

103 Macquarie Street (GPO Box 618)  
Hobart Tasmania 7001  
Phone: 1300 850 332 (local call cost)  
Email: [enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au)  
Web: [www.heritage.tas.gov.au](http://www.heritage.tas.gov.au)

**Name:** House  
**Status:** Permanently Registered  
**Tier:** State

**THR ID Number:** 10943  
**Municipality:** Central Coast Council  
**Date Listed:** 20/04/2007

#### Location Addresses

15 CRESCENT ST, PENGUIN 7316 TAS

#### Title References

102977/1

#### Property Id

6755383



Untitled

No copyright on file

**Setting:** 15 Crescent Street is a Federation residence of brick construction, set within a street of early C20th residences - each being subject to varying levels of change. Crescent Street is unusual in having development along only the outside of a curving street, by which each house is more visible to traffic along the street. The opposite street comprises a railway reserve and a line of paling fences that mark the rear boundary of the Main Road properties. 15 Crescent Street has a small established front garden comprised of some small shrubs and flowering plants, enclosed by a metal railing fence.

**Description:** The main building is a moderately-sized Federation residence of brick construction. Key features include bay windows under panelled gables and a corner verandah form. General stylistic features demonstrated include a medium pitch roof of hip and gable forms, the overall building form and layout of windows and doors, detail elements including verandah joinery, eaves brackets and chimney forms, as well as Paton's interior detailing such as ceiling roses. The exterior of the building appears predominantly intact with no additions or substantial alterations evident to front or sides. The railing fence is not believed to be original.

**History:** Part of the original grant to Lewis Grant, the land at 15 Crescent Street Road Penguin was purchased originally by Alexander Clerke. Built in c1907, the house is an outstanding example of a period residence with a long association with the prominent Thomas and Paton families.

Miss Clara Evelyn Paton, daughter of George Paton (Mayor of Launceston) owned the land. This block previously included the land at 17 Crescent Street given to the Baptist church. Clara's brother George Paton was responsible for the ceiling roses at 15 Crescent Street Penguin. The Paton family were known for their decorative cement rendering and plastering of buildings especially in Launceston. Clara Paton married Henry Edgar Thomas.

A new Drapery store was built for Henry Thomas in 1926 by George Paton of Launceston. Gwen Jones nee Thomas recalled that when the building was being constructed the Paton family in Launceston and the Thomas family in Penguin swapped houses. (PC June 2006). Henry, Clara, George, Gwen, Enid known as 'Jean' and Meg all worked for the family business at various times at 95 Main Road Penguin within close proximity to the family home at Crescent Street.

Upon Henry Thomas' death, (aged 49) in 1932, his wife Clara and daughter Gwen, aged 21 years, despite a lack of experience, took over the management of the business. Gwen later Mrs Jones initially assisted her mother and eventually stayed on until 1974 becoming the accountant and finally one of the company's directors. Clara Thomas died in 1957 and was remembered by all those she assisted through the Depression when credit was given out generously. George started in 1938 but was interrupted by the war with servicing between 1943-46 (Lance Corporal in the 127 Australian General transport Co) and dealt mainly

with the drapery side of the business although also dealt with the shipping side of the business. Henry started work in the store in 1951 after military service 1942-46 (He was a Corporal 2/14 th AIF) and a previous career in accounting but was mainly concerned with the travel agency. Jean, later Mrs Jones moved from Caprona to assist and join the family business once her children were at school in 1969 (THR 10824). The Thomas family were well known and respected within the community, participating in sporting clubs and social events. Presbyterian services were held in their home at 15 Crescent Street. Henry Senior was the first President of the local football club, agent for the Thorpes of Hobart (shipping potatoes). Later the business took on agencies such as the Launceston Building Society, later Launceston Bank for Savings and eventually the Trust Bank. (George Paton was the Chairman of the Board). The business also included agencies for the Empress of Tasmania and Ansett which was the second largest agency in Tasmania (including national and international travel), winning awards and maintaining a high profile state-wide. The Drapery business was kept in this family for eighty years until 1989. The family business became a company in 1964 styled HE Thomas Penguin Pty Ltd. Family members continued to work in the shop until 1990, the business was sold to the Bailey's. The Drapery business was kept in the Thomas family for eighty years until 1989. The Thomas family descendants retained ownership of 15 Crescent Street until February 2007.

**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 15 Crescent Street Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. The development of Crescent Street in the early C20th reflects the increasing prosperity in the township at that time, with the present building being one of the more stylistic and intact examples remaining.

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

The building at 15 Crescent Street Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance for the rare social circumstance of the place having been occupied and used as a residence for 100 years by the same family group - Henry Thomas and his descendants.

**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.**

15 Crescent Street, 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, material and detailing it has the ability to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a Federation brick home and stylistic features and high degree of integrity make it one of the more notable built landmarks within the Penguin township.

**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.**

15 Crescent Street Penguin of historic cultural heritage significance through its close association with Henry E Thomas and his wife Clara Evelyn (nee Paton), prominent drapers & owner/developer of 95 Main Road.

**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.