

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0898

**Address:** 150 Corio Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1851c

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 09.25

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 150 Corio Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment 14, Section 11, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1858, on land originally owned by a Mr. Gumming.

This brick house was built before 1851. From at least 1851 it was occupied by Roger Kelsall (possible designer of the building), who had been a Lieutenant-Colonel with the Royal Engineers until 1845. He owned this property until his death on 26 March 1861, when it passed to his widow, Ann. She owned it until her death in 1872.

From 1854, the property had been described in the Rate Books as having 4 rooms, a servant's room and kitchen. By 1867, the house was recorded as having a total of 6 rooms. It appears that a verandah was added by the occupant, James Shorter. R. H. Roebuck acquired the property after the death of Mrs. Kelsall. He leased it to a number of tenants including James Shorter and Mrs Ross. After Roebuck's death, the property (then numbered as 142 Corio Street) was administered by the R. H. Roebuck Estate, before being sold between 1900 and 1905 to James Patrick Gough, who also owned the adjoining property. Before the turn of the century another general purpose room and bathroom appear to have been added.

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Gough carried out major plumbing and drainage work to the house in 1919, by which time it was addressed as 150 Corio Street. Gough carried out further drainage work in 1924, just before his death. In 1925 the property was bequeathed to his daughter, Elizabeth Gough, who held it until the 1950s. Tenancy lists for the house between 1939 and 1960 indicate a preference for occupants who were employees at the Ford Motor Company. One such tenant was Drgoljub Burojivis in 1960. The dwelling was inhabited by students in 1972.

Roger Kelsall, soldier and engineer, had been educated at Eton, England, and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in July 1809. He was promoted lieutenant in May 1811, second captain in June 1815 and captain in December 1829. In 1835, he was appointed to command the branch of the Ordnance Department in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). Kelsall was promoted major in January 1837 and in April 1845 he was promoted lieutenant-colonel and by August he had sold his commission. During his military engineering career, Kelsall was responsible for the construction of several important works in the fledgling penal colonies. These works included the Church at Port Arthur (1836), guard house at George Town (1838), barracks at Port Arthur (1840) and the barracks and convict hospital on Maria Island (1840). After visiting England in 1845, he returned to Victoria and by 1853 he occupied a grazing property as well as owning this house in Corio Street.

### Description

The house at 150 Corio Street, Geelong, is set on a contextually wide allotment for the local area. It has a modest front setback which is equivalent to the front setback of the neighbouring houses. The front garden consists of recent perimeter flower beds and grassed areas, which are bound at the front by a low sandstone block fence, approximately 400 mm high.

The symmetrical, single storey, rendered brick, rudimentary Victorian styled house is characterised by a steeply pitched hipped roof form with a hipped convex verandah that projects towards the street frontage. There is an introduced rear extension that projects to one side. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Two early rendered brick chimneys with corbelled tops adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

The symmetry of the design is accentuated on the front facade. There is an early central timber framed doorway with an early transom above, and flanking, altered (c.1920s) pairs of timber framed double hung windows. The building appears to rest on a unpainted sandstone base.

The front verandah appears to have been reconstructed and is supported by recent square timber columns.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 150 Corio Street, Geelong, has significance as a partially intact example of a rudimentary Victorian style and for its associations with Roger Kelsall in the mid 19th century. Kelsall was a former Lieutenant Colonel with the Royal Engineers who had been responsible for several convict buildings at Port Arthur, George Town and Maria Island in the early 19th century. This house shows evidence of some alterations, although the original form and construction is extant, and it appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 150 Corio Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although partially altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian

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style. These qualities include the steeply pitched hipped roof form, projecting hipped convex verandah, rendered brick chimneys with corbelled tops, narrow eaves, rendered brick wall construction, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding and the central timber framed doorway with transom above. Other appropriate qualities include the location of the timber framed double hung windows and the square timber verandah columns.

The house at 150 Corio Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the mid 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with Roger Kelsall from at least 1851. Kelsall was a Lieutenant Colonel with the Royal Engineers and had been responsible for the construction of the Church at Port Arthur (1836), guard house at George Town (1838), barracks at Port Arthur (1840) and the barracks and convict hospital on Maria Island (1840).

Overall, the house at 150 Corio Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

- Drainage Plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1919, 1924, 1986.  
Sands & McDougall Geelong Directory 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Bellerine Ward) 1851-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong Town Plan 1858, Public Records Office of Victoria.  
Pike, D. (ed.), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.2, 1788-1850 I-Z, 1967, pp. 37-38.