

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1198

Address: 168 Yarra Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1923

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.06

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site on the south-west corner of Yarra Street and McKillop Street, is located on Allotment no. 21, Section 27B, of the Town Plan of Geelong of 1923. This was part of the subdivision of the former Geelong Grammar School Reserve, which encompassed the city block bound by Moorabool Street, McKillop Street, Yarra Street and Maud Street, sold at Public Auction on 8 April 1916.

George Alexander Thomson, butcher of Moorabool Street had this residence built in 1923. He retained possession of it as owner and occupier until the 1960s. Rate Book entries from 1924 to 1930 describe the building as a brick house with seven rooms. The architect and builder are not known. The Rate Books from 28 November 1939 describe the house as having 6 rooms, so there may have been some internal changes in the 1930s. A.G. Costa occupied the residence in 1972, followed by Mr. R. Costa by 1979.

Description

The house at 168 Yarra Street, Geelong, is set on a corner allotment (corner of Yarra and McKillop Streets). It has modest front and side setbacks and gardens consisting of mature hedges and shrubs. The front and side are bound by an early face red brick

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fence and hollow steel rails, approximately 1500 mm high. The fence piers have concrete cappings and there is an early steel gate at the corner. There is also a recent, solid brick fence on the McKillop Street frontage that is approximately 2 m high.

The asymmetrical, predominantly single storey, face red brick, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with projecting minor gables at the front and side. These roof forms are clad in terra cotta tiles. An early face red brick chimney with a projecting brick capping and terra cotta pots adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return verandah under the projecting gable at the corner. It is supported by square timber columns and early brick piers, and there is also early brick balustrading. The timber framed double hung windows are also early, including the project flat-roofed bays with central fixed lights.

Early decorative features of the design include the window leadlighting in the upper sashes, terra cotta finials and the gable infill (ventilator, shingling, panelling and battening and timber brackets).

To one side of the house (fronting McKillop Street) is a two storey gabled brick addition.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 168 Yarra Street, Geelong, has significance as a relatively intact example of a face brick interwar Californian Bungalow styled house. This house was built in 1923 for George Alexander Thomson, a butcher of Moorabool Street.

The house at 168 Yarra Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although extended at one side, it still demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Californian Bungalow style. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the projecting minor gables at the front and side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the predominantly single storey height, asymmetrical composition, face red brick wall construction, terra cotta tile roof cladding, red brick chimney with a project capping and terra cotta pots, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, return verandah under the projecting gable at the corner, square timber verandah columns with brick verandah piers, brick balustrading, timber framed double hung windows including the projecting flat-roofed bays with central fixed lights, window leadlighting, terra cotta finials and the gable infill (ventilator, shingling, panelling and battening and timber brackets). The front brick fence (at the corner), steel gate at the corner and the mature garden also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 168 Yarra Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the interwar period (1920s-1940s). It has particular associations with George Alexander Thomson, original owner from 1923.

Overall, the house at 168 Yarra Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1923, 1979, 1984, 1986, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.

Title Plan search, 10 August 1993.

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

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Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Sands & McDougall Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1923-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Old Geelong Grammar School Estate, auction notice, 8 April 1916, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong Town Plan, 1923, Geelong Historical Records Centre.