

PLACE NAME "Chesterfield"
ADDRESS 221 Noble Street
AREA - DATE/PERSON 21.5/RP

LEVEL: B

NEG:4.26



DATES Construction: c1859

USE Present Use: Residential
Original Use: Same
Alterations?: 1920s enclosure of verandah.

FORM

Detached
Double storey (includes major basement)
Double fronted

STYLE

Classical

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

ROOF

I Slate

WALLS

I Rendered

ROOF FORM

* Chimneys
* Parapet

VERANDAH

A Form
* Decoration

FENESTRATION

FINISHES

INTERIOR

GARDEN & SETTING

OTHER COMMENTS

Fences: wrought iron
* Plants: pines & hedges

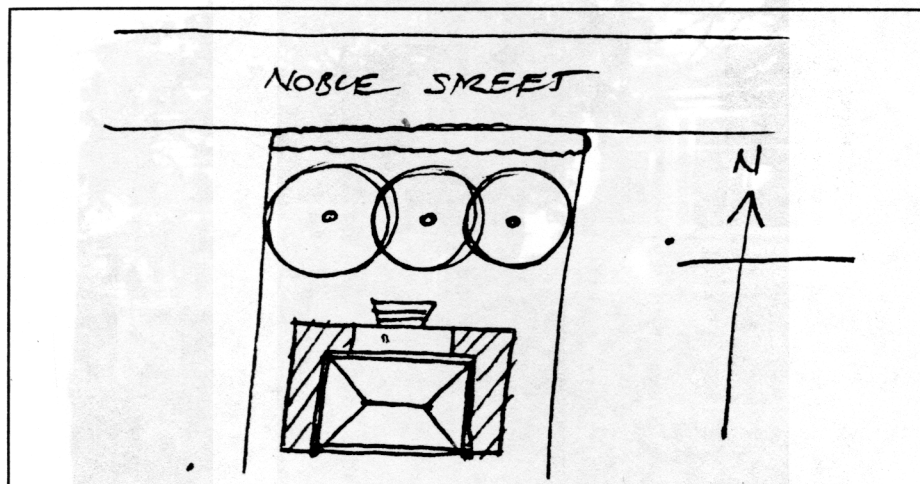
CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Condition: Excellent
Integrity: Intact

THREATS

DESCRIPTION

A symmetrical, double-fronted, double-storey, rendered masonry, Early Victorian Conservative Classical house. It has a hip-roof with a skillion verandah extending around three sides. It has a continuous parapet with classical mouldings. The verandah has a timber fretwork valence supported on cast-iron columns with an unusual pattern cast-iron balustrade (an Adelaide casting). Both verandah ends have been enclosed by major double storey masonry additions in the 1920s, in the Californian Bungalow manner employing shingle spandrels. There are three enormous Norfolk Pines and a hedge in front of the house, and a wrought iron Art Nouveau influenced side fence.



HISTORY

This was originally, in 1859 or earlier, the home of George Thomas, a merchant²⁹⁴. As well as its early date of construction, the building has significance for its associations during the 1870s with the notable Geelong architect, Joseph L. Shaw²⁹⁵, who designed numbers of ecclesiastical buildings in the district. The owner in the 1880s, William M. Pye, headmaster of the Christ Church day school, has historical significance also, for his encouragement, with Edmund Sasse, a drawing teacher, of evening technological classes for "boys, youths and young men", which was the forerunner of the Gordon Technical College²⁹⁶.

The 1859 Newtown rate book described Thomas' Noble Street building as a stone house of eight rooms with the high net annual valuation of 175 pounds²⁹⁷. The following year its verandah and garden were listed already²⁹⁸, and it was recorded as eight roomed still in 1861²⁹⁹. A much more detailed description of the house, now listed with ten rooms, was given in 1862. George Thomas was owner/occupier of this house with its large verandah and slate roof, with a coachhouse and stables, G. R. (?), shed and tank, two acres of land and garden, NAV 80 pounds³⁰⁰. George Thomas was listed as the owner/occupier for the last time in 1868³⁰¹.

