

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1163

Address: 106 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1879

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 02.19

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 106 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on Lot 1, TP11592, which is part of Crown Allotment 1, Section 15A, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The land originally belonged to Smith.

A 6-roomed weatherboard house was built at this location in 1879 for James Kerley. The house had a verandah, kitchen, bathroom, two sheds and, by 1899, a pantry. After Kerley died in the 1890s, his widow, Anne Kerley, continued to live there until her death in c.1908. Their daughter, Catherine, inherited the house, which was then enlarged to 7 rooms, and the property also boasted stables. Arthur Holmes of Marshall Town bought the dwelling in 1921, and he seems to have made major changes to the house, with the number of rooms reduced to four. His tenant, John James Johnson, an engineer, acquired the property in 1922 and had sewerage connected early in the following year. By 1930, the house was in the possession of Arthur William Morrison, a shearer, who lived there for more than 10 years. Alexander Seymour Larkan, a Ford Motor Co. employee, purchased the place before 1950, and he resided there until at least the mid 1970s.

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Description

The house at 106 Swanston Street, Geelong, is set on a small wide allotment for the area. It also has a typical front setback for the area, characterised by perimeter garden beds and grassed areas. There is also a driveway to one side. The front is bound by a timber picket fence and gates that are approximately 1200 mm high.

The symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. An early unpainted polychromatic brick chimney adorns the roofline, as does another later unpainted brick chimney on the other side. Narrow overhangs and paired timber brackets with panelling between are features of the eaves.

The symmetry of the design is accentuated by the early central timber framed doorway and flanking early timber framed double hung windows under the front verandah. The doorway has an early four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights.

A feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by timber columns and has introduced cast iron valance decoration.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 106 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Victorian style. Built in 1879 for James Kerley, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 106 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, 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, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, unpainted brick chimneys, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets and panelling between, timber framed doorway with four panelled timber door and sidelights and highlights, and the timber framed double hung windows. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 106 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with James Kerley, original owner who instigated construction in 1879.

Overall, the house at 106 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 1923, 1961, 1992.
- Voters' Roll, Barwon 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 (Barwon Ward), 1879-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Town Plan of Geelong 1923, Public Records Office, Melbourne.