

External Integrity

Fence and verandah floor replaced.

Streetscape

In a generally mixed streetscape (c1890-1930), but adjoins the important 9 Hobbs Street.

Significance

Architecturally, stylistically late and altered in detail, the house is representative only and supports the notable 9 Hobbs Street adjoining. Historically, little is known of the occupants.

**House,
9 Hobbs Street**

History

Shown as divided but vacant suburban land in 1877, this site acquired a stone house by 1890 which was apparently built and owned by Mary and Robert Clarke. Clarke was a mason.¹ By 1895 the house was leased, at first to John Hancock (a printer) and later to a hatter, Samuel Mauger.² Mauger was both (Liberal) M.L.A. and (Melbourne Ports) M.H.R. (after Federation) during his period of occupancy.³ John Hancock who preceded him at this house also preceded Mauger in parliament, replacing W.M. Clark in 1894 as Footscray's first Labor Party member⁴ and Robert Clarke as the former occupier of 9 Hobbs Street.

Both were short occupancies, Hancock dying here in November 1899.⁵ Samuel Mauger is regarded as a 'social reformer' by his biographer, John Lack.⁶ As a tradesman, he was president of the Hatters' Union and Trades Hall Council member, as well as taking a long interest in volunteer fire brigade, being a member of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board from its inception until his death (1936). However his enthusiasm for



4 - 65 9 Hobbs Street

- 1 RB1890,4631; RB1889,4485
- 2 RB1900,4775; RB1895,4956
- 3 Lack
- 4 FFOY p.24
- 5 Rickard ADB V9,p.181
- 6 Lack, Mauger entry ADB V10, p451f

the labouring class and their working environment was dominant, particularly in the anti-sweating movement. A year after moving into this house he published *A White Man's World*, dealing with restriction on cheap labour importation (coloured labour). In 1904, despite his Liberal politics, he supported Labor's scheme for provision of conciliation and arbitration to government employees. From 1905 he was chairman of the Social Improvement Society, chairman of the Young People's Guild from 1899 and a leader in the 1905-6 crusade against alcohol and gambling. He was replaced in parliament by Labor candidate, J.E. Fenton in 1910, and had already left 9 Hobbs Street.¹

Mauger had no prolonged Footscray address, his Bourke Street premises being more long-lived than his home-site. He lived for a time at Yandia in Princess Street² and possibly in Essendon³.

Description

Hip-roofed and in the suburban Italianate villa style, the house was built from red and cream bricks, with dressed basalt surrounding openings, in a reversal of

walls with brick around openings). Attached was a convex-roofed verandah supported by cast-iron columns, with distinctive patterned friezes attached. The verandah paving and basalt retaining walls survive.

External Integrity

Front fence new and a generally sympathetic garage (despite its roller-shutter doors), added to the east.

Streetscape

In a mixed residential streetscape but adjoins the similar 7 Hobbs Street.

Significance

A typical house, except for its stonework and distinguished occupants; both the stone worker owner and the Labor party occupier representing aspects dear to the heart of Footscray and matters which it represents within the metropolitan area.



4 - 66 141-47 Hopkins Street

a formula current since the 1860-70s (typically stone

- 1 D1905
- 2 D1910
- 3 D1915