

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1152

Address: 35 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1912

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 07.16

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 35 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotments 6 and 7, Section 68, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The original owner of the land was William Noble.

Walter Scott, a builder of Drumcondra, built a 5-roomed weatherboard house at this location in 1912. The house was sold in c.1914, to John Fisher Moore, gentleman of Geelong West. It was known to have a bathroom by this time. Moore let the dwelling for approximately 6 years. In 1921, the next owner, Mary Ann Fletcher, householder, sold the property to William Charles Lyall, a clerk. Alterations to the building were carried out over the next 2 or 3 years, reducing the number of rooms in the house from 5 to 4 by 1925, when the residence was in the hands of retired farmer, William Matthew Usher, who lived there until the 1930s. Annie Creelman, a householder, acquired the property in the 1930s, and resided there for a short time before leasing it. Her tenants in 1950, Arthur Donald and Robina Agnes Black, purchased the dwelling in the 1950s and occupied it until at least the 1970s.

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Description

The house at 35 Swanston Street, Geelong, is set on a small, irregularly-shaped allotment. It has a modest front setback and narrow side setbacks, and there are two large exotic trees at the front. The front is also bound by a timber picket fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The symmetrical, single storey, Late Victorian styled house is characterised by a simple gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. There is also a rear flat and skillion roofed wing that has been introduced. These roof forms are clad in dark-painted galvanised corrugated steel. An early unpainted red brick chimney with a terra cotta pot adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The symmetry of the design is accentuated by the early front central timber framed doorway and the flanking early timber framed double hung windows arranged in pairs. The four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights are early, but the steel screen door has been introduced.

Another feature of the design is the front verandah that is supported by timber columns with timber brackets. The verandah has a decorative timber fretwork valance.

The house is clad in horizontal timber weatherboards at the sides, but the front appears to have timber shiplap cladding.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 35 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Late Victorian style. Built in 1912 by Walter Scott, the house appears to be in fair condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 35 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian style. These qualities include the simple gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding at the sides, horizontal timber shiplap cladding at the front, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, unpainted brick chimney with a terra cotta pot, narrow eaves, front central timber framed doorway with a four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights, timber framed double hung windows arranged in pairs at the front, timber verandah columns with timber brackets, and the decorative timber fretwork valance.

The house at 35 Swanston 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 Walter Scott, original owner and builder who constructed the house in 1912.

Overall, the house at 35 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1990.
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.

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Geelong City Council Rate Books (Bellerine Ward), 1910-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.