

original. An orchard and gabled garage lie to the south.

External Integrity

The house is generally original but the paint colour is intrusive.

Streetscape

Set among timber villas of a similar period and form, particularly those in Pentland Parade.

Significance

Architecturally, a prominent corner Queen Anne villa which demonstrates the bold forms, line and textures achievable in the timber version of the style also the home of the locally well known Aston family.

House 47 Cowper Street

History

Thomas Delaney purchased the grant surrounding this site in 1853 for 50 pounds, the grant extending then through to Whitehall Street. His other acquisitions (allotments 4,6,7 of section 7) on either side gave him a formidable area which however lay idle until it was brought under the Torrens system in late¹ 1874. It yielded a title dated 1875¹ to be purchased by stonemason, James Darling².

After Thomas Delaney's death his wife, Ann, married Cuthbert Harrison creating the pair who owned (and mortgaged) 10-12 Bunbury Street (q.v.). Ann reputedly sank into debt as a result of her husband's deeds, eventually dying in Geelong gaol mid 1892, a vagrant³.



4 - 30 23 Charles Street

- 1 RGO SN7548
- 2 Torrens details held by present owner
- 3 Maureen Lane verbal;RGO loc. cit.

The 1877 Borough plan shows nothing on this block, with the first owner- occupier of a 'brick and stone house' being James Darling in 1879.¹ (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 house².

George McLeod, a clerk, occupied the house in the late 1880s.³ However it was William James Halliday, a manufacturing engineer, who occupied and owned this house for the longest period during the 19th century (c1891-c1915...). His Footscray Iron Works (Hampson & Halliday) was in Moreland Street, Footscray,⁴ near the south- east corner of Parker Street.⁵ Another long-term occupier was Mrs. May Walker from the 1930s into the 1950s⁶.

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 crenellated parapet, provides a parapet motif for use in the adjoining stuccoed brick single-storey wing. Here the 1920s Bungalow style appears to have induced one owner (Walker?) to introduce stout verandah piers to take the verandah roof which itself has been extended well beyond the two-storey facade and the verandah wing-wall of the other wing. 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 terra-cotta pots. The quaint iron picket front fence is framed mainly by carved stone posts and plinths.

Description



4 - 31 47 Cowper Street

- 1 D1881; RB1883.1523
- 2 RB1883.1523; RB1884.1494
- 3 RB1884- 5;p.159; D1890
- 4 WD1899-1900
- 5 D1900
- 6 D1930-55

External Integrity

Verandah, parapet and roof have been added/altered, the barge board replaced, brick and stone painted over, stucco added, door replaced and the top-light at the entrance door closed in.

Streetscape

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

Significance

Architecturally, despite its alterations the house is distinctive because of its form and the use of Medieval detail on this scale and type of house. The valuable front fence expresses aptly its stonemason first owner's craft and its association with Halliday connects with Footscray's industrial history and its important metropolitan role.

**Olympic Tyre & Rubber Co.
56-84 Cross Street**

History

The laughing, stocky, world record-breaking Olympic Games swimmer, Frank (later Sir) Beaufrepaire, who, exhibiting the same drive that rocketed him to world fame, established in Footscray an industrial undertaking that now (1959) ranks as one of Australia's biggest.

Beaufrepaire held eight world's records and represented Australia in the 1908, 1920, 1924 Olympics. He was Lord Mayor 1940-2 and knighted, also in 1942, then aged 51 years.² Under ten years previously he had founded the Olympic Tyre & Rubber Co. (1933) and, a year later, commenced to build one of the main components of this complex. Despite the scale of this undertaking, Beaufrepaire's absolute beginnings had been as a tyre retreader in 1922, (Beaufrepaire's Tyre Service Ltd.). The major face to the factory was opened November 1939, just before the war.



4 - 32 56-84 Cross Street, foundation stone laid 1939

- 1 FFOY
- 2 WWA1944