

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Shop and Office

Project File No: 1120

Address: 119 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1888

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C(Local)

Photograph No: 03.11

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 119 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment no.16, Section 35, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. D. Hoyle was the original owner of the land.

On 3 August 1888, the Geelong architect Joseph Watts called tenders for the erection of a 2 storey brick shop at this location for William Brown. Brown bought the vacant land from Alexander McDonald, who owned both this allotment, and the adjoining lot that was the location of Dickson's Pharmacy. In January 1889, the unfinished building consisted of a shop with 4 rooms and a skillion verandah (supported by cast iron columns with decorative capitals and cast iron verandah valances), and its first occupant appears to have been John Wadelton (which he possibly occupied while waiting for his own residence next door to be completed). William Henry Lloyd a gentleman of Herne Hill acquired the premises in the mid 1890s when it was addressed as 141 Ryrie Street. He seems to have added a bathroom and possibly a store room. With Lloyd's death in c.1918 (by which time the street had been renumbered, giving the shop its present address), major work was undertaken on the property by National Trustees Co., Trustees of his Estate.

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Lloyd leased the premises to a succession of tenants, the best known of whom was Samuel (Sammy) Michael, a pawnbroker, who occupied the shop and residence from c.1910 to the mid 1930s, breaking the pattern of grocers evident in earlier years. The property remained in the hands of Lloyd's Estate for over 20 years, before being finally sold in 1948 to Charles Alexander Blackney. He who appears to have undergone a radical occupational shift from sportswear specialist in 1950 to fishmonger by 1960. Blackney also retained ownership for about 20 years.

Joseph Watts was born in 1816 at Peterborough, Northampton, England. His father is said to also have been an architect. Watts arrived in Victoria on the Duke of Richmond in 1853, classing himself as a bricklayer. He is first mentioned as an architect in 1865 and with the partnership of Watts and Jackson between 1881 and 1883, he was a most successful architect in Geelong throughout the 1870s and 1880s.

Description

The shop and office, 119 Ryrie Street, Geelong, forms half of a larger building situated in amongst other commercial buildings in the street.

The two storey, rendered brick, Victorian Free commercial styled building is characterised by a two bayed composition defined by three early Corinthian pilasters on the first floor. The building also has an early projecting rectangular parapet that is supported by early decorative paired consoles above the pilasters, and projecting rectangular brackets above the consoles. There is also an early projecting moulded stringcourse that defines the first floor level that is punctuated by square brackets. The first floor also has two early timber framed double hung windows with early rendered sills and moulded rendered architraves.

The shop and office at 119 Ryrie Street has an introduced cantilevering verandah over the shopfront. This shopfront has been greatly altered and replaced with the current metal framed and glazed windows, with introduced cladding above.

The building does not appear to have been crowned by a balustraded parapet like the neighbouring building at 121 Ryrie Street.

Behind the parapet is a hipped roof form clad in early galvanised corrugated iron. It is separated from the neighbouring hipped roof by an early projecting unpainted brick party wall. The rear is also constructed of unpainted brick, with early window openings, an early parapeted brick skillion section and unpainted brick chimney, and later one and two storey additions.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The shop and office, 119 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as part of a larger building that represents a reasonably intact example of a Victorian Free commercial style. Built in 1888 for William Brown to a design by the Geelong architect Joseph Watts, the building is a legacy of the commercial developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century.

The shop and office, 119 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Free commercial style. These qualities include the two bayed composition defined by three Corinthian pilasters on the first floor, projecting rectangular parapet supported by decorative paired consoles above the pilasters and projecting rectangular brackets, and the projecting moulded stringcourse that defines the first floor level and which is punctuated by square brackets. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the two storey height, rendered brick wall construction, two timber framed double hung first floor windows with rendered sills and moulded rendered architraves, hipped roof form clad in

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galvanised corrugated iron, projecting unpainted brick party wall, rear unpainted brick wall construction, rear window openings, rear parapeted skillion section, and the rear unpainted brick chimney. The architectural significance of this shop and office also relies on the retention and conservation of the neighbouring shop and office at 121 Ryrie Street.

The shop and office, 119 Ryrie Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with commercial developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, this building has associations with William Brown, original owner who commissioned the Geelong architect Joseph Watts to design it and the neighbouring building at 121 Ryrie Street in 1888.

Overall, the shop and office at 119 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1918, 1949, 1956, 1948, 1956, 1980.
- Voters' Roll, Kardinia 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 (Villamanta Ward), 1888-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Town Plan of Geelong 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Titles Search Application APP22076, Land Titles Office, Marland House, Bourke Street, Melbourne.
- Morrow, W.J., Index to the Geelong Advertiser, 1888, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Huddle, L., Ryrie Street, Geelong, Various photographs and Street Survey Map, Authentic Heritage Services.
- Rowe, D., 'Architecture of Geelong 1860-1900', B. Arch. Thesis, Deakin University, 1991.

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Site Name: Shop and Office

Project File No: 1121

Address: 121 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1888

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C(Local)

Photograph No: 03.12

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 121 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment no.16, Section 35, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. D. Hoyle was the original owner of the land.

On 3 August 1888, the Geelong architect Joseph Watts called tenders for the erection of a 2 storey brick shop at this location for John Wadelton, a chemist. Wadelton was already living on the site in a smaller 3-roomed pharmacy known as Robert McDonald's New Drug Hall. He had occupied the earlier premises from 1879 and bought it in 1880 from Alexander McDonald, for whom it had been built in 1854. The new shop was designed with a verandah and had four rooms. Its address before 1900 was 143 Ryrie Street. Wadelton occupied the premises for approximately 30 years, until it was purchased by Thomas Andrew Dickson of Garden Street in 1918, by which time it was readdressed as 121 Ryrie Street. Dickson immediately carried out extensive work on the building. It may have been then that the shop was given its distinctive arched roofed verandah that project towards the street and was supported by cast iron columns with decorative capital (for it was not evident in earlier photographs). From this time the shop was known as "Dickson's Pharmacy". Although he owned the shop for about 10 years, Dickson occupied it only briefly, leasing it between 1920 and 1925 to William Gough. When Dickson moved