

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0881

**Address:** 20 Bourke Crescent Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1908

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 07.09

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 20 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, is part of Allotment no. 13, Section 73, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881.

A monumental mason, William Henry Wilcox, was the first owner of the 6 room weatherboard house (with bathroom, washhouse and pantry) built on this site in 1908. It had been designed by the prolific Geelong architects, Laird and Barlow, and built by H. Beach at a cost of £426. Wilcox resided there until the late 1930s when, presumably after his death, the house became the property of Catherine Eliza Ervin, who was owner/occupier until the 1950s. Some time before 1960, the house was purchased by Muriel Ogle, who lived there, with her husband, William Leslie Ogle, a caretaker.

### Description

The house at 20 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, is situated on an average-sized allotment for the local area. Located on a corner site, the house has a modest front setback and narrow side setbacks. The front garden is well landscaped with several perimeter plantings, flowers and shrubs. The front is bound by a low brick fence covered in creeper, and has a timber gate, the whole building approximately 1200 mm high. Towards the rear

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on the other street frontage is a timber paling fence, approximately 1700 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by a central hipped roof form, together with a rear hipped roof, projecting gable roof at the front and a return bullnosed verandah that projects at the front and side. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Three early unpainted brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs and worked timber brackets are features of the eaves.

The early timber framed double hung windows are arranged as a projecting bay under the front gable, and as pairs or singularly about the other elevations. The timber framed doorway also appears to be early.

A feature of the design is the decorative timber fretwork, with the turned timber verandah columns (both the project gable verandah and return verandah), and the fretwork valances with the gable valance having stylised tulip motifs at its ends. The extent of the timber decoration at 20 Bourke Street makes it one of the best examples in Geelong.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 20 Bourke Crescent, Geelong, has significance as a largely intact example of the Federation style and one of the best examples of decorative timberwork in the local area. Built in 1908 for the monumental mason, William Henry Wilcox to a design by the prolific Geelong architects, Laird and Barlow, the house is in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 20 Bourke Crescent is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the central hipped roof form, together with the rear hipped roof, projecting gable roof at the front and the return bullnosed verandah that projects at the front and side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, unpainted brick and strapped chimneys with terra cotta pots, modest eaves with worked timber brackets, timber framed double hung windows (including the projecting bay window at the front), timber framed doorway, and the decorative timber work to the front gable and return verandah (including the turned turned timber verandah columns and the fretwork valances with the gable valance having stylised tulip motifs at its ends). The front garden also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 20 Bourke Crescent is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the early 20th century. In particular, this house has associations with William Henry Wilcox, monumental mason and original owner from 1908. It also has associations with the prolific Geelong architects, Laird and Barlow.

Overall, the house at 20 Bourke Crescent is of LOCAL significance.

### References

Drainage plans and Reports, Barwon Water profis system, 1921, 1982.  
Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
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Geelong Town Plan 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

L. Huddle, 'John Angus Laird's Architecture from 1890', private research database with references to the Contractors' and Day Books of the Laird and Barlow and Laird and Buchan Architectural practice held at the Geelong Historical Records Centre, 1998.

R. Aitken, 'Edwardian Geelong: an architectural introduction', Elective 3, Architecture Division, Deakin University, 1979.