

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1200

Address: 186 Yarra Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1891c

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.08

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 186 Yarra Street, next to Lane no. 10, Geelong, is located on Lot 3, Plan 2218, being part of the original property of J. Daniel, Allotment no. 10, Section 27A, listed on the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

The date of construction could not be ascertained with certainty, but the residence was rated as a four-room brick house, owned and occupied by Esther G. Wilson, householder, in the Geelong City Rate Book (Barwon Ward) for 24 February 1896. This house may date from that time or possibly 5-10 years earlier. A kitchen appears to have been added when the property was purchased by Arthur Joseph Preston, caterer, some time before 22 February 1904. Up until 1910 the address of the residence was listed as 250 Yarra Street, before the street was re-numbered, and the home became no. 186. In 1914-1915 the property passed into the hands of the Radigan family, who retained ownership until 1950. For the most part, the Radigans, first Mary Ann, householder, of Geelong West, then John, carrier of Moorabool Street, did not reside there, but leased the residence to a succession of tenants, although John was the occupant briefly in 1922, in which year, oddly, the house was again rated as a 4-room residence, and it retained this description until 1960.

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Rear two storey additions have been carried out in more recent years.

Description

The house at 186 Yarra Street, Geelong, is set on an elevated and modest allotment. The house has a front setback of approximately 3-4 m. The front garden is recent and consists of a central brick-paved path with perimeter flower gardens and lawned areas. The front is bound by a recent brick and aluminium/steel palisade fence, and is approximately 1800 mm high.

The asymmetrical, polychrome brick, late Victorian Eclectic styled single storey house (with rear two storey additions) is characterised by a rear hipped roof form, together with a gable and concave verandah that project towards the street frontage. The main roof forms are clad in early slate, while the verandah clad in corrugated colorbond. Two early unpainted polychrome brick chimneys with projecting cappings adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs, paired and worked timber brackets, and decorative panelling are features of the eaves.

An important early feature of the design is the polychrome brick construction. The building corners and openings are emphasised by the cream brick quoinwork, with cream brick stringcoursing also prevalent. The window heads also have flat arches emphasised by the polychrome brick voussoirs. The windows are also early, being timber framed and double hung. The front timber framed door also appears to be early.

Other early decorative features of the design include the semi-circular gable ventilator, worked timber bargeboards and turned timber finial, and the elaborate cast iron valances and brackets to the verandah, which is supported by cast iron columns with decorative capitals.

Towards the rear of the house are introduced two storey brick and horizontal weatherboard additions which have a jerkin head roof clad in corrugated colorbond.

Statement of Cultural Significance

Although altered and extended, the house at 186 Yarra Street has significance as a relatively intact example of a Late Victorian Eclectic styled house (front section). This house appears to have been built in the 1880s or 1890s, and was owned by Esther Wilson in 1896. From the street, the house appears to be in good condition.

The house at 186 Yarra Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered at the rear, it continues to demonstrate original design qualities of a Late Victorian Eclectic style at the front. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with a gable and concave verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height of the front section, slate roof cladding, corrugated profile to the verandah cladding, two unpainted polychrome brick chimneys with projecting cappings, narrow eaves with paired and worked timber brackets and decorative panelling, unpainted polychrome brick wall construction with cream brick quoinwork and stringcoursing, and flat-arched window heads with polychrome brick voussoirs, timber framed double hung windows, front timber door, semi-circular gable ventilator, worked timber bargeboards, turned timber finial, elaborate cast iron verandah valances and brackets, and the cast iron verandah columns with decorative capitals.

The house at 186 Yarra 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 is associated with Esther Wilson from at least 1896, early owner, and the Radigan family, long-time owners from 1914-15 until 1950.

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Overall, the house at 186 Yarra Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plains and Reports, 1923, 1937, 1938, 1982, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.
Certificate of Title, 12 May 1982.
Application for Rate Certificate, 31 May, 1982.
Application for Rate Certificate 28 February, 1992.
Voter's Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Directory of Geelong, 1968 Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong City Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1896-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
Geelong Town Plan, 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.