

Description

Lawrence Burchell, school historian, has compared the design to Stawell and St. Arnaud schools (1878-9), both built of brick rather than stone. The common theme to these (and many other) schools is the use of two main transverse gabled bays with a central lesser gable set in a linking wing. A tower, either expressed or confined to the roof, augmented the centre gable. Yarraville primary school shares this formula, but its later date is reflected in its two-storied and parapeted form. Valuable elements at Footscray include the carved timber gable ornamentation and the asymmetrically placed round bell-tower.

The old wing is still discernible, set at an angle to Geelong Road and near the Commercial Road corner. Once a single-classroom gabled building with a porch at the east end, major gabled additions have been made to the west end; all being of stone and one rendered over. Typical of early public halls or schools the roof line is much lower than its 1880s counterparts and the openings are trimmed with cream brick.

To the north of the 19th century classrooms is the red brick Edwardian infant school, with what appears to be

matching added wings: this building is undistinguished architecturally but still expressive of its construction date. Apart from the sea of asphalt, landscape elements include mature Pepper trees, presumably planted in the 1900s.

External Integrity

(given additions cited above)

Roof slates have been replaced with sympathetic shingle tiles, finials and carved tracery in the gable apexes of the 1880s added rooms have been removed, openings have been sheeted over in the 1860 wing and the perimeter fence replaced. This list is not complete.

Streetscape

It is a major complex situated at a major intersection in the city and relates to the other public buildings in Barkly Street and the other corner buildings at the intersection.

Significance

An architecturally accomplished and relatively unaltered school complex (1860-82) which contains the



4 - 51 184 Geelong Road

oldest public building in the city and is built from the city's own wall material, basalt masonry.

House 184 Geelong Road

History

Alfred Green was the first owner-occupier of this house in 1927 and Mrs. Jane Green was the sole listed occupant from the late 1930s onwards. Green's son, Arthur also resided there and was a well known Footscray figure who was reputedly instrumental (through a bequest) in initiating the Organ Pipes national park.¹ Green reputedly accrued his wealth from vendor finance, dispensed from a cage-like office in Hopkins Street.²

Alfred Green was appropriately enough a greengrocer, formerly of (64?) Creswick Street, Footscray, where he lived with Jane, some 20 years before.³ Green was also a 'wood, coal and produce seller' (A.&D. Green) near the Shepherd and Creswick Streets corner, in premises later occupied by Harry Winter.⁴ The large Green's Buildings at the corner of Geelong Road and Barkly Street are also associated with Green (trading as E.A. & D. Green), replacing his timber and hardware 'yard' of 1909 with a large retail complex (The Imperial) complete with rotunda and clock. This was done in 1916 to the design of architect, Claude Smith.⁵

Description

Aptly shaped for its irregular corner site, this house is Bungalow in concept but retains elements from both the previous later Victorian (encaustic verandah tiles) and Edwardian periods. The roof gable however prevails as the dominant form, providing a basis for attic dormers of varying sizes and large areas of shingling. In the same stylistic language as the form is the use of Marseilles pattern roof tiles, the heavy verandah piers and to a lesser degree the clinker brick walls. Throughout, diaper pattern multi-paned leadlighting is

used, while other (Eastern) details include the fretted rafter-ends and boarded eaves. Although, not of a startling concept, the corner siting and the designer's response to it are enhancements to the house's architectural worth.

External Integrity

Bricks have been painted (albeit brick colour) and the fence replaced.

Streetscape

Difficult to perceive since the overpass construction, the house has few contemporary neighbours. Nearby Edwardian and Victorian houses have generally been altered. The distinctive Green's Buildings, at the nearby Barkly Street corner, provides an historical link.

Significance

Architecturally, a modest design which has been well adapted to its site and possesses some interesting details. Historically, associated with two generations of the locally well-known Green family.

Rising Sun Hotel 189 Geelong Road

History

The Rising Sun Hotel can be glimpsed in the background of a photograph taken of the 1909 Jubilee procession, as a two-storey hipped roof Colonial Georgian revival bluestone building, equipped with a single-storey timber verandah.⁶ Then it was run by James Thompson, when old Kingsville residents have noted it as being one of only a few buildings along what was just a 'rough track' in the 1890s.⁷

Ratebooks first list the hotel in c1883, under Catherine and Edward Cahill,⁸ although a sale notice for the

- 1 Lack, site notes; verbal N Clerehan; see also Dick's *A Bunch of Ratbags*
- 2 R Cocks
- 3 ER 1908.
- 4 D1899-1915.
- 5 FHS newsletter p.479f, cites *The Advertiser* 1909, 5.8.16; Lack, site notes
- 6 FFOY, p.32.
- 7 *ibid.*
- 8 RB 1883-4, 2047.