

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1178

Address: 5 Verner Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1891-92

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.14

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site is located on part of Allotments 37, 38 and 39, Section 29B, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

Edgar Lawry Julien, saddler, who commenced business in Ryrie Street in 1888, built this residence in 1891-92, on land at one time owned by George F. Belcher. The house consisted of five rooms, a kitchen, bathroom and a servant's room. Stables and a wash-house were added by 1897. In the Barwon Ward rate book of 1904, the house was described as having 6 rooms, but it may be that the kitchen was then included in the count. A pantry was also added in that year. Sewerage was connected in 1920. Edgar Lawry Julien called the house "Hazelhurst", and during the period 1923-1927, the house was extended to include a seventh room.

Edgar Julien died in the 1940s and for a time the residence was administered by the Julien Estate, and remained vacant. In the 1950s, the property was owned by Owen Houston Elliston Trappes and his wife, Sylvia May Trappes, of St. Leonards. The property changed hands in 1960, the new owners being Leslie John Nott and Elma Jean Nott of 52 Queenscliff Road, and William Leonard Cotter of 8 Pineville Avenue, Geelong West. They immediately set about improving the bathroom facilities. Shortly afterwards, the home,

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together with the adjacent property at 7 Verner Street, was rented as flats under at least two different owners. Throughout its history, the house was described in the Rate Books as a weatherboard house.

Description

The house at 5 Verner Street, Geelong, is set on a narrow allotment and has a front setback of approximately 4-5 m. The front garden consists of perimeter flower beds and central lawned areas. The front is bound by an introduced timber post and rail, and woven wire fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, timber, Late Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a projecting conical bay and flat roofed arcuated loggia, which project towards the street frontage. There is also a bullnosed return verandah that projects towards the front and side. At the rear are hipped roofed wings that project at the sides. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron, overpainted dark red. Four rendered brick chimneys with projecting cornices adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with paired decorative timber brackets (and paterae between) are features of the eaves.

An early decorative feature of the design is the timber joinery simulating ashlar masonry construction at the front. The joinery emphasises the arched window openings on the projecting bay and loggia, which also have moulded stringcourses and rectangular panelling. All the windows at the front are early, being timber framed and double hung.

The return verandah is supported by introduced square timber columns with moulded capitals. A recent timber valance forms another decorative feature.

Within the loggia is an early timber framed doorway, while there is another early timber and glazed door at the side. The side and rear walls are clad in horizontal weatherboards.

The cast iron finials at the apexes of the roof ridgelines form another early decorative feature.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 5 Verner Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Late Victorian Italianate style that is unusual for Geelong, particularly with the timber joinery wall cladding simulating ashlar masonry. This house was built in 1891-92 and is in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 5 Verner Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although slightly altered, the house still demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with a projecting conical bay and flat roofed arcuated loggia, which project towards the street frontage, bullnosed return verandah, and the rear hipped roofed wings that project at the sides. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the timber joinery wall cladding simulating ashlar masonry, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding for the side and rear walls, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, four rendered brick chimneys with projecting cornices, narrow eaves with paired decorative timber brackets and paterae between, arched window openings on the projecting bay and loggia that also have moulded stringcourses and rectangular panelling, timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorways, timber and glazed side door, cast iron finials and the timber verandah columns.

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The house at 5 Verner Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular the house has associations with Edgar Julien, saddler and original owner, who had it built in 1891-92. It remained in Julien's ownership for many years until the 1940s.

Overall, the house at 5 Verner Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1920, 1960, Barwon Water Profis System, City of Greater Geelong.

Rate Certificate, 1985, City of Greater Geelong.

Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1920, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968. Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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Morrow, W., "Index to the Geelong Advertiser", 1888, Geelong Historical Records Centre.