

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1159

Address: 89 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1871-72

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 02.14

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 89 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment 5, Section 78, of the Town Plan of Geelong of 1881. J. Carly was the original land owner.

A 4-roomed bluestone cottage (with kitchen) was built at this location for James Kerley, carrier, in 1871-72. A verandah was added by 1881, and the house enlarged to 6 rooms plus kitchen by 1895-96. With the death of Kerley in c.1900, the dwelling, then said to be at 173 Swanston Street, passed to his widow, Ann Kerley. There appears to have been some internal alteration to the building at that time, as the house was described in Barwon Ward Rate Books from 1900 onwards as a 5-roomed stone building with a bathroom. After Ann Kerley's apparent death between 1905 and 1910, the property was inherited by Jane Kerley, daughter of James and Ann. Long-term tenant, Thomas David Smith, wood merchant, remained in residence from c. 1905 to the early 1920s, and the rate books of the period described the house as "old". In 1922 the property, now located at 95 Swanston Street, was bought by Edward O'Reilly, hotel keeper of a Moorabool Street hotel in 1925, and the hotelier of the hotel at the corner of Bellerine Street and Little Malop Street by 1930. O'Reilly carried out extensive plumbing and drainage work on his Swanston Street property in 1922, and may have also undertaken other improvements, as the annual value of the house rose from 25 to 44 pounds in 5 years. O'Reilly seems to

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have bequeathed the dwelling to his son, Edward John O'Reilly, a labourer / textile worker, in the mid 1930s. Edward O'Reilly enlarged the house to 7 rooms in the 1930s and occupied it until the early 1970s, by which time the site had been renumbered to its present address, when it was acquired by John Alexander and Marie Elizabeth Jordan of Leopold.

Description

The semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street, Geelong, forms part of a duplex of semi-detached houses. Both houses are set on narrow allotments and have modest front setbacks and narrow side setbacks. The front garden of the house at 89 Swanston Street largely consists of perimeter flower beds and other plantings, with a pathway to the front verandah. The front is bound by an introduced timber picket fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The single storey, unpainted bluestone, Victorian styled duplex is characterised by a longitudinal hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with skillion verandahs that project towards the street frontage. These verandahs are clad in galvanised corrugated steel, and the main hipped roof has also been recently clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Separating the verandahs is a masonry party wall. There is also a central, dominant rendered masonry chimney that adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street also has a symmetrical composition accentuated by the early central timber framed doorway with flanking timber framed double hung 4 paned windows with shallow arches. The timber and glazed door has been introduced, as has the glazing to the transom window above.

An early decorative feature of the design is the bricking framing and quoinwork about the windows and door.

Another feature of the design is the front skillion verandah which is supported by recent turned timber columns with timber framed cast iron valances and cast iron brackets.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance as part of an intact example of a Victorian styled duplex. Built in 1871-72 for James Kerley, this semi-detached house appears to have experienced some alterations but is in good condition when viewed from the street.

The semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the longitudinal hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the skillion verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the central dominant rendered masonry chimney, narrow eaves, masonry verandah party wall, galvanised corrugated steel verandah roof cladding, central timber framed doorway and timber framed transom window above, flanking timber framed double hung 4 paned windows with shallow arches, unpainted bluestone wall construction, single storey height, brick framing and quoinwork about the windows and door, and the turned timber verandah columns with timber framed cast iron valances and cast iron brackets. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place. The architectural significance of this semi-detached house also relies on the retention of the semi-detached house at 91 Swanston Street.

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The semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential duplex developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with James Kerley, carrier and original owner who instigated construction in 1871-72.

Overall, the semi-detached house at 89 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 1937, 1978, 1985, 1989.
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 (Barwon Ward), 1872-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Land Title Search App 40183, Land Titles Office, Marland House, Bourke Street, Melbourne.