

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1102

Address: 14 Park Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1897

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 06.20

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 14 Park Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment 14, Section 64, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The land was originally owned by J. Connor.

In 1897, Matthew Anderson Kerr bought this land (which was then situated at 244 Little Malop Street) from leather merchant, William Benjamin Wilton. He had this weatherboard house built in the same year. The house originally boasted 5 rooms and a kitchen. Kerr appears to have been a lecturer/instructor at the Gordon Institute of Technology at the time, as the Geelong Advertiser reported in September 1897 that two of his pupils successfully passed a recent examination for sanitary plumbers under M.M.B.W. conditions. He was also appointed the sole agent in Geelong for Raleigh cycles in September 1898. By 1899, stables were erected at the property, with a coach house added by 1903, at which time this section of Little Malop Street was renamed Park Street (although the address remained no. 244 until c.1915). In 1910, Florence Helen Kerr became owner of the residence, although Matthew Kerr was named as occupant in the Bellerine Ward Rate Books from 1899 to the 1930s. The stable may have been demolished in the 1920s.

The property was sold in the mid 1930s to Charles and Claire Alberta Henstridge. It sold

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

again in the 1940s to Vera Roberta Johnson, who was owner/occupier for approximately 20 years before being purchased in the 1960s by George Pearson.

Description

The house at 14 Park Street, Geelong, is set on a narrow allotment, with a typical modest front setback and very narrow side setbacks. The front garden consists of perimeter flower beds, open grassed areas and a pedestrian path. The front is bound by an introduced brick fence and scrolled steel gate that are approximately 1000 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Late Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a projecting conical roof form and bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage and encircles the projecting bay. These roof forms are clad in grey-painted galvanised corrugated iron. Three early and highly elaborate unpainted brick chimneys with rendered strapping, pedimented mouldings and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with worked timber brackets are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the projecting bay with early timber framed double hung windows. The conical roof of the bay is surmounted by an early rendered orb-like finial. The side timber framed, full length double hung window under the verandah also appears to be early, but the infill with a timber door and side frosted glass timber framed windows have been introduced. However the timber framed double hung windows at the sides appear to be early.

Another feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by timber columns with decorative moulded capitals and are surmounted by early decorative cast iron brackets and timber fretwork valances.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 14 Park Street, Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the Late Victorian Italianate style. Built in 1897 for Matthew Kerr, lecturer/instructor at the Gordon Institute of Technology, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 14 Park Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the projecting conical roof form and bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage and encircles the projecting bay. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, grey-painted galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, three highly elaborate unpainted brick chimneys with rendered strapping, pedimented mouldings and terra cotta pots, narrow eaves with worked timber brackets, timber framed double hung windows forming the projecting bay and as single windows at the front and sides, rendered orb-like finial surmounting the conical roof, timber verandah columns with decorative moulded capitals, decorative cast iron verandah brackets and timber verandah fretwork valances.

The house at 14 Park Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with Matthew Kerr, lecturer/instructor at the Gordon Institute of Technology and original owner from 1897.

Overall, the house at 14 Park Street is of LOCAL significance.

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1989.
- Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- 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 (Bellerine Ward), 1896-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Morrow, W., J., Index to the Geelong Advertiser, 29 September, 1897. 1 September, 1898.