



House 53 Tucker Street

History

Annie Mack, better known in connection with Mack's Hotel, was granted the land around this site in 1853 for nearly £80. Subsequent dealings are obscure but by 1872, Richard Bayldon & George Fraser (Geelong soap & candle makers) were the owners of the grant plus that to the north (CA2/4), and mortgagors of part of CA3/4 to the Bank of Australasia for £4000.¹ The same pair owned seven two-room timber houses, side by side in Tucker Street and near the All Nations Hotel, during the 1860s-1870s.² Bayldon & Fraser may have built these for workers in their nearby manufactory.³

Starting with this house in the 1930s, Annie Fearn was the owner-occupier of what was then a four-room timber house known as 39 Tucker Street.⁴ Clarence

Sykes, a carrier, and by 1900, Martin Ryan, a fellmonger, were owner-occupiers and part of a group of four and five-room timber houses which stretched northwards to Patrick Leahy's (or Lahay's) store.⁵ Ryan was also there

in the 1880s (then a three-room house) but prior to that the house history remains obscure until further title data is found.⁶

Description

Of the several small timber, generally hipped roof, verandahed cottages fronting Tucker and lesser streets in Breakwater, this is perhaps the best preserved. Clad with bead-edge boarding and equipped with slender stop-chamfered verandah posts, a concave verandah roof profile and slim opening architraves, the house appears to be of the 1860s-70s and presumably grew in stages, commencing with the two-room front bay.

The scalloped verandah valence is of sheet metal (?) and is presumably of a much later date but nevertheless unusual. Founded on stone footings, the timber picket front fence may be the original, cut down square.

External Integrity

Generally original, (see above).

1 RGO SN 5048

2 VB 1868-9, 733; RB1870-1, 743

3 *ibid.*

4 DP 190 (1925) shown as 39; RB1936

5 VB 1901-2, 2286-

6 RB 1885,816; RB 1884, 804

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

Streetscape

One of at least three old houses in this locality (4, 51, 53) and close to the landmark site, the Breakwater Hotel (replaced), and the major fellmongers.

Significance

Historically, the residence of fellmonger workers and hence a companion to the nearby fellmongeries of the former Tweed Wool Co. Ltd. and Sunnyside.

Architecturally, an exemplar of simple early Geelong housing.