



**McDonald House**  
**220 Myers Street**

**History**

Granted in 1854 to Alexander Cameron Macdonald for a sum of £375, the Crown Allotment was divided in the boom era of 1854-5 when this property was sold to Robert Murphy for £100.<sup>1</sup> Murphy sold to Pat McNamara in 1863 for a deflated £40 and his widow, Abigail, sold it to Honora Blake eight years later for a more respectable £630. The next sale was to Thomas H Palmer in 1910, this time for £150.<sup>2</sup>

Rate entries suggest that the house was constructed soon after the grant issue, as a three-room timber house, and subsequently leased out to John

McIntosh, Joseph Dobbyn and Frank Dixon, a carpenter.<sup>3</sup> Three rooms and a verandah were added soon after.<sup>4</sup> Under Pat (a warder at the nearby prison) and later Honora, the Blake family's ownership of the house continued, rate descriptions noting it as 'old' early this century.<sup>5</sup> Throughout that period and beyond, the house continued to be leased to persons such as Mary Kildea,

John Batty and Anne Brady. By the 1940s its owner was the widow (?) Anastasia Palmer of Market Street, Geelong.<sup>6</sup>

**Description**

Easily recognizable among its later neighbours, this gable-roof verandahed timber house has unusual disposition of openings but is otherwise typical of an early house. Built close to the street, the house's verandah balustrade also serves as the front fence and the verandah roof is concave in profile, with hipped ends. The scalloped timber verandah valance is a valuable remnant and the post configuration suggests a central doorway. Perhaps broader verandah posts (or panels?) or lost brackets explain the transition from the slim existing posts to the related broad valance elements above. The wide (now painted) brick chimney, with its corbelled cornice, is typical in form and presumably centres on the front-room. Multi-pane window sashes also appear old.

1 RGO 15672

2 ibid.

3 RB 1854-5,794; VB1869-70, 353

4 ibid., VB1896-7, 920; RB1900,1101

5 RB 1909, 1125

6 RB1930, 1615 Palmer's estate; RB 1940,-

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study  
Significant Sites

**External Integrity**

Chimney bricks painted; some details altered in part (verandah, openings ?); new door and new sympathetic fence (?).

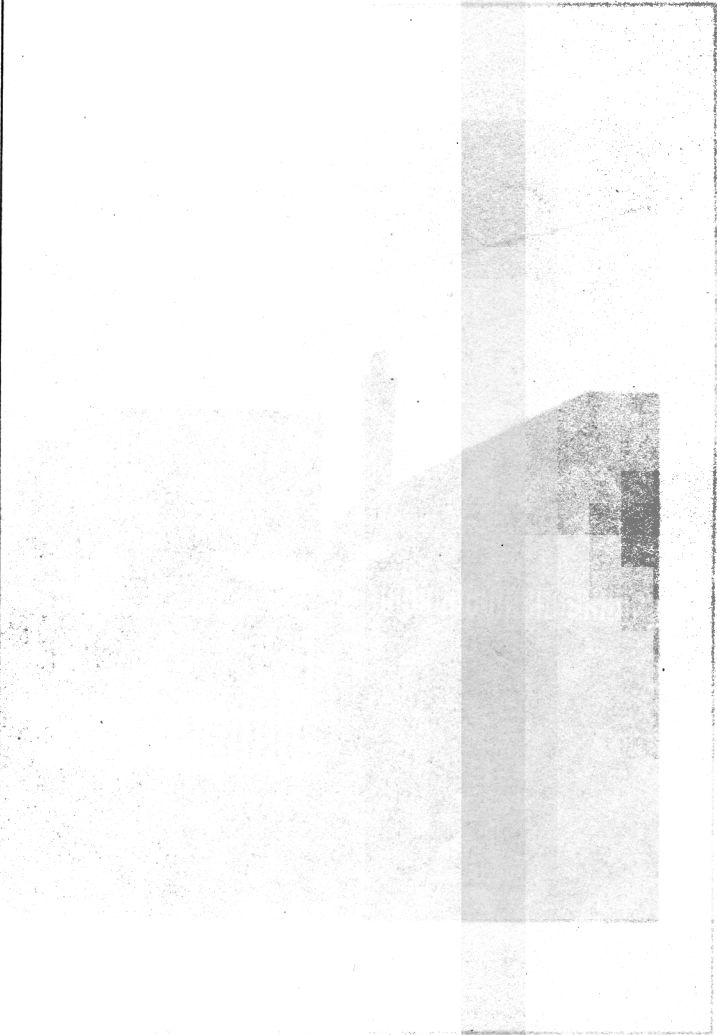
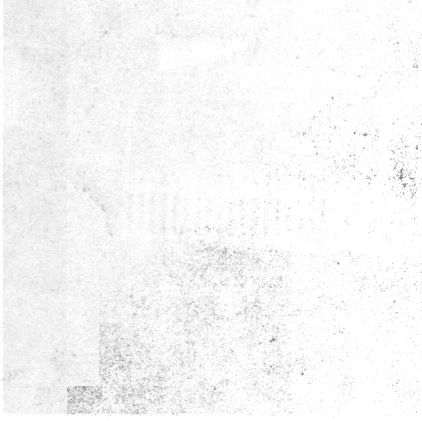
**Streetscape**

This house and 226 Myers Street must have stood alone for many years, with adjoining Edwardian and Bungalow-era housing nevertheless supporting it in form, materials and siting.

**Significance**

Historically, little is known of the occupiers or owners, but the house's age and relative integrity to that date make it an exemplar of the immediate post-gold boom era.

Architecturally, typical for its early date, it possesses valuable details such as the verandah and valence.



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**History**

Granted in 1854 to Alexander McDonald, the house was built in 1855-6, the Crown Act of 1854-5 which was a boom era of 1854-5 when Murphy for £100. The house was built for a defunct £40 and later sold to Honora Blake in 1859. The house was sold to the time for £100. Rate entries suggest that the house was built after the first issue of a street plan, and subsequently leased out to James McDonald, Joseph D'Almeida and others. These rooms were built in 1859, after Under Post (a verandah) was added later Honora, the Blake family, who confined the decoration to the verandah and chimney. Throughout the house, the chimney continued to be leased to the Blake family.

1	1854	1857
2	1858	1861
3	1862	1865
4	1866	1869
5	1870	1873
6	1874	1877