

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0889

**Address:** 21 Brown Street East Geelong 3219

**Approx. Date:** 1927

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 05.22

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 21 Brown Street, East Geelong (near the corner of Brown and Kilgour Streets), is located on Lot 22 of the Plan of Subdivision (no. 103378) of 1922. This site formed part of Section 90 of the Corio Parish Plan of 1880. The original owners of the land were C. Sladen, G.A. Knight and S.V. Buckland.

In 1926-27, Thomas Henry Womersely, coach builder of 191 McKillop Street had this 7-roomed weatherboard house built. It appears to have changed little since that time.

### Description

The house at 21 Brown Street, East Geelong, is set on a corner allotment at the north-east corner of Brown and Kilgour Streets. The house has modest front setbacks of approximately 3-4 m and narrower side setbacks. The garden consists of grassed areas with perimeter flower beds, trees and shrubs. The street frontages are bound by a fence with brick piers and plinth, and steel balustrading between. The fence is approximately 1 m high. At the side of the house is an early, shallow gabled garage outbuilding with early vertically boarded doors.

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The substantial, asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a minor verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage, a flat roofed return verandah that projects to the front and side, and a minor gable at the side. These roof forms (apart from the flat roofed verandah) are clad in terra cotta tiles. An early unpainted red brick chimney with a soldier course capping and terra cotta pot (and later flue) adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

An early feature of the design is the gabled and flat roofed verandah. It is supported by unpainted red brick piers with concrete cappings and bandings, and soldier course bandings. There is also solid unpainted red brick verandah balustrades with unpainted concrete cappings.

The timber framed double hung windows are also early, and several are decorative with leadlighting. The front timber framed doorway also appears to be early.

Other early decorative features of the design include the gable infill (battening and panelling, timber brackets and timber shingling).

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

The house at 21 Brown Street, East Geelong, has significance as a largely externally intact example of the interwar Californian Bungalow style. Built in 1927 for T.H. Womersley, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 21 Brown Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Californian Bungalow style. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a minor verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage, a flat roofed return verandah that projects to the front and side, and a minor gable at the side. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, terra cotta tile roof cladding, unpainted red brick chimney with a soldier course capping and terra cotta pot, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, unpainted red brick verandah piers with concrete cappings and bandings and soldier course bandings, solid unpainted red brick verandah balustrades with unpainted concrete cappings, timber framed double hung windows, window leadlighting, front timber framed doorway, and the decorative gable infill (battening and panelling, timber brackets and timber shingling). The front garden, fence and side garage with vertically boarded timber doors also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 21 Brown Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in East Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with T.H. Womersely, original owner from 1927.

Overall, the house at 21 Brown Street is of LOCAL significance.

### **References**

Drainage Plans and Reports, 1927, Barwon Water Profis system, City of Greater Geelong.  
Geelong City Council Rate Books, 1926-27, Geelong Historical Records Centre.