, before it was purchased in the late 1930s by Ethel Rebecca James, a householder of 9 Wattle Tree Road, Drumcondra. She retained possession until the 1950s. By 1960 the property was in the hands of Frank Marsden and Edith Marion Long.

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Description

The house at 237 McKillop Street, Geelong, is set on an average-sized allotment for the local area. The house has a typical sizeable front setback that is broadly equivalent to the front setbacks of other significant neighbouring houses, and there are narrow side setbacks. The front garden consists of perimeter garden beds and shrubs and grassed areas. The front is bound by an introduced capped decorative timber fence and gate, the detailing of which reflects the verandah detailing on the house. The fence is approximately 1500 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by a broad hipped roof form, together with a minor gable that projects towards the street frontage, a recessed gable that projects at the side, and a return verandah under the main hipped roof that has a gabled corner portico on the diagonal. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Three early elongated unpainted brick chimneys with stuccoed bands at the top and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the timber framed casement windows with leadlight highlights. They are arranged as a bank of three on the projecting gables and as a projecting corner bay under the return verandah. There is also a small, early timber framed leadlight window under the verandah. The timber framed doorway is also early.

Early decorative features of the design include the front gable infill (timber brackets, stucco panelling and timber battening), and the ridge decoration on the hipped roof.

Another feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by introduced turned timber columns with decorative timber fretwork valances (having stylised tulip motifs) and elaborate timber brackets. The diagonal gable portico has a similar arched timber fretwork valance and decorative timber gable infill.

The small ridge gable that surmounts the recessed side gable and the gabled roof form beyond, appear to be a later addition, as does the decorative timber parapet flanking the side gable.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 237 McKillop Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Federation style. Built in 1905 for John McMaster, the house appears to have experienced some alterations and is in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 237 McKillop Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the Federation style. These qualities include the broad hipped roof form, together with the minor gable that projects towards the street frontage and the recessed gable that projects at the side, and the return verandah under the main hipped roof that has a gabled corner portico on the diagonal. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, three elongated unpainted brick chimneys with stuccoed bands at the top and terra cotta pots, modest eaves, timber framed casement windows with leadlight highlights arranged as a bank of three on the projecting gables and as a projecting corner bay under the return verandah, small timber framed leadlight window under the verandah, timber framed doorway, front gable infill (timber brackets, stucco panelling and timber battening), ridge decoration on the hipped roof, turned timber verandah columns, decorative timber fretwork verandah valances (having stylised tulip motifs), elaborate timber verandah brackets, and the arched verandah gable timber fretwork valance and decorative timber gable infill. The front timber fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

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The house at 237 McKillop Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the Federation (c.1895-1915) period. In particular, this house has associations with John McMaster, original owner from 1905.

Overall, the house at 237 McKillop Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 1991.
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
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 (Ormond and Barwon Ward), 1905-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.