

Identification and location

Name of place: James Darling house

Other Name William Halliday house

Address 047 Cowner Street
Footscray

Place Identifier 98

Heritage Significance Regional

Creation date(s) 1879 **Map (Melway)** 42 D5

Boundary description The title land and buildings with emphasis on fabric from or near the construction date, the late 19th century.

Local Government Area City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private

Description

Site Type: House, urban

Physical Description

Apparently (from its diminutive scale) of some age, the house appears to have suffered a few minor subtle alterations which obscure its original form and materials. The two-storey (stuccoed masonry, brick and stone) wing with its gabled roof line, lacks only the scalloped barge-boards (surviving on the south-facing dormer) to fully express the domestic Gothic revival style common in the 1860-70s and prior to the arrival of the Italian influence. Its window bay, with its crenulated parapet, provides a parapet motif for use in the adjoining (formerly stuccoed) brick single-storey wing.

Here the 1920s Bungalow style appeared to have induced one owner (Walker?) to introduce stout verandah piers to take the verandah roof which itself was extended well beyond the two-storey facade and the verandah wing-wall of the other wing (since removed). It is also probable that the wing-wall itself was added late last century. The brickwork is Colonial bonded and may be seen in its unpainted state in the chimney shafts. These possess caps and tall terra-cotta pots. The notable iron picket front fence is framed mainly by carved stone posts and plinths .

Two Italian cypress ('*Cupressus sempervirens*') form part of the garden.

Condition

Externally good (partially disturbed, well preserved).

Integrity

Externally substantially intact/some intrusions. Verandah, parapet and roof have been recreated, the barge board replaced, openings altered in detail.

Context

Among late Victorian period hip-roof timber villas, many altered but retaining much of their form and detail.

Threats:

Increasing development pressure, unrelated external changes.

History

Historical background

The western area of Melbourne forms part of a vast basalt plain that stretches from the Yarra River across almost to South Australia. It was created by volcanic activity millions of years ago which resulted in vast outpourings of lava, which, when cooled, became basalt. A very hard stone, basalt was recognised as a useful building and paving stone in the nineteenth century and many early public

buildings, churches, some houses, and road and railway bridges were constructed of basalt. It was also used for paving roads and forming kerbs and gutters. One of the very earliest uses of western suburbs basalt was as ballast for ships returning to England after depositing cargoes of both imports and immigrants. Much of this ballast was quarried at Williamstown, Newport, Spotswood and Yarraville. Eventually bluestone quarries were dotted right across the current City of Maribyrnong, but in the early years they were located near the Maribyrnong and Yarra Rivers and Stony Creek, partly because these locations offered handy transport routes close to the quarries. Early quarries were often small, opened up for a single private building. For instance, Joseph Raleigh used bluestone to build his boiling down establishment and bluestone 'castle' or accommodation for his single workers at Maribyrnong in the late 1840s-1850s. A map of the locality drawn in 1857-8 shows two quarries, as well as stone buildings, located near the Maribyrnong where Pipe Makers Park is now situated.

Quarrying and carting bluestone became such an important occupation in Footscray in the 1850s to 1870s that Melbourne Punch coined the alternative name of 'Stoneopolis' for the area. A quarry reserve was noted by Selwyn in 1859 at Yarraville, just north of the Stony Creek Backwash 30. According to John Lack, by the 1870s quarries in the Braybrook Shire specialised in stones for use as road metal and railway line ballast, while Footscray offered blocks for buildings, roads and

bridges. Many smaller quarries were operating at Yarraville and Upper Footscray by then. An 1877 map shows that Footscray Council had its own Borough Quarry, roughly where Michael McCoy Reserve is now located in Ballarat Road, while another large quarry was located at West Footscray about where Hansen Reserve is now located. By the 1920s an enormous quarry was located near the old Borough Quarry, roughly on the site of the sports grounds below the VUT Ballarat Road Campus. While the Council still maintained its quarry and a stone-crushing plant here, a private quarry was also being operated by Morans. Many quarrying firms or families operated over several decades. James Govan opened a quarry in 1870 behind his bluestone house on the corner of Essex Street and Summerhill Road. The family continued to open new quarry holes in the same area into the twentieth century. In 1917 their main quarry 'covered the block between Summerhill Rd, Essex, Market and Graham Streets'.

In the 1880s, when Melbourne experienced a building boom, Footscray quarries flourished as they provided building material for such projects as Princes Bridge. Stone cutting works reflected the demand for building stone. Footscray and Malmsbury Stone Cutting Works was established in Moreland Street Footscray in 1887 and J. Taylor and Sons, Australasian Pioneer Granite Polishing and

Monumental Works transferred from Bendigo to Nicholson Street Footscray around 1884. A guide to Victoria published in the 1880s noted that 'large quarries, the bluestone being of excellent quality' existed at Braybrook, and smaller basalt quarries at Maidstone.

