

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1139

Address: 341 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1937

Integrity: High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 12.06

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 341 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on Allotment no.23, Section 64, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1923. The land was originally owned by D. Moore.

A 7-roomed brick residence was built at this site in 1937 for George Bland Humble, who, with his wife Ethel Florence, was previously resided next door at 339 Ryrie Street. From 1913 until 1921, this site had belonged to the nurse, Caroline Eliza Dowling.

George Humble was a retired gentleman, having been Secretary of the Vulcan Foundry, following 14 years with the Commonwealth Bank. He was a member of the Geelong Hospital Committee, a Life Governor of Glastonbury Home (orphanage), and a Freemason from 1902. The new home appears to have been built for George's retirement, and the couple lived there until George's death on 14 April 1949. Florence then sold the property and the owners in 1960 were Santa Maria and Maria Virgona. The house was occupied by H.J. Oliver in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Description

The house at 341 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on an average-sized allotment for the

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northern side of Ryrie Street in this area. The house has a substantial front setback, a narrow side setback and a wider side setback forming a side driveway. The front has a substantial landscape of exotic trees and shrubs, and there is a small brick outbuilding with a hipped terra cotta shingle roof. The front is bound by an introduced cast iron palisade fence and vehicular gates and is approximately 1800 mm high.

The asymmetrical, two storey, unpainted brick, interwar Old English styled house is characterised by a dominant gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a two storey gable that projects towards the street frontage, two hipped dormers that project towards the front, a projecting single storey gable on the east side (with a hipped eaves) and a recessed projecting bay on the east side. These roof forms are clad in terra cotta shingling. A dominant unpainted brick chimney with a narrow diagonal shaft and a pointed arched niche at the base adorns the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the projecting bay window at the front with a conical roof clad in terra cotta shingles. The bay has early timber framed double hung windows. There are other banks of timber framed double hung windows with leadlighting at the front and side, as well as a narrow timber framed window with leadlighting in the upper reaches of the projecting gable.

Other early features of the design include the header bond courses defining the upper reaches of the gable ends and the soldier course bandings at the front.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 341 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the interwar Old English style. Built in 1937 for George and Ethel Humble, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 341 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Old English style. These qualities include the dominant gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the two storey gable that projects towards the street frontage, two hipped dormers that project towards the front, the projecting single storey gable on the east side (with the hipped eaves) and the recessed projecting bay on the east side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, two storey height, terra cotta shingle roof cladding, unpainted brick wall construction, dominant unpainted brick chimney with a narrow diagonal shaft and a pointed arched niche at the base, modest eaves, projecting bay window at the front with a conical roof clad in terra cotta shingles, timber framed double hung windows, window leadlighting, narrow timber framed window with leadlighting in the upper reaches of the projecting gable, heading bond courses defining the upper reaches of the gable ends and the soldier course bandings at the front. The substantial front landscape also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 341 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with substantial residential developments in Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with George and Ethel Humble, original owners who instigated construction in 1937. George Humble had been the Secretary of the Vulcan Foundry in Geelong, had served with the Commonwealth Bank and was a member of the Geelong Hospital Committee and a Life Governor of the Glasonbury Home.

Overall, the house at 341 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

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References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1938, 1987.
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), 1935-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1923, Public Records Office, Melbourne.
Certificate of Title, dated 15 July 1913.
Extracts from "Humble by Nature", Humble Family Tree Journal, September, 1988, December, 1988, and January 1989, Geelong Historical Records Centre.