294. Newtown rate book 1859-60 West Ward No 653.

295. Ibid 1870-71 No 1381; 1878-79 No 1381.

296. B. C. Horne, Geelong in the 1870s, in the Investigator, June 1971, p.44.

297. Newtown rate book 1859-60 West Ward No 653.

298. Ibid 1860-61 No 653.

299. Ibid 1861-62 No 640.

300. Ibid 1862-63 No 646.

301. Ibid 1868-69 No 1381.

Joseph L. Shaw, architect was recorded as the owner of the Noble Street residence in 1870. During most of his ownership the building was described as a seven roomed stone house with outbuildings³⁰². Shaw also owned an adjacent wooden cottage and land, NAV 10 pounds³⁰³. The earlier listing of ten rooms may have included outbuildings. In 1878 Shaw's house was recorded as a stone building of nine rooms (five above and four beneath) and outbuildings³⁰⁴, which suggests that some additions were made during this period³⁰⁴.

Joseph L. Shaw, a pioneer Geelong architect, was the brother of two well known local doctors, Forster and William. Shaw was a distinguished architect, noted for his prolific ecclesiastical work in the Geelong district. Among these designs were: St Peter's Church of England, Newtown (1854); St Joseph's college (formerly St Augustines Orphanage) with Richard A. Dowden (1857-60, 1869-70) in Aphrasia Street, Newtown; the Sacred Heart Convent of Mary (a former orphanage) in Retreat Road, Newtown (1864); All Saints Church of England, Newtown (1862), and Leigh Church at Shelford (1858-59). Private residences designed by Shaw included Morongo (1859), the Golfhill drawing room (1867), "Eumaralla", 35 Skene Street, Newtown, for James Simson (1856, 1858) with Richard A. Dowden, and "Allington", 274 Latrobe Terrace for his brother, Dr Forster Shaw (1872), described by Willingham as a "notable work of distinguished architect Joseph Lowe Shaw"³⁰⁵. After his long career in Geelong, Shaw "seems to have gone to New Zealand, and we have not yet tried to trace his career in detail", wrote P. L. Browne and G. E. Drinnan in a 1971 article titled Pioneer Geelong Architects. They refer to Shaw's Noble street home as "Chesterfield"³⁰⁶.

The third owner of the Noble Street residence, William Marsland Pye, schoolteacher, has considerable importance in the history of education in Victoria. Writing in 1971, B. C. Horne, a lecturer in chemistry and education at the Gordon institute of Technology, spoke of Pye's successful introduction of technological evening classes, with the assistance of Edmund Sasse, from which Horne claims the "Technological School, the School of Art and Design and ultimately the Gordon Technical College developed"³⁰⁷. Towards the end of his ownership of the nine roomed stone house and outbuildings and three acres of land in Noble Street, Pye let both the house and land to John Ferguson Gerrand, a grazier³⁰⁸. The notable family of builders and landholders, William Purnell and Sons, owned the property briefly in 1888³⁰⁹, selling to George Coles, a storekeeper in 1889³¹⁰. Coles was there until 1908 when Mary H. Parker became the owner and William Parker, ironmonger, the occupier³¹¹. The Parkers were at Noble Street until 1911 when Mary Grant became the owner³¹². The Grant family were owners still in the middle 1930s³¹³. Some alterations and/or additions may have

302. Ibid 1870-71 No 1381.

303. Ibid No 1380.

304. Ibid 1878-79 No 1381.

305. A. Willingham, Geelong Regional Commission Study, sheets 344, 339, 294, 306, 293; the Investigator March 1971, p.24.

306. Ibid.

307. Ibid p.44.

308. Ibid 1887-88 Nos 1332, 1334.

309. Ibid 1888-89 No 1333.

310. Ibid 1889-90 No 1373.

311. Ibid 1908-9 No 1580.

312. Ibid 1911-12 Ni 1717.

313. Ibid 1935 No 2373.