

PLACE NAME
ADDRESS
AREA

"Vass"
197 Noble Street
DATE/PERSON 21.5/RP

LEVEL: B

NEG: 4.24 & 4.25



DATES **Construction:** c1908

USE **Present Use:** Residential
Original Use: Same
Alterations?: First floor balcony infilled in 1940s

FORM

Detached
Double storey
Triple fronted

STYLE

Edwardian

DESCRIPTION (I = Intact A = Altered * = significant)

ROOF

I Slate

WALLS

I Brick
I Rendered

ROOF FORM

** Decoration:
Ridges
I Chimneys
* Gable decoration

VERANDAH

* Form
** Decoration

FENESTRATION

* Doors
* Windows: Note
Horseshoe shaped
oculus.

FINISHES

I Paint colours:
sympathetic

INTERIOR

GARDEN & SETTING

OTHER COMMENTS

Good typical
example

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Condition: Excellent
Integrity: Minor modif.

THREATS

DESCRIPTION

A triple-fronted, Edwardian house in rendered brick with a slate roof with terracotta cresting and finials. Front right and rear left-hand bays project forward as gables and there is a third gable at lower pitch projecting from the corner at 45 degrees. The left-hand gable has a rectangular bay window over which the upper gable jetties forward, requiring the roof to step. The right-hand gable is double storey, the upper level forming an attic, with a horseshoe-shaped window beneath. The verandah extends around the angle between the gables. It has wavy and tulip fretwork sinuous brackets and a semi-circular rail inscribes the corner gable. There is a timber rail balustrade also. It is comparable to other Laird and Buchan houses including "Rosnashane", 11 Aberdeen Street.

HISTORY

"Vass", a large brick house designed in 1908 by the Geelong architects, Laird and Buchan, for the building contractor, William John Kelly²⁸⁵, is typical of the large brick houses of this period built by that firm, in Newtown. According to a Research Essay on Federation houses in Geelong,

The walls were typically double brick construction... The brick detailing was fine, especially in the chimneys, incorporating strapping and terracotta pots. Generally the bricks used were a North Geelong or Northcote red brick²⁸⁶.

Internally, decorative timberwork featured strongly, often with Art Nouveau influenced details²⁸⁷. The builders for "Vass" were J. C. Taylors and Sons²⁸⁸. The 1906-7 Newtown rate book recorded vacant land in Noble Street, Lots 7 and 14 in the Fairmont Estate, owned by William John Kelly, builder, NAV 10 pounds²⁸⁹. In 1908 Kelly was rated 30 pounds for a "brick cottage in construction"²⁹⁰. In 1909 Kelly, now listed as contractor, was the owner/occupier of a new brick cottage of eight rooms, NAV 45 pounds²⁹¹. The name "Vass" was recorded in the 1915 rate book²⁹². William Kelly, builder, was listed still as owner/occupier of the dwelling at 197 Noble Street, NAV 93 pounds, in the late 1930s²⁹³.

COMPARISONS?

251 Pakington Street

SIGNIFICANCE

"Vass" - Designed in 1908 by the Geelong architects, Laird and Buchan, for the building contractor, William John Kelly, this house has regional historical significance as an outstanding example of

285. Stephen Davis, "Federation Houses. Geelong", Research Essay, 1981, pp.24, 49.

286. Ibid p.24.

287. Ibid p.28.

288. Ibid p.49.

289. Newtown rate book 1906-7, North Ward, No 1542.

290. Ibid 1908-9 No 1561.

291. Ibid 1909-10 No 1656.

292. Ibid 1915-16 No 1828.

293. Ibid 1938 No 2318.

the large brick residences of this period, built in Newtown by this firm, for successful local businessmen and their families. Kelly was its owner/occupier until the late 1930s. It has regional architectural significance also as a characteristic Edwardian house of Laird and Buchan, the pre-eminent Geelong architects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Existing Listings NONE

Recommend'ns RNE LPS
 Place
