

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 1203

Address: 243 Yarra Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date: 1870-1871

Integrity: Moderate

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 11a.28

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site is located at 243 Yarra Street, on the east side of the street, between Foster Street and Balliang Street, on part of Allotment no. 8, Section 6, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

The residence, originally a 4-room brick house, was built in 1870-71, possibly for Thomas Morkham, whose name is the first to appear as occupier in the Geelong City Rate Book (Barwon Ward) of 1872. The house may have been designed by the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts, as the rinceau pattern employed in the verandah valance was a common feature of his work in the 1870s.

In 1873, the property clearly belonged to Joseph McCracken, who resided there as owner/occupier from 1873 to his death in 1886, by which time the house was described in the Rate Books as having four rooms and a kitchen. The property passed to Joseph's widow, Susan McCracken, who added a fifth room and verandah, raising the nett annual value from 14 to 20 pounds. By 1896, the house boasted five rooms, a scullery and bathroom, but continued to be described as a 5-room house until 1920.

Susan McCracken appears to have died c.1915, as the owner of the property was listed

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as the McCracken Estate in 1916, administered by a member of the McCracken family, an East Malvern accountant. In 1917, ownership passed to Lily McCracken, who lived there until 1927, having possession both of this property and the adjacent property at 245 Yarra Street until at least 1930. During this time, Lily McCracken made improvements to the dual properties, including the addition of a wash-house, sewerage connection, and separate toilet, bathroom and kitchen facilities in the two houses in the period 1920-25.

Owners since 1930 have included James Robert Nott, plumber of 274 Myers Street until c.1950, and Guiseppe Piampaolo, a textile worker, in the early 1960s. Additional bathroom and toilet facilities were added to the property in 1955, before the house at 245 Yarra Street was demolished in 1964, necessitating further plumbing and sewerage modifications on the double block, carried out in 1967-68. At about this time, the building was listed as "apartments" in the Sands and McDougall Directories, the agent being R. Wise of 111 Mt. Pleasant Road, Belmont.

Description

The house at 243 Yarra Street, Geelong, has large front and side setbacks. The garden consists of grassed areas and perimeter plantings and trees. The front is bound by a tall timber fence covered in creeper, and is approximately 2 m high.

The single storey, brick (with introduced overpainting), Victorian styled house is characterised by a double (M) hipped roof form, together with a hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. The street face of the front hipped roof is clad in early slate, although the other faces, rear and bullnosed verandah are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. An early unpainted brick chimney with a projecting rendered capping adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves, and the upper brick wall on the front facade (between the eaves line and the verandah) show early exposed brickwork.

The front facade of the house is symmetrical, having an early central timber framed doorway with sidelights and transom, and flanking timber framed double hung windows.

An early feature of the design is the front verandah. It appears to be supported by cast iron columns (currently covered with creeper) and has a decorative cast iron valance having a rinceau pattern. This verandah pattern was commonly used by the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts, in the 1870s.

There are flat-roofed brick additions at the side (near the front) of the original house. These additions have timber framed windows and doors.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 243 Yarra Street, Geelong, has significance as a relatively externally intact example of a Victorian style. This house appears to have been built in 1870-71, possibly to a design by the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts.

The house at 243 Yarra Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered and extended, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the double (M) hipped roof form, together with the hipped bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the brick wall construction (but not the overpainting), slate and galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, unpainted brick chimney with a projecting rendered capping, narrow eaves, upper exposed brick wall above the front verandah, central timber framed doorway with sidelights and transom, timber framed double hung windows, cast iron verandah columns and the decorative cast iron valance having a rinceau pattern.

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The house at 243 Yarra Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It has associations with residential developments in Geelong in the early 1870s. Built in 1870-71, the house possibly has associations with the Geelong architect, Joseph Watts, with the original owner possibly being Thomas Morkham.

Overall, the house at 243 Yarra Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1921, 1925, 1955, 1968, 1970, 1987, 1988, Barwon Water profits system, City of Greater Geelong.

Sands and McDougall Directory, 1972.

Sands and McDougall "Invicta" Directory, 1968.

Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1992.

Geelong City Council Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1869-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

D. Rowe, 'Architecture of Geelong 1860-1900', Deakin University, 1991.

Geelong Town Plan, 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.