

Victorian Heritage Database Report
"Acton", Residence

Location:

41 Virginia Street, NEWTOWN VIC 3220 - Property No 205393

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Individually Significant

Heritage Overlay Numbers: HO1623, HO1517

Listing Authority: Greater Geelong City

Precinct:

Newtown Hill Heritage Area

Statement of Significance:

B Listed - Regional Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Constructed in 1930 as the private residence of Stewart Balfour, garage proprietor, "Acton" has regional historical significance for its associations with the important Geelong motor trade. Balfour Motors, which originally owned a cycle business in Malop Street, took over larger premises previously owned by Denys Lascelles, wool merchants, on the corner of Gheringhap and Mercer Streets, and provided new car and petrol sales and an early car wash and tyre retreading service. Balfour Motor premises were used during the 1930s as the Geelong headquarters of the R.A.C.V. It has regional architectural significance as a relatively rare and charming Tyrolean interpretation of the English Cottage manner. It is particularly intact and well maintained. Contextual elements such as garage, fence, gates and entry pergola, side hedge and garden, contribute to its significance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Existing Listings - None

Recommendations - RNE LPS Area 2 Place

REFERENCE:

Newtown Rate Book 1929, No 121.

Ibid 1931 No. 121.

Ibid 1932 No. 121.

Trevor Nicholls, Balfour Motors (Formerly Balfour Bros. Pty Ltd, 1990, unpaginated).

Newtown rate book 1932 No 121.

Nicholls.

Ibid 20 April, 1932

Description

DESCRIPTION:

A romantic Tyrolean interpretation of the English Cottage manner, particularly well built and intact.

There is a major jerkin-head roof facing the street and another facing the left-hand side. A recessed first-floor balcony faces the street set into the gable-end, which is unpainted render, all timbered, extending up as a balustrade to the balcony with a floral window-box. Beneath, is a recessed porch on the right-hand side and a shallow bow window on the left. There is another recessed porch at left. The first-floor jetties forward with fretwork barges, exposed rafters and pendant bosses. There is a garage similar to the house, set back. There is a matching clinker brick fence, with slots and soldier course decoration with a header cap between piers and an entry pergola with wrought iron vehicular gates. The garden appears to be largely intact, with various clipped topiary bushes, including a side-hedge and a huge cypress.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study, Allan Willingham, 1986; Greater Geelong - City of Newtown Urban Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1991; Greater Geelong - City of Newtown Urban Conservation Study, Richard Peterson, 1997
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	16597
Property number	205393

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online