

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1137

Address: 335 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1884

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 04.02

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 335 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment 26, Section 64, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The land was originally owned by S. Freedman. It has been noted that the Geelong Rate Book (Bellerine Ward) for 1896 allocated this property erroneously to Allotment 25, Section 64.

Geelong architect, Joseph Watts called tenders closing on 12 March 1884 for three, 8-roomed cottages in Ryrie Street - one, on allotment no. 26 for Samuel Matthews, and two for F.S. Orchard, owner of Allotments 24 and 25 (and previous owner of the land purchased by Samuel Matthews in 1884). The house built for Matthews was a weatherboard house with a verandah, bathroom and washhouse, and was valued at 50 pounds per annum. By 1892, the dwelling was in the hands of Andrew Norrie, bank manager of the Commercial Bank in 1898, who seems to have converted one of the rooms to a servant's bedroom in c.1896. The address of the property at this time was 327 Ryrie Street, the numbering not being reviewed until some time between 1910 and 1920, when it became no. 335. In 1898, John Henry Bossence, a draper, bought the house which may already have been enlarged by the previous owner. For the next 20 years, the residence was variously described in the Geelong Rate Books (Bellerine Ward) as consisting of 8 or 9 rooms, with bathroom and pantry, and by 1915, a cellar and shed.

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Considerable improvements were made to sanitary facilities on the site in 1916. When John Bossence died in the late 1920s, the property (at the time called "Heatherlie") was left to his wife, Eliza, who continued to live there until the 1930s. It may have been their son, Allan William Bossence, a grazier, who owned and occupied the house in the 1940s, but after he died in c.1950, the place was purchased by Willoughby T. and Dorothy Harding. They lived in the house until c.1970, when it was converted into flats.

Description

The house at 335 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on an average-sized allotment for this side of Ryrie Street in this area. The house has a typical front setback of approximately 8 metres, with narrow side setbacks. The front garden consists of a central concrete path, grassed driveway at the side, perimeter plantings and a front perimeter hedge approximately 2 metres high. The front is also bound by an early decorative timber picket fence, approximately 1500 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian eclectic styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a minor hipped roof, gabled window bay and side hipped concave verandah that all project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in lapped galvanised corrugated iron. Two early rendered brick chimneys with projecting tops adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with worked timber brackets and rectangular panels between are features of the eaves. The building also rests on an early unpainted brick base.

Features of the design are the projecting rectangular gable bay and the rectangular bay under the verandah. These bays have banks of three early timber framed double hung full-length windows with highly decorative leadlight upper sashes and base walling that consists of timber shingling.

Another feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by round cast iron columns with decorative pedestals and capitals, and the verandah is decorated by framed cast iron valances and cast iron brackets.

The front timber framed doorway is also early and has an early four panelled timber door with leadlight sidelights and highlights. The sidelights also have early timber base panels. The front timber screen door is damaged.

Other early features of the design include the timber bracketed window hood and the gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening).

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 335 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as an intact example of a Victorian eclectic style. Built in 1884 for Samuel Matthews to a design by the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts, the house appears to be in fair-poor condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 335 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian eclectic style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with the minor hipped roof, gabled window bay and side hipped concave verandah that all project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, unpainted brick wall base, two rendered brick chimneys with projecting tops, narrow eaves with worked timber brackets and rectangular panels between, front projecting bays with banks of three timber framed double hung full-length windows having highly decorative leadlight upper sashes and timber shingled base walling, round cast iron verandah

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columns with decorative pedestals and capitals, decorative framed cast iron verandah valances, cast iron verandah brackets, front timber framed doorway with a four panelled timber door and leadlighted sidelights and highlights, timber base panels to the sidelights, bracketed timber window hood and the gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening). The front timber picket fence and hedge also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 335 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In particular, this house has associations with Samuel Matthews, original owner from 1884. It has further associations with the two neighbouring houses at 337 and 339 Ryrie Street that were originally owned by F.S. Orchard. Although differing in style, all three houses were designed and constructed simultaneously by the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts in 1884.

Overall, the house at 335 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1917, 1931, 1955, .
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