
Blandford



'Blandford', 2014



'Blandford', 10 Dec 1976 (J.T. Collins, photographer)

Location

53 McKillop Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 215826

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1641

HO1019

Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

C Listed - Local Significance The additional history details are informally provided at this stage as the citation has not been subject to formal change as part of a planning scheme amendment.

The dwelling known as "Blandford", 53 McKillop Street, Geelong, was built in 1890 for Alderman James Strong, boot manufacturer. The prolific Geelong architect, Albert Derrick, called tenders on 16 June 1890 for 'concrete and

stone foundations' and again on 2 July 1890 for 'the erection of the brick residence for J.Strong.'

Strong arrived in Geelong in 1853 and commenced a boot making business in Mercer Street in 1859. After acquiring extensive 'labour saving' plant in 1868 (to compete with imports), he purchased a site in Moorabool Street for retail purposes. In 1874 he purchased land at 142 Ryrie Street and built 'two brick buildings', consisting of factory, warehouse and extensive showrooms. The *Geelong Advertiser* reported that 1000 boots and shoes could be made there in one week .

Strong's brother was admitted as a partner in 1876, the firm being known as James Strong & Bros). The business extended as far as Colac, Ballarat, Horsham and Camperdown.

James Strong was a staunch Wesleyan, and he was a Geelong councillor and mayor in 1890-1. Strong lost heavily during the bank moratorium of 1893, forcing a settlement with his creditors. Such a financial downfall took its toll, as he died on 4 July 1894, two years after his wife, Deborah.

[Sources: *Geelong Advertiser*, 16 June & 2 July 1890, *Investigator*, vol.25, no.1, 1990, p.9, *The Argus*, 12 May 1892, p.2, and J. Strong Probate, 1894, VPRS28/P0, Unit 729, Public Record Office Victoria].

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE- City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study

55 McKillop Street is a locally significant property of architectural and historic importance. The imposing residence with its Victorian palisade fence is an important streetscape element. Architecturally, it is an ornate example of Late Victorian residence. The building has a high degree of integrity, retaining its characteristic form and many fine details. The first owner and occupier was the prominent Geelong Citizen, Solomon Jacobs. The property is also of historic significance as the Christian Brothers Monastery since 1922.

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;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	19668
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

DESCRIPTION - City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study

The Christian Brothers Monastery is substantially intact double store Late Victorian building retaining details including bichromatic brickwork featuring banding and quoins. The facade is asymmetrical with a Filigree verandah over the unusual corner entrance. The verandah has slender classical columns, an iron frieze, brackets and balustrade. On the first floor level the verandah is enclosed with glass however the original detailing remains. The roof on the South is a medium pitch slate hip while at the rear it is a double gable with an iron fringe along the barge board. It is rare for this type of detail to remain. A recent extension on the east side of the building, is constructed of similar coloured bricks, however the form disrupts the symmetry of the double gable. The flat arch windows on the front facade have similar columns to those found on the verandah. Other details include terracotta tile and cream brick tennis practice structure to the North of the building and an open lawn area to the East. The front palisade fence consists of a bluestone plinth with iron railings and large decorative posts. It is an important Victorian element of the property and the streetscape.

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.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>