

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1107

Address: 4 Pevensey Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1901

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 12.08

Survey Date: June 2002



History

This site at 4 Pevensey Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 1, PS300139, which is on Crown Allotment no. 12, Section 58A, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

In 1901, a 6-roomed weatherboard house (with kitchen, bathroom, scullery, pantry and store) was built at this location for David Fyfe Griffiths, solicitor. He previously lived in a house owned by his brother, Robert Griffiths, at 13 Pevensey Street, and his older brother, William Joseph Griffiths, lived next door, at no. 11. The three brothers were children of Captain David Griffiths, a master mariner, who settled in Geelong in the 1850s. William Joseph was the founder of W.J. Griffiths Book Store, at first known as The Star Store, at 113 Ryrie Street. Presumably the kitchen was counted when the Bellerine Ward Rate Books described the house as having 7 rooms from 1905. Internal changes appear to have been made in c.1915, when the residence was described as having 9 rooms (with bathroom, store and land), and again in the 1920s, when room numbers dropped, first to 8 in 1922, and then to 7 by 1930. David Fyfe Griffiths was owner/occupier until the 1940s, when it seems the property was bequeathed to Alexander David Fyfe Griffiths, first a service station employee, later a farmer, and possibly David's son. Alexander lived in the house until the 1960s, and it was during this period that a second storey was added. Sands & McDougall directories show that Charles Hanlon occupied the house in 1968 and

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1972.

Description

The house at 4 Pevensey Street, Geelong, is set on a slightly larger allotment than several of the neighbouring houses. The house has an average front setback and narrow side setbacks. The front garden consists of sloping ground with perimeter garden beds, with a large palm tree near the northern boundary. The front is bound by an introduced painted brick fence, approximately 1300 mm high.

The asymmetrical, predominantly single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a hipped roof and minor gable that project towards the street frontage, and a return broken back verandah that projects to the front and sides. The small second storey gables that project at the front and side, together with the upper side gabled balcony, appear to have been introduced. The roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Two early strapped brick, multi-corbelled chimneys (now painted) with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return broken back verandah. It is supported by introduced turned timber columns with arched and rectangular timber fretwork valances.

The timber framed banks of double hung windows with highlights under the verandah appear to be early, including the windows on the projecting chamfered corner bay. However, the larger timber framed double hung windows under the minor gable at the front may have been introduced, replacing a smaller bank of windows.

The window leadlighting in the upper floor windows and the timber battening in the upper and ground floor gable ends also appears to have been introduced.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 4 Pevensey Street, Geelong, has significance as a legacy of residential developments in Geelong during the Federation era. Built in 1901 for David Griffiths, brother of William Griffiths who established Griffiths Book Store in Ryrie Street, the house has experienced some alterations and additions, although the early hipped roof forms, front gable and broken back return verandahs are still extant.

The house at 4 Pevensey Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered and extended, it still demonstrates some original design qualities of the Federation style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the hipped roof and minor gable that project towards the street frontage, and the return broken back verandah that projects to the front and sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, predominant single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two strapped brick, multi-corbelled chimneys with terra cotta pots (excluding paintwork), modest eaves, turned timber verandah columns, arched and rectangular timber fretwork verandah valances, and the timber framed banks of double hung windows with highlights under the verandah, including the projecting chamfered corner bay. The substantial palm tree also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 4 Pevensey 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 David Griffiths, solicitor and original owner who had it built in 1901. Griffiths's brother, William Joseph Griffiths, was the founder of the long-established and well-known Geelong book shop, Griffiths Book Store

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in Ryrie Street.

Overall, the house at 4 Pevensey Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1991.
Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward, 1992, 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), 1900-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
The Geelong Advertiser, November, 1976, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

