



## House, 25 Board Place

### History

The grantee, F Hitchins (1849) sold this lot and the land surrounding it to Geelong mayor and grocer Robert Reeves in 1850 but it was the one Alex Mark and later William Oman who are first listed in rate records as consecutive owners of a two-room house (later two 'small rooms and shed') there in 1853-5<sup>1</sup>.

William Oman owned and occupied the cottage until c1858<sup>2</sup>. In 1856-7, it was weatherboard, three rooms plus a room and verandah.

By the 1860s, blacksmith Richard Prime is the owner-occupier, commencing some 50 years association with the house by the Prime family<sup>3</sup>. His widow, Ruth Prime, was the last of the family to occupy it, prior to her death aged 94 at the house of her son-in-law, Charles Taylor<sup>4</sup>. The hawker, William Carpenter, lived there in the 1920-30s when the Taylor family owned the house<sup>5</sup>.

Reeves was Geelong mayor in 1872-3 and in that period convened the public meeting which commenced the Hospital Sunday movement<sup>6</sup>. Otherwise he was part of Reeves Brothers, grocers, who were in Geelong from the 1850s onwards<sup>7</sup>.

### Description

This is a double-fronted, weatherboarded (side walls) house with a bullnose-profile timber verandah and simple gabled roof with rear skillion. Similar to other Geelong houses built in the 1850s, it is more complete, with a notable verandah valence and wide boards to the front wall. Typically the openings are symmetrical and the architraves slim in profile also the chimney (now cemented) has a simple corbelled cornice. Old brickwork on the boundary to the north of the house is all that remains of a brick pair, built there in the 1850s.

### External Integrity

Fence has been replaced sympathetically and the verandah balustrade appears old if altered. The bullnose verandah roof possibly replaced a concave profile early this century, possibly after Ruth Prime's death in 1913.

### Streetscape

Sited at the end of a narrow lane, it typifies early house locations but it is now isolated.

### Significance

Historically, the house is among the city's oldest and its occupiers have typically been tradesmen.

1 RGO SN29500 (adjoining lot); GD1858; RB1854-5,258; RB1853,192  
2 RB1856- 7,261; RB1857-8, 270  
3 GA 8.4.64; RB1910, 315  
4 GA 30.6.13  
5 D1920-30; RB1930,324; RB1920,312  
6 INV. Vol.7/6, 8/2,5,6  
7 INV. Vol.9/102 1850 listing in Ryrrie St

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study  
Significant Sites

Architecturally, the house is well preserved for its date and is hence a valuable record of early Geelong housing with some notable verandah details.