HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet 229

PLACE NAME: 'DE MEDICI' URNS OR VASES
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Italian Rennaissance Revival

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Andrew Handyside and Co.
Reference: Geelong Advertiser 24 October, 1873 p. 2.

BUILDER: Erected at the Gheringhap Street entrance to
Reference: Johnstone Park by the City of Geelong.
Geelong Advertiser 24 October, 1873.

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES Handyside and Co.
Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Not recorded
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION 1873
Reference: Geelong Advertiser 24 October, 1873

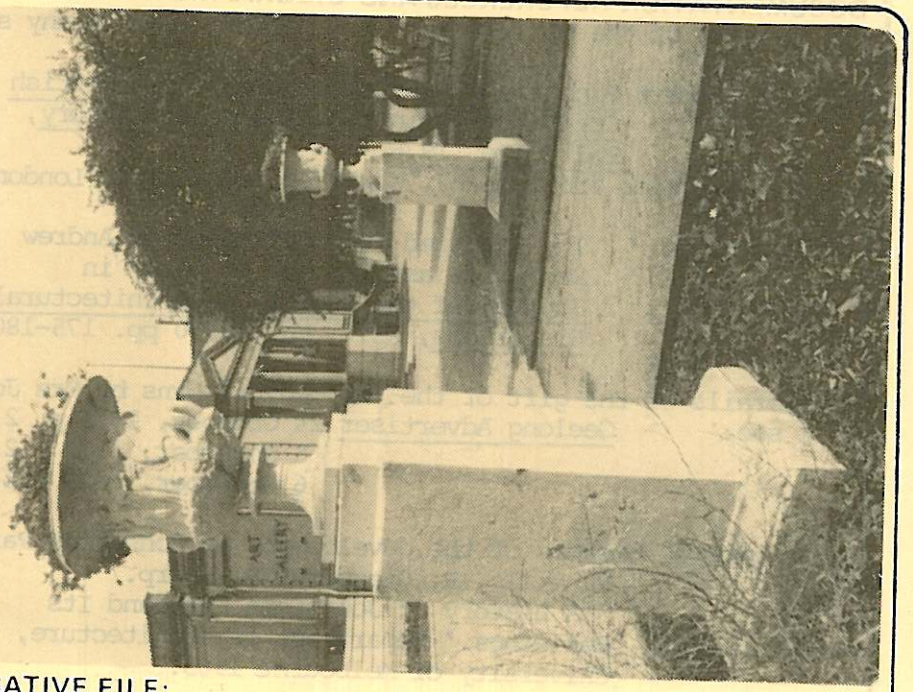
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE Not known. The Urns were purchased privately by Mrs John Bell

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS
The Medici Urns have been moved from the original positions near Gheringhap Street.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S) City of Geelong.

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES The Urns were originally positioned on Waurn Ponds freestone pedestals at Gheringhap Street.



NEGATIVE FILE:

- ☐ Australian Heritage Commission Register of National Estate
- ☐ Historic Buildings Preservation Council Register No. ..... File No .....
- ☐ National Trust of Aust. (Vic) Classified/Recorded File No. .....
- ☒ Geelong Regional Commission Register No. 102

IDENTIFICATION DATA
PLACE NAME 'De Medici Urns'
ADDRESS Johnstone Park, Geelong.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Geelong
TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE City of Geelong
ADDRESS **TELEPHONE**

PLACE NAME 'DE MEDICI' URNS OR VASES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

For details of the work of Andrew Handyside and Company see

Gilbert Herbert Pioneers of Prefabrication: The British Contribution in the Nineteenth Century, Baltimore, 1976.

Andrew Handyside and Company. Works in Iron, Spon, London, 1868.

Malcolm Higgs The Exported Iron Buildings of Andrew Handyside and Company of Derby in Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XXlV, May, 1970 pp. 175-180.

For details of the gift of the 'De Medici' Urns by Mrs John Bell see: Geelong Advertiser 24 October, 1873 p. 2.
5 November, 1873 p.2.
6 November, 1873 p.2.

For a general history of the development of Johnstone Park see: P. Mills, R. Giesbers, B. Sharp. ' A History of Johnstone Park and Its Buildings.' Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne 1965.

CITATION The 'De Medici' Urns in Johnstone Park were presented to the Corporation of the City of Geelong by Mrs John Bell in October 1873. These two cast iron urns, modelled on urns from the period of the Florentine Italian Renaisance were made at the Derby Works of enterprising and accomplished iron founders, Andrew Handyside and Co. This firm was renown for their superior castings of fine vases, fountains and ornamental castings and these two urns together with four others at Corio Villa are exquisite examples of Handysides craft. The urns have historical associations with the foundation of Johnstone Park and are of great technical and aesthetic interest.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- ☐ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- ☐ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised, in danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- ☐ Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- ☒ Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- ☒ Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

☒ LOCAL ☐ REGIONAL ☐ STATE ☐ NATIONAL ☐ WORLD

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

INTEGRITY

☒ HIGH ☐ LOW ☐ ALTERED ☐ DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register
Historic Buildings Council Register
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register
Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National Estate.

DOCUMENTATION — Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St., North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE.....**DATE**.....