

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0932

Address: 30 Foster Street Geelong 3220

Approx. Date:

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 01.12

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site is located on part of Lot 8, Section 6, of the 1858 Geelong Town Plan, the original owner of which was S.A. Donaldson.

It is highly likely that this residence was built by William Ham, who appeared in the Geelong City Rate Book (Barwon Ward) for the first time in 1870-71, living in the other half of the duplex on this corner site. There was no occupant at the target address, and no building at all on the site in the previous rate year. Each half of the brick house boasted a verandah and 4 rooms plus a kitchen. By 1881, there was a shed, and a fifth room was added by 1888. The rate books in 1888 and 1893 included a "servant's room" to the description of the property, but it is not clear whether this was a separate room within the house, or the previous "shed" under a new guise. There were many different occupiers of the house during the period 1871-1900, including John L. Price, Peter Hurley, Thomas Heal (a blacksmith), Robert McGregor, and Annie Doak (a factory hand), but it appears that the property actually remained in the possession of the Ham family throughout this time. Samuel Ham was still listed as the owner in 1896, and with "The Ham Estate" in 1899, prior to the sale of the property to Benjamin G. Warr of Leopold by 1900. A sixth room seems to have been added to the house in c.1896, and a wash-house by 1900. In 1905 James Bourke, gentleman, of McKillop Street, was the registered owner, prior to the

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

acquisition of the property by William James Field, painter, by 1908. He retained the residence (at that time numbered "20 Foster Street") as owner/occupier until 1925, by which time the rate books had downgraded the house description to "Brick, 5 rooms".

In 1930 the numbering of houses in Foster Street was changed, and No. 20 became No.30. By then, the house was in the possession of Gwendoline Wissing, but was taken over by the Geelong Permanent Building Society by November 1939. Then followed a period in which ownership rested with the Henley family - first Doris Alma until the early 1960s, then Leslie H. Henley from at least 1968 through the 1970s, and finally, Joan Lesley Henley, by 1984.

Description

The site at 30 Foster Street, Geelong, is dominated by the semi-detached house that forms the north, east and west boundaries (the east boundary being a brick party wall to the neighbouring semi-detached house). The rear side boundary (fronting Yarra Street) has a timber paling fence, approximately 1800 mm high.

The semi-detached, single storey, unpainted brick, Victorian styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form, together with a bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. The remaining half of the hipped roof and a similar bullnosed verandah characterises the neighbouring semi-detached house. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Two early unpainted brick chimneys with projecting cornices adorn the roofline. At the rear, another red brick and dentillated top has been added to a secondary chimney, possibly in the early 20th century.

The symmetrical nature of the front of the house is determined by the central early timber framed doorway and the flanking timber framed double hung windows. An early decorative feature of the design is the construction polychromy, with cream brick quoinwork accentuating the building corners and openings, and polychrome voussoirs emphasising the window heads. Early masonry window sills form another feature. At the rear, a timber framed double hung window has been introduced.

The front bullnosed verandah is supported by introduced turned timber columns. There is a capped timber picket verandah balustrade and gate that forms the front boundary fence. A vertical boarded wall forms the eastern boundary to the verandah, separating it from the neighbouring house.

This house represents one of a small number of semi-detached Victorian residences in Geelong.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The semi-detached house at 30 Foster Street, Geelong, has significance as a relatively externally intact example of the Victorian style. In fair to good condition, this house was built as a pair of semi-detached houses in 1870-71 for William Ham. It represents one of a small number of 19th century semi-detached residences in Geelong.

The semi-detached house, 30 Foster Street, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, together with a bullnosed verandah that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the unpainted brick wall construction, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, two unpainted brick chimneys with projecting cornices, rear red brick chimney with a dentillated top, central timber framed doorway, flanking timber framed double hung windows, cream brick quoinwork and polychrome voussoirs, masonry window sills, turned timber verandah columns, vertical

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

boarded verandah wall (east end), and the capped timber picket verandah balustrade and gate that forms the front boundary fence. The architectural significance of this semi-detached house also relies on the retention of the neighbouring abutting semi-detached house, with both houses forming an original duplex.

The semi-detached house, 30 Foster Street, is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with William Ham, original owner and long time owner from at least 1870-71 until 1899.

Overall, the semi-detached house, 30 Foster Street, is of LOCAL significance.

References

- Drainage Plans and Reports 1921, 1941 and 2001.
- Rate Certificates, 1987, 1990, 1993.
- Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical records Centre.
- Sands & Geelong Directory, 1972, Geelong Historical records Centre.
- Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical records Centre.
- Geelong City Rate Books, Barwon Ward, 1869-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Geelong Town Plan 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.