

Identification and location

Name of place: Kirk house

Other Name Rev. Henry Scott house

Address 067 Whitehall Street
Footscray

Place Identifier 5492

Heritage Significance City

Creation date(s) 1872 **Map (Melway)** 42 E5

Boundary description The title land and buildings with emphasis on fabric from or near the construction date, the 19th century and the tenure of Rev. Henry Scott.

Local Government Area City of Maribyrnong

Ownership Type Private

Description

Site Type: House, urban

Physical Description

A two-storied, conservative Italianate villa with a cemented facade and face-brick rear additions, this house shows its age by the form and disposition of its now truncated chimneys. The lines of a two-storey concave roof verandah are still visible on its face as is the probable iron baluster form. Balusters appear to have been retained (in part) as balconette devices on the three upper windows. Another indicator of its age is the close spacing of its carved eaves brackets, each interspersed with rosettes. Other ornament includes a Medieval reference in the application of label moulds and bosses on the arched upper windows. Segment arches are evident downstairs over the larger windows. The iron palisade fence appears to have been also cut down but the pickets, iron corner posts and its quarry-face basalt plinth remain.

Condition

Externally good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

Externally, substantially intact/some intrusions. Verandah, front door case and chimney cornices have been removed, a porch added, other additions made at the rear, a side window blocked and the fence modified. Sufficient evidence exists to recreate most of these lost items.

Context

The house is set among mainly timber Edwardian villas (altered), many also adopting the

Italianate manner, but none with the scale. The nearest contemporaries are the stone-walled 49 Whitehall Street and the corner Exchange Hotel.

Threats:

History

A printer, George Kirk, appears to have been the first owner of this house. Kirk came from Emerald Hill to live here during 1872 and remained so into the 1880s when he moved to a more modest timber house next door and leased this one to the Rev. Henry Scott, St Johns Church of England minister, and after him, the draper Charles Davis. The contractor, John Falkingham lived here in the early 1880s followed by the stone merchant and 'assayer', William Styles Hazelton and the contractors, Andrew McCann and John Stewart. After a period as a private hospital run by Mrs. E. Stewart, the house returned to residential use for Thomas McAsey who lived there from the 1920s into the mid 1940s. By the 1950s, it was flats { Butler, 1989}.

The Rev. Henry Forde Scott was a prominent figure in helping the poor during the economic depression of the 1890s, aiding the setting up of investigatory committees which confirmed the need of those suffering in the community. He blamed '... unwise government, a feverish taste for riches, reckless and unremunerative expenditure, unwise action of labour leaders, cruel criminality by trusted financiers- these resulted in the poverty of today...' He sought State aid for the poor and a wider influence of the church in everyday life by the sponsorship of music, theatre, sport and learning. He decried the influence of the public house in these same areas of public life { Lack, 1991}.

Coming from within a hard working family, Scott had arrived in Footscray in the late 1870s and commenced to spread the influence of the church throughout the surrounding suburbs of Flemington, Kensington, Braybrook, St Albans, Deer Park, Yarraville and Rockbank. He left the district in 1896, taking his family to Sale, to a rural life he now valued above that of the hard urban existence he had witnessed in the 1890s { Lack, 1991}.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme Building settlements, towns and cities

PAHT Subtheme Making suburbs

Local Theme(s) Employers' Housing

Cultural Significance

The Kirk house is significant to the City of Maribyrnong because:

- Architecturally, although altered, it represents the small number of early Victorian two-storey residences in the City (Criterion B2);
- Historically, it has housed some of Footscray's prominent persons including a quarrymen, the contracting class, epitomizing the evidently high status of these men in the community and, in turn, their industry's status in the metropolis (Criterion A4);

- of its association with the prominent clergyman, the Rev HF Scott (Criterion H1).

Comparative Examples:

Given its two-storey form and wide frontage, this is one of the largest Victorian-era Italianate houses in the City of Maribyrnong and is one of the few two-storey 19th century houses in the City.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

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 1870s-80s and the Rev. Henry Scott occupation, with enhancement including reinstatement of missing original elements, colours and finishes.

Conserve the public view of the significant fabric.

Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.

Continue historical research into the place and provide public access to the findings.

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.

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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.

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

H1 Importance for their close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, state or region.

association with the prominent clergyman, the Rev HF Scott

historical significance architectural significance social significance scientific significance

Documentation

References

Butler, Graeme 1989, City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study cites:
- Municipal rate books (RB): RB1872,713; RB1880,1745; RB1879,1397-new adjoining house; RB1883,1609; RB1886,1820; RB 1888,2559; RB1899,3359;
- Sands and MacDougall Victorian Directories (D): D1920-45, D1955-65.
Lack, J 1991: Scott 136, 137, 144, 146-150, 190;
Barnard, J 2000. Maribyrnong Heritage Review Volume 2 Environmental History City of Maribyrnong.

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date: