

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: 'Glen Alvie'

Project File No: 1131

Address: 246 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1905

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 04.05

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 246-248 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment 5, Section 22, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The original owner of the allotment was J. C. McMillan.

Henry Stringer had run a successful house painting and decorating business at this location for many years when he demolished his 3 roomed weatherboard shop in 1905 to make way for a 2 storey, 6 roomed brick shop, with store room, kitchen and bathroom.

One of his employees during the earlier period was the artist, Alexander Webb, who worked at the firm of Stringer's in Ryrie Street as a grainer and house decorator, painting landscapes and Geelong street scenes in his spare time.

Henry Stringer also enlarged the size of his Ryrie Street holding in 1905 by purchasing adjoining land, previously belonging to R. E. Oldfield of Corio. A washhouse and pantry were added to the building on the site between 1905 and 1910. Stringer occupied the building until his death in November 1935 at the age of 76. The property was then placed under the control of his Estate, care of the Ballarat Trustees, and occupied by Edwin Arthur, who appears to have taken over Stringer's painting business. In the 1950s, the

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site appears to have been purchased by a group called the "Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes", care of R. Wilkinson of 36 Waratah Street, Geelong West, but E. and A. L. Arthur, painters, continued to reside at the premises until 1972, when no. 248 was occupied by J. L. Parker, and no. 246 by a number of financial businesses - namely, Par Services Insurance Brokers, F. A. I. Insurance Group, Car Owners Mutual, and Omnibus and General Insurance.

Description

The building known as 'Glen Alvie' at 246-248 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on the front boundary of the site. The site has a rear right of way.

The two storey, symmetrical-like, unpainted red brick, Federation Free style building is characterised by a rendered decorative parapet and a lower three-bayed composition. The parapet has a central stylised pediment with elaborate plaster floral relief within, and flanking pyramidal cappings above rectangular piers that have incised rectangular panels. These piers are supported by the red brick pilasters below that delineate the three-bayed composition. The parapet cappings to the outer bays are tapered, with additional floral reliefs within the parapet panels. A projecting rendered and moulded stringcourse forms the lower reaches of the parapet. On the east elevation, an early and broad unpainted brick chimney with a moulded and tapered top and four terra cotta pots adorns the roofline. Both the east and west elevations have curved unpainted brick parapets, and there is floodlit introduced signage on the upper reaches of the west wall.

The ground floor especially features an off-centre recessed entrance, having a shallow rendered pediment that is supported by a concrete lintel and two round, squat Ionic columns in antis on projecting unpainted brick base walls. Within the entrance is a timber framed and glazed doorway. The narrow eastern ground floor bay has an early segmentally-arched doorway with an introduced timber and glazed door with timber framed transom above. The western ground floor bay has an introduced, large powder-coated aluminium framed shopfront and an early ingo with timber framed and glazed door and transom window.

The flanking narrow bays of the first floor have pairs of segmentally-arched, timber framed double hung windows. The wider central bay is characterised by two single timber framed double hung windows with linking cement rendered rectangular label moulds above.

Other early decorative features of the design include the cream brick banding, cream brick window voussoirs and the projecting cement rendered stringcourses above the ground and first floor openings.

At the rear to the west is a single storey double gabled roof wing with a brick parapet wall on the west elevation. The roof is clad in galvanised corrugated steel.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The building known as 'Glen Alvie' at 246-248 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the Federation Free style and for its associations with the early Geelong artist, Alexander Webb. Built in 1905 for Henry Stringer, painter and decorator, the building appears to be in fair-good condition.

'Glen Alvie' at 246-248 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an intact Federation Free style. These qualities include the rendered decorative parapet (with a central stylised pediment and elaborate plaster floral relief within, flanking pyramidal cappings above rectangular piers that have incised rectangular panels, tapered parapet cappings to the outer bays with additional floral reliefs within the parapet panels, and the projecting rendered and moulded

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stringcourse forming the lower reaches of the parapet), and the three-bayed facade composition articulated by the unpainted red brick pilasters. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical-like composition, unpainted brick wall construction, unpainted broad brick chimney with a moulded and tapered top and four terra cotta pots, curved unpainted brick parapets on the east and west elevations, off-centre recessed entrance with a shallow rendered pediment that is supported by a concrete lintel and two round, squat Ionic columns in antis on projecting unpainted brick base walls, timber framed and glazed doorway in the recessed entrance, segmentally-arched ground floor doorway, shopfront ingo with timber framed and glazed door and transom window, segmentally-arched, timber framed double hung first floor windows, central timber framed double hung first floor windows with linking cement rendered rectangular label moulds above, cream brick banding, cream brick window voussoirs, projecting cement rendered stringcourses above the ground and first floor openings, and the rear double gabled wing with a brick parapet on the west elevation.

'Glen Alvie' at 246-248 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with commercial developments in Geelong in the early 1900s. In particular, this building has associations with Henry Stringer, painter and decorator and original owner from 1905. The building also has associations with the early Geelong artist, Alexander Webb, who painted landscapes and Geelong street scenes, and who was also an employee of the Stringer painting and decorating business.

Overall, 'Glen Alvie' at 246-248 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1972.
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
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