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Name: Former St Stephens Anglican Rectory
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 10920
Municipality: Central Coast Council
Date Listed: 18/04/2007

Location Addresses

5 MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS

Title References

48497/1

Property Id

7753064



5 Main Road showing modern addition
DEPHA 2007

5 Main Road Penguin
DEPHA

Main Rd, Penguin (Rectory in the distance)
Penguin History Group

Rectory
Penguin History Group

Setting: 5 Main Road is a substantial Federation home set atop an elevated knoll toward the western end of the township. The elevated setting provides sweeping views of Johnsons Beach, Beecraft Point and Penguin Beach, from which locations the house is a prominent landmark. The primary facades of the house faces the ocean views to the east and north, whilst the Main Road facade is considerably more modest in form and ornamentation. When combined with the mature group of evergreen trees along the front boundary adjoining Main Road, the property is very low key or discrete in its appearance from Main Road. Presently the main streetscape features of the property are a recently completed double garage, detached from the house and in a complementary style, and the aforesaid evergreen trees. The property is in close proximity to the Penguin Cemetery and St Stephen's Anglican Church, with which the place has close historical associations.

Description: The main building is a substantial single storey Federation residence. The major facades of the house address the ocean views to the east and north, with ornate verandahs and decorative gables. The street facade is utilitarian in comparison. General stylistic features are demonstrated by the steep pitched roof composed of hip and gable forms, the overall building form and layout of windows, and the inclusion of verandahs. Feature elements include the verandah joinery, window joinery and hoods, corbelled and rendered chimneys, and the joinery and use of pressed metal on the gable ends. The exterior fabric of the building appears to be predominantly intact and the subject of considerable conservation works in recent years. The only notable change from the original built development on the site appears to be the 2006-07 construction of a detached double garage close to the road. This is in a complementary style and situated adjacent to the utilitarian western facade of the house. The once expansive gardens that descended the slopes of the knoll around the house have been reduced by subdivision and a lack of maintenance over many years, but retain some exotic plantings from the early period.

History: Originally part of the land granted to J. Long & W.H. Walter. One portion was later subdivided to create lots for 3 & 5 Main Road. By 1909, 5 Main Road Penguin had been acquired by the Anglican Church and a vicarage was built - the existing residence. For reasons unknown the local doctor, Dr De Witt Henty, occupied this building during the early years whilst his house and surgery at 17 Main Road was being constructed (HTG). It was during his time at this house that he would have participated in the earliest flight in Australia. Dr Whitfield De Witt Henty had been educated in Scotland and worked in Victoria before moving to Tasmania. He was registered as a one of 112 Medical Practitioners in Tasmania in January 1906 (Tas Govt

Gazette 1913) prior to moving his practise from Mathinna to Penguin. In Penguin he became a close acquaintance of GS Richardson through a shared interest scientific inventions and photography. In 1908 Richardson designed and built the first Australian cycle pedal flying machine . De Witt Henty financed the building of the machine and was chosen as the pilot because of his small physical stature. The flight took place on a hill at the eastern end of Penguin and finished on Watcombe Beach . De Witt Henty sat on a bicycle, which was suspended beneath wings by several struts, providing energy to turn the propellers as well as steer and ride. It was the first successful flight in Australia , and a photograph of the flying machine was proudly displayed for many years in the Penguin Council Chambers (Advocate undated clipping, PHG). From 1912 to 1931 was owned directly by St Stephens Church before ownership was relinquished or reclassified to the Anglican Church (HTG & PHG). Ministers were only stationed at Penguin for short periods as they were moved around the state on a rotational basis.

According to the Assessment Rolls various Ministers of the Anglican Church occupied the house including Rev William Best (1912-1919); Rev William Barrett (1919-1922) who later became Assistant Bishop; Rev Richard Thomas (1922-1923); Rev Magnus May (1923-1926) who later became Archdeacon; Archdeacon Henry Atkinson (1926-1929); Rev George Blanchard (1929-1931); Rev Harold Doyle (1931-1934); and Rev Francis Hadrill in 1934 (PHG); Rev William Baldry; Verrall (1944-1951); Rev Maxwell Hughes (1951-1952); Rev Charles Warren (1952-1959); Rev Rupert Potter (1960-1962); Rev Lindsay Grimmett (1964-1967); Rev Alfred Costelloe (1967-1970); Rev Athol Broadfield (1970-).

The rectory was sold c1995; the last incumbent being the Rev Peter Stuart in 1996 (T Gleeson: PC May 2007; Rev Pat Crawshaw, (PC:May 2007) & Records of the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania).

Rev Barrett was one of the more notable ministers to live here. Born in NSW in 1893 and a graduate of the University of Sydney. He was ordained deacon in 1916 and a priest in the following year. In 1918 he married Ada Lilian Genders, and spent his early years in appointments to Penguin, Queenstown and Cressy before becoming first Warden of Christ College, Hobart, in 1929. In 1931 he became a member of the Diocese Council, in 1934 a member of the General Synod and in 1935 Canon Chancellor of St Davids Cathedral. In 1942 he was appointed Archdeacon of Hobart, and in 1955 he was consecrated a bishop and appointed Assistant Bishop of Tasmania residing in Launceston . In 1942 he authored The History of the Church of England in Tasmania. William and Ada both died in 1966.

Another notary was Henry Brune Atkinson, born at Stanley in 1874 and a graduate of the University of Tasmania. Ordained a Deacon in 1901, he served in ten parishes around Tasmania and is said to have pioneered the use of a motorbike on the west coast. He married Helen Bertha in 1905. He was Rector of Holy Trinity and rural Dean. In 1924 he became Archdeacon of Darwin and thence of Launceston for 25 years (Gill: 1988). At the time of his retirement he had contributed 61 years of service to the church. Both Helen and Henry Atkinson died in 1960.

Statement of Significance:
(non-statutory summary)
No Statement is provided for places listed prior to 2007

Significance:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

The building at 5 Main Street, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. The residence was constructed as a church vicarage/rectory and served this purpose for 86 years. The building is one of the most substantial early residences ever built in Penguin, and its relationship with the nearby St Stephens Church illustrates the importance of public and private roles of the Ministry within Penguin. The residence was home to many young ministers starting their careers within the Anglican Church, and who were subject to rotational appointments across rural Tasmania .

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

5 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance because it is important as a representative in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places. Through its form, materials and detailing it has the ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a moderately-sized Federation home with regional variations such as the use of corrugated iron roofing in lieu of tiles. The combination of its siting atop a prominent knoll overlooking the waterfront and its Federation style make it one of the more notable built landmarks within the Penguin township, attributes that were recognised through inclusion of the place in early C20th postcards.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

5 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance to the community as the home of the local Anglican minister for 86 years, as a place where people have sought religious counselling across generations. This building is identified in Buildings Past & Present, Exhibition and Book published by Penguin Historical Group and has featured in historical Walks within the community.

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

5 Main Road Penguin has a close association with Dr Whitfield De Witt Henty, of national prominence in the history of flight in Australia. His flight of the pedal cycle plane in 1908 is the first recorded successful flight in Tasmania and Australia. As a Medical Practitioner, he is also considered to be a significant local historical figure. The house also has a continuous and long history of association with Anglican Ministers who not only served the Municipality and town of Penguin, but also provided care across Tasmania on a rotational basis.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

PLEASE NOTE This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.