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## Residence "Claremont"



Claremont, 2011



Claremont, n.d. [c.1900]



Claremont, 2011



Claremont 2011

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### Location

17 Drysdale Street, PORTARLINGTON VIC 3223 - Property No 265569

### Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1558

### Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

## C Listed - Local Significance

[The following is provided informally only, from additional brief historical research:

The property known today as 'Claremont', 17 Drysdale Street, Portarlington, first comprised part of allotment 9, Section 4a in the Township of Portarlington [Town Plan of Portarlington, VPRS 16171, PROV]. The first Crown purchaser was William Higgins on 28 October 1873 [Town Plan of Portarlington]. The site was sold to Frederick Willey on 1 September 1874 [Certificate of Title, vol. 640, fol. 895]. He acquired adjoining lots 7, 8 and 10, bringing his landholdings to 1 acre, 2 roods and 33 perches. [Willey, F, Inventory in Probate Administration files, 1900, VPRS 28/P2, Unit 542, PROV] It appears that Willey had the existing dwelling built in 1875-76, after it was reported that he was retiring from business and that his farm equipment was for auction. The increase in net annual value of all of Willey's landholdings from 3 pounds and 10 shillings in 1875 to 25 pounds in 1876 suggests that this was the case [Bellarine Shire Rate Books, 1875, 1876, Bellarine Historical Society].

Frederick's first wife, Eliza, died in June 1876 (at her residence, Portarlington) [Geelong Advertiser, 9 June 1876], suggesting that the house had not been named at this stage. Newspaper articles of the late 1880s and the 1890s reveal that the property had been named "Laura Villa" [Geelong Advertiser, 7 September 1889, 7 June 1894]. At the time of Frederick Willey's death in 1900, the property was described as being "fenced with Box thorn hedge and posts and wires: on which are erected a 5 roomed weatherboard house and hitchen, with roof of slate, and outbuildings occupied by Mrs Dalley a daughter of deceased ..." [Willey, F, Inventory in Probate Administration files, 1900, VPRS 28/P2, Unit 542, PROV] Auctioned in 1900, the property was further described as follows:

"Superior w.b. residence, of 5 rooms, kitchen, washhouse, dairy, storeroom, stable, buggy-house, feed room, fowl-house, pig-sty, u.g. tank, and every possible convenience, erected on about two acres of excellent land, nicely subdivided, and portion laid out in fruit, flower, and vegetable gardens.

The property is well known as Laura Villa, the residence of the late Frederick Willey, and situated at Portarlington within five minutes of the jetty, and a stone's throw from the baths. The property overlooks Port Phillip Bay, and is without exception the most comfortable and convenient residence in Portarlington." [The Australasian, 31 March 1900, p.53]

The following obituary for Frederick Willey was published in the Geelong Advertiser on 27 January 1900:

"The flags in the township are flying at half-mast to-day out of respect for an old and respected townsman, Mr Frederick Willey, who died after a brief illness of bronchitis. The deceased, who had gained the ripe age of 82 years, came to this district from Somerset, England, about 50 years ago, and followed the farming industry successfully in the East Bellarine district, and for a number of years has lived a retired life at Portarlington. He has, however, sat at the police court, Drysdale, as a justice of the peace. He was a staunch supporter of St. John's Church of England, Portarlington, and until lately took an active part in the church Sunday school work."]

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Claremont is believed to have been built c1890 by the Pywell family and consists of the main dwelling and several outbuildings. The large weatherboard house has been a private dwelling and a guest house and retains many original features.

Claremont has historic and social value to the Portarlington community.

Claremont has been a key building in Portarlington for over 100 years as one of the earliest substantial homes in the town. It is associated with a district pioneer family and with the provisions of accommodation in the holiday season

It is of LOCAL significance.

## REFERENCES

Mrs Jean Payne, Portarlington, pers.comm

Sands & McDougall 1938 and A Brief History of Portarlington, compiled by the Shire of Bellarine Historic Research Team 1987.

Mrs J Payne (nee McLean) pers.comm.

ibid

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Bellarine Heritage Study, Huddle, Howe, Lewis and Francis, 1996;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	21609
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### DESCRIPTION

The main residence originally fronted north to the Esplanade. This building is a large Victorian timber framed dwelling, clad in weatherboards with a corrugated iron clad roof. It has a return covex verandah with turned timber posts and decorative cast iron freize and brackets. The north elevation has a central door with top lights and sidelights, a projecting bay window, and a large timber frame window. The house has a slate hipped and gable roof on the front section, while the back structure has timber shingles.

The Victorian cottage fronting south to Drysdale Street is a timber frame dwelling, clad in weatherboards, with two windows either side of a central door and plain Regency verandah with timber posts and floorboards. The corrugated iron clad gable roof has decorative timber finials, and a skillion roof extension to the north.

The Drysdale Street garage is a double storey timber frame and weatherboard clad 'coach house' with two garage roller doors on the south elevation. It has a steep gable roof, with a large finial. The south elevation has two narrow double-hung windows and east elevation has two windows and new timber door.

*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/>*