

103 Macquarie Street (GPO Box 618)
Hobart Tasmania 7001
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Name: House
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 10941
Municipality: Central Coast Council
Date Listed: 19/04/2007

Location Addresses

124 MAIN RD, PENGUIN 7316 TAS

Title References

67223/2

Property Id

3169290



Untitled

No copyright on file



Untitled

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Setting: 124 Main Road is a substantial and well-presented late C19th house on a gently sloping block overlooking Watcombes Beach, toward the eastern end of the township. Along this section of Main Road, development occurs only on the southern side, the northern side being occupied by the Perry Ling Gardens astride the railway line and the beach itself. As a result, the place enjoys expansive views of ocean. The place has a well established front garden of trees shrubs and flowering plants, enclosed by a picket fence and having a roofed timber gateway, all of which partially screen the house.

Description: The main building is an ornate late Victorian single storey brick residence of moderate size . Stylistic features are demonstrated by the steep pitched roof of hip and gable forms, the overall building form and layout of doors and windows, the striped verandah roof and intricate verandah joinery, corbelled & painted brick detail below the eaves, and the three tall corbelled brick chimneys. Interior features include skirtings, architraves, mantles, stained glass windows and plaster archways in the hall. The house is highly intact inside and out. Notable changes to the original design include the recent addition of a sunroom/conservatory in a complementary style on the rear western corner, and some alterations to walls and doorways in the existing bathroom, kitchen and living rooms adjacent the rear facade. A number of outbuildings of undetermined origin remain in the rear yard . The expansive gardens feature mature exotic plantings complementary to the period of the house including an ornamental cherry tree and a mulberry tree in the front garden.

History: The land located at 124 Main Road Penguin was part of land granted to Scurrah in 1862. (HTG) The Assessment rolls refers to Thomas Scurrah whereas the title refers to JB Scurrah . By 1869 the farm was owned and occupied by W Crosbie who then sold the farm to William Cann who occupied it until 1882. An allotment and house was listed as owned and occupied by M Reynolds in 1899. This most likely relates to Martha Matilda Reynolds (nee Alexander of Emu Bay) the widow of Captain James Benjamin Taylor, (1856-1889) well known Sea Captain in Tasmania. His father Edward (1815-1885) and three brothers were all well known Sea Captains, yachtsmen and businessmen of northern Tasmania with a fleet of ships . Four of the brothers decided to settle at Penguin (Pink: 1990, The Brothers Taylor, pp.40-57). James Taylor married Martha Alexander in 1885. Born in 1865 Martha was the youngest daughter of Mr And Mrs Mathias Alexander, pioneers of Table Cape. She was born at Wynyard and as a child moved with her parents to Doctors rocks where her father purchased the farm "Mill Mount". The Alexander family were later associated with Burnie Hotels. (The Brothers Taylor). James temporarily left the sea to build the Neptune Grand Hotel at Penguin. After 12 years on land he returned to sailing and died 3 years later. Ships associated with the JB included their children were Amy and Roy Taylor. As a widow Martha married Mr James Kemp Reynolds who later died in 1930. Their children were Henry Hedley Cyril, Linden, Faith and Daphne. Martha died in 1951 with a long association with the history of Penguin businesses and shipping (Obituary Advocate 6 October 1951). M Sullock owned and occupied the house from 1906 to 1909 who then sold it to J

Bishop-Osborne, a renowned Tasmanian photographer. Bishop-Osborne occupied the house until 1922. He then leased it to WG Simms in 1928. According to the Post Office directories Bishop-Osborne operated his studio at 96 Main Road, Penguin from Penguin from 1914-1921 John Bishop-Osborne bought out WHC Burrows studio and stock of Hobart negatives late in 1878, when Burrows moved from Hobart to Launceston. According to the Post Office Directory he was in Penguin 1914-21. He is believed to have worked with GP Taylor in latter years. Bishop-Osborne was an 'old theatrical type' who had specialised in portraits of actors early in his career. He is notable for his fine photographs of early West Coast mining operations, published by the collotype process in W Tilley's publication *The Wild West of Tasmania* (1891). This was probably the first Tasmanian book illustrated with photo mechanically printed photographic images, although a few publications with photographic prints individually mounted had preceded it. Bishop-Osborne is also notable for a series of excellent early photographs of Stanley, which include copies of Frederick Frith's Stanley series of 1858. Bishop-Osborne operated his photography business from 1878 through to 1934 throughout Tasmania including Hobart (1878-1895), Zeehan (c1891-1894), Stanley (c1896), Burnie (1898-c11901), Ulverstone (c1903-c1913), Penguin (1914-1921), and Longford (1922-1934). He advertised widely in Post Office Directories Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company Guides as an Artist Photographer, Miniature and Portrait Painter and also sold frames and albums. As well as panoramas of large groups of people taken as a press photographer for the *Weekly Courier*, he was also noted as a leader for his photography of actors and theatre scenes. (TMAG & Tasmanian Photographers 1840-1940 A Directory by Chris Long Hobart 1995).

Statement of No Statement is provided for places listed prior to 2007

Significance:
(non-statutory
summary)

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 124 Main Street, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. It includes one of the finest and most substantial early houses within Penguin, reflecting the introduction of grand Victorian house styles into Penguin by the more affluent early residents.

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.

124 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. It has the ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a grand Victorian home with regional variations such as corrugated iron roofing in lieu of tiles, whilst its high level of ornamentation and high level of integrity make this house the leading example of the Victorian style and a notable built landmark within Penguin.

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.

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.

124 Main Road Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance for its close associations with prominent photographer J Bishop-Osborne c1914-21 and early Penguin pioneer Martha Reynolds 1899-1915 - who was associated with northern shipping enterprises and the establishment of the Neptune hotel in Penguin.

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.