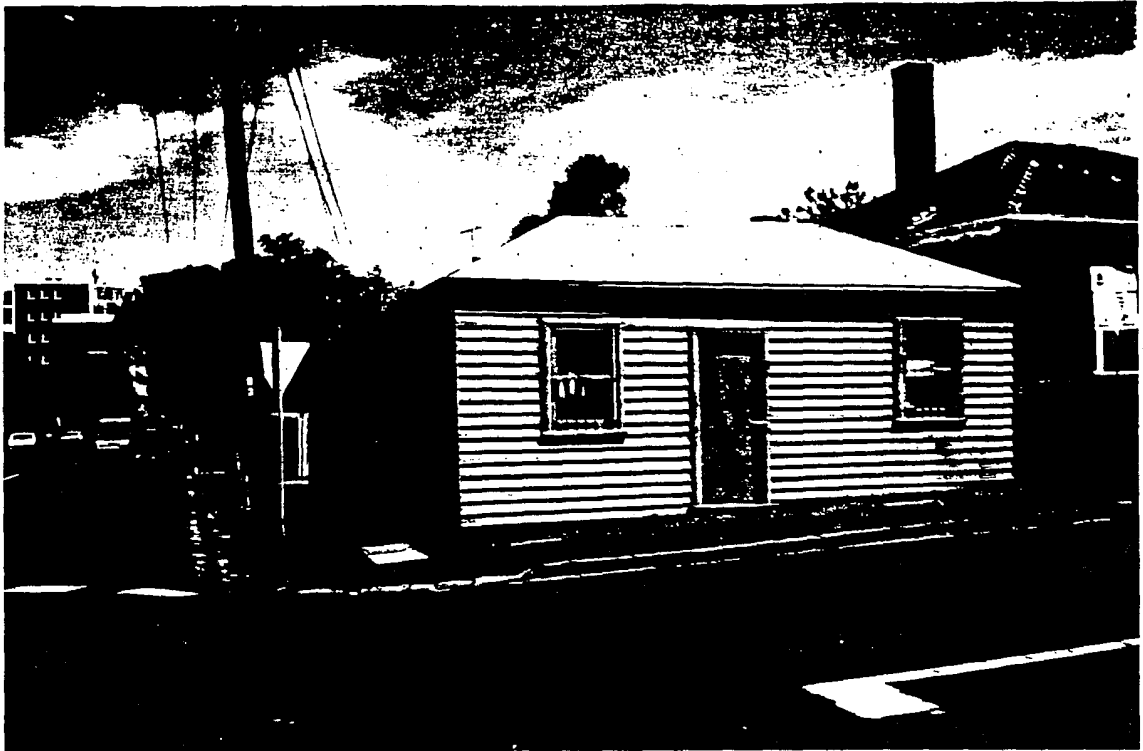


5 George Street, Prahran



History and Description

This simple timber cottage on the corner of Andrew Street dates from 1856 when D. Nicholson was rated for a house on the site. George Street was known then as William Street.⁷² An earlier date for the house's construction, suggested in earlier research, seems unlikely. No building is shown on this corner in James Kearney's 1855 map of the area. The south-west corner of Prahran was the location of an early settlement of small houses with few larger properties.⁷³ In 1857, the building on the site of 5 George Street was described as a wooden cottage of three rooms, NAV 10 pounds.⁷⁴

The site was the southern part of Lot 56 in Crown Portion 58. The Crown Grantees, S and R Raleigh, sold Lot 56 to David Moorehead in 1854. Moorehead subdivided the allotment, selling the northern part to James Rea for 50 pounds. He sold the corner block (the site of 5 George Street) in 1857 for the larger sum of 90 pounds.⁷⁵ Thomas Wallis, whose name appears on the legal document, acted as an agent for various owners. In 1859 Rea and Nicholson's houses were both described as three-roomed timber houses with shingles.⁷⁶

During the last century, the small timber cottages in George Street (off High Street) were occupied by labourers, building tradesmen and others serving the needs of more affluent district families. In 1875 Robert Rule, labourer, occupied No. 5. His

72. Prahran Rate Book 1856 No. 254.

73. Betty Malone, *Old Windsor - The South-West Corner of Prahran*.

74. Prahran Rate Book 1857 No. 2837.

75. RGO Searches 11145, 11553.

76. Prahran Rate Book 1859 Nos. 3250 and 3251.

neighbours, also in wooden cottages, were Alfred Barns, carpenter; John Mack, carpenter; Joseph Burgess, carpenter; and Rob Cowderoy, carpenter.⁷⁷ Later, in 1881, when George Henry Hugo owned Nos. 1,3 and 5 George Street, William Smith, driver, lived in No. 5.⁷⁸

From the 1870s - 1890s, No. 5 increased in size, becoming 4-roomed in 1875,⁷⁹ and five-roomed by 1896-97.⁸⁰ This may be when the back section was extended along Andrew Street, as shown in an MMBW drainage plan of that time. The main building is depicted without front verandahs to either George or Andrew Street but with a tiny verandah at the rear.⁸¹

Today, the form of the 19th century cottage remains substantially intact, still with no verandah to either side. The house has a hipped roof. The symmetrical front faces George Street and contains a door positioned approximately centrally, flanked by double hung windows. The roof has been clad with corrugated iron. Recent City of Prahran Valuers records describe the cottage as 'built onto street line', suggesting an early date of construction, but 'with reasonable exterior condition'.⁸²

Significance

This simple substantially intact timber cottage of the 1850s has state significance for historical reasons pertaining to its early date of construction. It is of regional design significance as a rare surviving example of the small cottages typical of the Prahran of that era.

Sources

City of Prahran Rate Books, Windsor Ward.

City of Prahran Valuers Records, Windsor Ward.

Kearney, James, *Map of Melbourne and its Suburbs*, 1855.

Malone, Betty, *Old Windsor - The South-West Corner of Prahran*, 1989.

MMBW Detail Plan No. 963

Registrar General's Office Searches 11145 and 11553.

Analysis & Recommendations

It is recommended that this property be retained at A1 level.

77. Prahran Rate Book 1875 Vol. 2 Nos.4715-4720.

78. Prahran Rate Book 1881 No. 5737.

79. Prahran Rate Book 1875 Vol. 2 4717.

80. Prahran Rate Book 1896-97 Windsor Ward No. 9723.

81. MMBW Detail Plan No. 963.

82. City of Prahran Valuers records. Windsor Ward Book 20W.