
"Merchiston Hall", house including interior



2a Garden Street

Location

2a Garden Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 213657

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0192

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1639

HO14

Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significant

A Listed - State Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

'Merchiston Hall', an eight room two storey stone mansion with outbuildings was erected by James Leggatt in 1856 for James Cowie. 'Merchiston Hall', which was originally built to command views over Corio Bay and the infant Botanical Gardens, is perhaps the finest classical style mansion in Geelong and a most distinguished work of the accomplished architectural firm of Backhouse and Reynolds. The disciplined axial composition is sensitively detailed and an exemplar of classical architecture of the mid-nineteenth century in Victoria. James Cowie was a significant pioneer resident and later M.L.C. for Geelong. George Frederick Belcher, a prominent Geelong businessman and mayor owned the property from 1872 til 1909.

REFERENCES

"Building Progress in Geelong', The Australian Builder and Practical Mechanic, No.26, Melbourne, 28th August 1856, p.208.

Geelong Advertiser, 25th April 1856, tender notice 1st February 1865, Advertisement, to sell or let. 1st September 1868 - tender . 2nd April 1870 - to let notice. 7th August 1876 - birth notice, son of G.F Belcher at Merchiston Hall.

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Saunders, David, (ed), Historical Buildings of Victoria, jacaranda Press, Melbourne, 1966, p. 168.

Robertson, E. Graeme, Victorian Heritage, Georgian House, Melbourne, 1974, pp. 135, 138, 139.

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Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volume 2, Allan Willingham, 1986; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5, Graeme Butler, 1991; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study Volume 1, Graeme Butler, 1993; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volume 4(a), Helen Lardner, 1995; Geelong City Fringe Heritage Area Review, RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants, 2018;

Hermes Number 18809

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Two storey, rendered with basalt plinth, hipped roof clad in slate, modillion brackets to eaves, quoining, large rendered chimneys with projecting capping. Verandah & upper level balcony with cast iron balustrade to north side, multi-pane timber sash windows, recessed entry with paired doors & arched highlight. The two levels are separated by an entablature and there are pilasters to the ground level facade with guilloche pattern to upper level windows & frieze. Front fence with cast iron palisading.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

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