

This sheet should be read in conjunction with Graeme Butler & Associates, *Geelong City Urban Conservation Study*, Vol. 1-5, 1991.



The Christian Brothers Monastery 55 McKillop Street

History

Visual evidence suggests a construction date of approximately 1890 for this building. The rate books indicate that in 1903 a two storey eleven room brick building with stables was owned and occupied by Solomon Jacobs, draper and future mayor of Geelong. Prior to this date, George Strong owned a ten room, two story brick dwelling in a similar position in McKillop Street. Further historical research is needed to establish an exact construction date for the property. The *Sands and McDougall Directory 1916* p.1029, lists this property by the name "Blandford". The Christian Brothers, a religious teaching order, purchased the building from Jacobs in 1922 and Father P. Noonan was listed as the ratepayer. This dwelling was used to house members of the Christian Brothers who started St Mary's School in Yarra Street. 55 McKillop Street remains in the possession of the Catholic Church.

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Description

The Christian Brothers Monastery is a substantially intact double storey Late Victorian building retaining details including bichromatic brickwork featuring banding and quoins. The facade is asymmetrical with a Filigree verandah over the unusual corner entrance. The verandah has slender classical columns, an iron frieze, brackets and balustrade. On the first floor level the verandah is enclosed with glass however the original detailing remains. The roof on the South is a medium pitch slate hip while at the rear it is a double gable with an iron fringe along the barge board. It is rare for this type of detail to remain. A recent extension on the east side of the building, is constructed of similar coloured bricks, however the form disrupts the symmetry of the double gable. The flat arch windows on the front facade have similar columns to those found on the verandah. Other details include terracotta tile and cream brick string courses, detailed eaves brackets, and corniced chimneys. The site also includes a brick tennis practice structure to the North of the building and an open lawn area to the East. The front palisade fence consists of a bluestone plinth with iron railings and large decorative posts. It is an important Victorian element of the property and the streetscape.

Significance

55 McKillop Street is a locally significant property of architectural and historic importance. The imposing residence with its Victorian palisade fence is an important streetscape element. Architecturally, it is an ornate example of a Late Victorian residence. The building has a high degree of integrity, retaining its characteristic form and many fine details. The first owner and occupier was the prominent Geelong citizen, Solomon Jacobs. The property is also of historic significance as the Christian Brothers Monastery since 1922.