

**Place name** House **Survey Date:** 4/07/2004  
**Other name** **Id:** 935  
**Street** 166 Pearson Street **Last Update** 1/01/2007  
**Locality** Sale **Postcode**  
**Official Locality** **Property No**  
**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire **Property Info** Sec 57, Allot 9  
**Precinct:** Not in precinct  
**Easting** **Northing**  
**Map**  
**Workshop number** **Workshop votes**  
**Field survey number** **Community priority**  
**Designer** **Builder**  
**Ownership** Private **Built Date** c.1880 **Change Date**

**Description** The house at 166 Pearson Street is a brick and timber twin-gabled cottage. The front section is built in brick, with the rear in timber. A pair of external chimneys is located on the northern side on the rear gable and skillion sections. There are two skillion extensions to the rear. The front verandah is partially enclosed. The garden is enclosed by a privet hedge along the Pearson Street frontage, and the house remains on a large allotment. The garden is believed to contain a well and old trees that date from the Ruff ownership including a Pear (*Pyrus* sp.) and Pomegranate (1).

The cottage appears in good condition and is largely intact externally, with the two sections probably demonstrating separate building stages.

REFERENCES

(1) Carol Glover, pers. comm. Amendment C26 consultation, March 2007

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Cottage	Vernacular	Brick	Corrugated iron

**Condition** Good **Integrity** Intact

Redevelopment/change	
Residential	Building
National Themes	Local Themes
	7. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS & TOWNS
	7.1 Ports

**History** This house has been owned by the Ruff family for many years (1). A rate book search of Allotment 9, Section 57 reveals that the Ladies Benevolent Society owned a dwelling on half an acre in 1875. The following year it was occupied by Charles Campbell, tinsmith. By 1885, the property had been purchased by A. Ruff (2).

This house was occupied by Ida Ruff, who was married in this house in front of the fireplace, and her family, which included a son who was to gain fame as the writer, Hal Porter. His book 'The watcher on the cast-iron balcony' includes accounts of his childhood growing up in Sale and includes detailed accounts of the house and garden:

"In 1921, the acres surrounding the early colonial house of rosiest brick have not been subdivided, and much of the nineteenth century past is there for my entertainment and refreshment, a nostalgic tourist in my own piddling inheritance: the well overhung by the pomegranate tree .. The long hedge of hawthorn, boxthorn, quince and elm trees; the pump; the Black Hamburgh grape-vine grown from a cutting of the Hampton Court monster, the oaks grown from two Richmond Gardens acorns, the lofty William Bon Chretien pear tree.." (3)

REFERENCES

- (1) Helen Edgley (nee Jackson) - suggests contact Ossie Ruff in Pearson Street.
- (2) Rate books
- (3) Hal Porter, (1963) 'The watcher on the cast iron balcony', p.105

Porter, H. (1985) Bairnsdale: Portrait of an Australian Country Town Sydney: John Ferguson

Period	Associations
	Ruff family

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	x		Recommended

**National Estate**

**Research Required**

**Recommendations**

**Fieldwork priority?**

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed: Sale Heritage Stu **Stage 2 priority** Planning Scheme: Individua

**Final Ranking** Local significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

**Statement of significance** The cottage, constructed c.1880, and garden at 166 Pearson Street, Sale is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Wellington Shire. Historically, it is significant as an early cottage in Sale with long associations with the Ruff family. It is of particular significance for its strong associations with the well-known Australian writer, Hal Porter, who grew up here and immortalised the house and garden in his book 'The watcher on the cast-iron balcony'. The garden is still thought to contain the trees (Pear, Pomegranate), grapevine and well mentioned by Porter in the book. Aesthetically, the house is an excellent representative example of a typical and highly intact small cottage demonstrating construction stages, retaining its garden setting. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2, E.1 & H.1)

**Extent of designation**

**Informant**

**Notes**

**Follow up**

<b>Bibliography</b>	Context Pty Ltd, (1994), City of Sale Heritage Study Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review
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Pearson Street 0166, ID 935.jpg Context 1/01/1994	
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UpdatePearson St 0166, ID935iii.JPG

Geoff Neville

6/06/2006



UpdatePearson St 0166, ID935ii.JPG

Context

1/01/1994



Pearson St 0166, ID935(vii).jpg

Context

25/06/2007



Pearson St 0166, ID935(iv).jpg

Context

25/06/2007



Pearson St 0166, ID935(vi).jpg

Context

25/06/2007

