



Butcher's Shop & Dwelling, 485 Moorabool Street

History

The presence of Thomas Pearse (or Pearce) in Geelong is traced by late 1840s electoral rolls. Residing off Wallace Street for 1848-9 and then into Foster Street, he was listed in Moorabool Street by 1850. Pearse owned a 'brick shop' plus four rooms, a further three rooms in weatherboard, a stable and loft, coach house and salting house - all on this site in Moorabool Street, from 1856-7. John Atkinson, Francis Drake and John Taylor leased it from him, generally for use as a butcher's shop. By 1870 it was described as 'brick, two-storey,' a shop and four rooms. Five years later it was described with a verandah, the rate description or valuation not changing greatly in the next 60 years.¹ Pearse died in 1862.²

Ownership had changed by 1875, to Thomas Batten; Batten or his family retaining the property until the 1920s.³ Catherine McKenzie, a fruiterer, then seems to have become the first owner-occupier in the building's 75 year history, up until the 1930s.⁴ Little is known of Thomas Batten, but the name William Batten is well-

known in Geelong's history, as a local punt and hotel keeper, land speculator and long-term councillor in both South Barwon and Newtown and Chilwell.⁵ It is probable that Thomas and William were related, given the unusual surname.

Description

This is a two-storey stuccoed hipped-roof (slated) brick shop and residence with corner quoining and two large brick chimneys. The fenestration is typically regular on the upper level, but is less predictable at ground-level with a show-window on one side and a door plus window at the other. The show-window cornice mould presumably marks where the street verandah once stood.

External Integrity

The ground-level doors and window have been altered but the show window is near complete. Unrelated signs, air units and an awning. Evidently free-standing over a long period, the building now has blocked south-facing window.

1 VB1870-1, 58; VB1875, 55; RB1930, 100
2 GA 12/8/62
3 RB1920, 93
4 RB1930, 100
5 Sutherland, p.152

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study
Significant Sites

Streetscape

Nearby are one and two-storey shops and dwellings, mainly Edwardian and generally changed at ground-level. They relate in scale, finish and fenestration.

Significance

Architecturally, a dominant scale and assured if simple design for its construction date, and part of a minor commercial streetscape.

Historically, it marks the location of an early commercial centre in South Geelong. It was built for one of the city's pioneers and may have a secondary connection to the locally renowned William Batten.



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Batter's Shop
1848 Moorabool

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