



Isaac and Ann Reeves house
108 Tanner Street

History

Lawrence sold Crown Allotments 6 & 7/2 to John Short in 1855 for a modest sum of £300. Isaac and Ann Reeves were the new owners in the following year, paying a reduced £150 but mortgaging the property for £1000 three years later.

Reeves operated a wool-scouring works in the area from the early 1850s. He built the first stage of this house in c1856, then of brick, 6 rooms with a kitchen, stable, store, cottage and 3 acres.¹ By 1859, a verandah was added to the rate description, later as cellar and later still a garden.² Edmund Haworth began his long occupation-ownership of the house c1864.³ Two rooms were added by c1867 and a further two sometime in the late 1880s, early 1890s.⁴ Meanwhile his partner, Frank Howarth's house was being completed at 116 Tanner Street during 1868-9.⁵

William T Gibbs was the next major owner-occupier, in the early 1900s, followed by Edward G Gurr (auctioneer) and Jonathon

Western, a retired farmer. ⁶Beyond the additions made by Howarth in the 1880s, it is probable that Gibbs carried out the Edwardian era alterations, now evident.

Description

Evidently once an early symmetrically elevated brick villa with an M-hipped slated roof and two projecting window bays, this house was extended probably early this century (Gibbs ?) with the addition of a timber entrance porch and bullnose-profile return verandah. Another brick (painted) wing (1880s ?) was added (in two stages ?) to the south, all but obscuring the original design symmetry. The verandah posts and general verandah design suggest that it too has been modified or renewed.

A feature of both wings is the bold brick quoining and string moulds, (absent on south end). Two mature Norfolk Island Pines and a sympathetically designed timber fence complement the house.

1 VB 1856-7,1191

2 VB 1861-2,854; VB 1860-1,875

3 RB 1865-6,714

4 RB 1888,919; RB1895-6, 1945; RB 1867-8,733

5 RB 1968-9,753 listed in Edmund's name

6 RB 1909, 2310; RB 1914, 2574; RB 1923, 2711

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

External Integrity

(Given the above changes) Bricks painted; verandah altered in detail (?).

Streetscape

Relates visually and historically to the adjoining house on the south and, historically, to the adjacent fellmongery works.

Significance

Historically, built for and occupied by the wool scouring fraternity and hence of importance to the wool-led foundation of Geelong.

Architecturally, altered but visually associated with the important adjoining house and, by its remote location, linked symbolically with early Geelong noxious industries.