By the 1890s the Standard Quarrying Co. already owned a number of large blocks on either side of Geelong Road at Brooklyn 36. Around 1910-1915 Standard Quarries also took over a quarry opened by Eldridge between Ballarat Road and the Maribyrnong River. This was the last large quarry within the former City of Footscray and was still operating in the late 1940s. The quarry hole was later used as a tip. It was located near present-day Footscray City Secondary College. In the early twentieth century a number of quarries were still located near Stony Creek at Yarraville. The present Cruikshank Park was the location of eleven quarries. A 1910 map also showed a number of large quarries where the Yarraville Terminal Station is now located, between Francis Street and the Creek. A road leading from Francis Street was called Quarry Road.

Specific History

Thomas Delaney purchased the Crown grant surrounding this site in 1853 for £50, the grant extending then through to Whitehall Street. After Thomas Delaney's death his wife, Ann, married Cuthbert Harrison creating the pair who owned (and mortgaged) 10-12 Bunbury Street. Ann reputedly sank into debt as a result of her husband's deeds, eventually dying in

Geelong gaol mid 1892, a vagrant.

Thomas Delaney's other acquisitions (allotments 4,6,7 of section 7) on either side of this site gave him a formidable area which however lay idle until it was brought under the Torrens system in late 1874. This yielded a Torrens title dated 1875 to be purchased by stonemason, James Darling { Butler, 1989}.

The 1877 Borough plan shows nothing on this block, with the first owner- occupier of a 'brick and stone house' being James Darling in 1879. A.T.B. Darling was granted the nearby north-west corner of Bunbury and Whitehall Streets. Some improvements were done in 1883, incurring a 36% valuation rise, and possibly account for the two- stage appearance of the house { Butler, 1989}.

George McLeod, a clerk, occupied the house in the late 1880s. However it was William James Halliday, a manufacturing engineer, who occupied and owned this house for the longest period during the 19th and early 20th centuries (c1891-c1915...). His Footscray Iron Works (Hampson & Halliday) was in Moreland Street, Footscray, near the south- east corner of Parker Street. Another long-term occupier was Mrs. May Walker from the 1930s into the 1950s { Butler, 1989}.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme

Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

The James Darling house is significant to the Western Region because:

- architecturally, despite its alterations, the house is distinctive within the region because of the combination of its age, unusual form, stone construction and the use of Gothic Revival detail on this scale and type of house (Criterion B2);
- the front fence expresses aptly its stonemason first owner's craft; and (Criterion F1); and
- its association with Halliday connects with Footscray's industrial history and its important metropolitan role (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

One of 17 known stone or part stone houses in the City of Maribyrnong and one of the few if not the only one which utilises Gothic Revival detailing in the facade.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

Historic Places - Selected non-industrial significant places in former City of Footscray - not in the Planning Scheme

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted

Recommendations:

Conserve and enhance the identified significant fabric, with emphasis on fabric from the late 19th century, with enhancement including reinstatement of missing original elements, colours and finishes (note - the owner in the 1980-90s may have kept a record of the changes made then).
Conserve the public view of the significant fabric, particularly the eastern views across the railway.
Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.
Continue historical research into the place and provide public access to the findings.
Assess the interior for significant elements.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

its association with Halliday connects with Footscray's industrial history and its important metropolitan role

B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

the house is distinctive within the region because of the combination of its age, unusual form, stone construction and the use of Gothic Revival detail on this scale and type of house

F1 Importance for their technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

stonework in the house and front fence expresses aptly its stonemason first owner's craft

historical significance architectural significance social significance scientific significance

Documentation

References

Butler, G 1989. City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study: 4-37 cites:
- Registrar General's Office (RGO) SN7548;

Historic Places - Selected non-industrial significant places in former City of Footscray - not in the Planning Scheme

- Torrens details held by present owner
 - Maureen Lane personal comments re Thomas & Ann Delaney, Cuthbert Harrison;
 - Sands and MacDougall. Melbourne and Victorian Directories (D): D1881, D1890; D1900; D1930-55;
 - Municipal rate books (RB): RB1883,1523; RB1883,1523; RB1884,1494; RB1884-5; p.159;
 - Wise 'Post Office Directory of Victoria' (WD): WD1899-1900;
- Barnard, J 2000. Maribyrnong Heritage Review Volume 2 Environmental History City of Maribyrnong.

Data recording

Assessed By:

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Assessed Date:

2000