

Identification and location

Name of place:

Other Name

Address

Place Identifier

Heritage Significance:

Creation date(s): **Map (Melway)**

Boundary description

Local Government Area:

Ownership Type:

Description

Site Type

Physical Description

This simple single storey double-fronted hipped roof brick house has been superficially altered but still expresses its development era. The façade is parapeted with the words 'Dee Cottage 1880' in the arched, raised entablature. It has a corrugated iron clad roof, two double-hung sash windows at either side of the 4-panel entry door entry, but cement verandah posts have replaced the original presumably timber posts of the skillion Victorian-era verandah. Cemented chimney cornices are visible over the roof line.

Condition

Integrity

Context

Threats:

History

An industrial centre

The City of Maribyrnong's identity as a centre for industry in Victoria stretches back to the 1840s when the first industrial establishment was opened on the Maribyrnong River. As industry grew during the nineteenth century, it was at first drawn to the banks of the Maribyrnong, especially at Footscray and Yarraville, but also at Maribyrnong and Braybrook. It was not really until the twentieth century that industry began to stray away from a belt along the river, jumping established residential areas to spread out along Geelong Road at Footscray West and Ballarat Road at Footscray and Maidstone. From the 1920s industry spread along Sunshine Road at West Footscray and Tottenham and from the 1940s it moved into the Hampstead Road district at Maribyrnong, along Ballarat Road at Braybrook, and filled up wide open spaces around Paramount Road, Sunshine Road and Somerville Road at Tottenham and Brooklyn. Meat preserving and meat by-products, such as tanning, tallow and soap -making and fertilisers were heavily represented amongst the earliest industries. Chemical and fertiliser manufacturing were also a strong force. Textiles were another major industry from the late nineteenth century, while metals, farm implements and heavy engineering became more predominant around the turn of the century. Food stuffs and rubber related industries became more commonplace in the mid-twentieth century. A major strand in the industrial history of the City of Maribyrnong from the nineteenth century and throughout the first half of the twentieth century was that of explosives and munitions, especially at Maribyrnong and Maidstone/Footscray { Barnard, 2000}.

Specific History

The early rate book history of this site has James Cuming owning land here in 1876, with the first brick house (221?) listed in 1880-1 [RB1880-1, 2037]. By 1884-5, there was a row of houses, three brick and two weatherboard. James Cuming owned the three brick houses and one weatherboard, and GB Smith owned the other timber house. Two houses were a higher value than the others, one brick (Cuming's house 221), one weatherboard (Smith's house, 225). Cuming Smith & Company had been founded in 1872 and the family moved to Yarraville in 1874 {Lack, 1987:22}.

Although owned by the two partners in the firm, Smith & Cuming, they were occupied by persons such as John Taylor (house owned by Smith, 225), William Forsyth, Robert Lewis, Robert Swallow and William ...er. Others to occupy these company houses included Alex Stephenson and James Style. This was in the late 1880s when the owner was given as Cuming Smith & Company, although WP Smith was the sole owner of the larger timber house [RB1888-9, 5371-5]. Alice Cuming (wife of James Jnr) lived there (225) in the early 1890s and 221 in the late 1880s taking the place of James Cuming Snr. who had briefly been listed as the occupier for c1886 [RB1891-2,6054]. Only these two houses (221, 225) remained from the group in the 1890-1 rate book.

Meanwhile Alice (nee Fehon) and James Cuming Jnr had built their palatial new home,

Huntly, in Willis St Yarraville, 1892 [Butler, 1989]. William Cuming had reputedly built a 'castle' across the road from Myrus, Cuming Snr's house [Lack: 182]. James Snr apparently favoured a simpler abode and a less pretentious lifestyle. John Lack notes in 'James Cuming an autobiography' that James Cuming Jnr lived at Dee Cottage c1886-1892 {Lack, 1987:133}.

In the mid 1890s, Joseph Patrick lived in what is assumed to be 225 and George Cuming (James' son) in 221 [RB1894-5, 6054-5].

These two houses were numbered in rate books for the first time in 1897-8, being 221 (£16 annual valuation) and 225 (£14), occupied by John Goudie a bricklayer, and William Henry Cuming (occupation- manufacturer), respectively, and both owned by Cuming Smith & Co. The company engineer, William Dowling was in 221 Whitehall St. from 1901 and foreman Alfred Garnsworthy was in 225 from c1907. By 1910 James Filshie was in 225 and Peter Whitelaw 221, with the Cuming Smith & Company factory being rated in the same location from 1911 [RB1911-12, 7184-87]. James Cuming Snr had died in October 1911, after a period 1890-1910 of great prosperity for his company [Lack: 181].

A third company house was rated for the first time in 1912-13, occupied by FH Mohr. Horace Greig was in 221. The houses appear to have been absorbed into the factory annual valuation by 1913-14 and were not listed separately up to 1930 [RB1929-30, 7161-3]. The Sands & McDougall directories listed Horace Greig at 221 through the period c1915-1930 and John J Carter 1939-45 [D1915-45].

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme:

PAHT Subtheme:

Local Theme(s):

Cultural Significance

Dee Cottage is significant to the City:

- for its historical expression of the notable industrial figure, James Cuming jnr, who resided there for a period before the erection of Huntly (Criterion H1);
- for the association with the important firm Cuming Smith and the development of Footscray & Yarraville industry as a whole in the mid Victorian-era, eventually making the area the most important industrial centre in the State (Criterion A4);
- as evocative of the period when factory owners lived close by their works, unlike today's land use separation (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

Houses associated with industry include:

Huntly, Willis St, Yarraville;

Richardson house, 2 Geelong Road;

Commercial figures built a number of large Victorian-era and Edwardian-era houses in Geelong Road:

Robertson house, 8 Geelong Road;
Trenague house, 10 Geelong Road;

Of these, this house is one of the first and is associated with the early development of industry in the region.

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:

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.

association with the important firm Cuming Smith and the development of Footscray & Yarraville industry as a whole in the mid Victorian-era, eventually making the area the most important industrial centre in the State; evocative of the period when factory owners lived close by their works, unlike today's land use separation

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

historical expression of the notable industrial figure, James Cuming jnr, who resided there for a period before the erection of Huntly

historical significance architectural significance social significance scientific significance

Documentation

References

Needed:

Directories
Municipal Rate Books (part large site)
lack bio

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date: