

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0926

**Address:** 12 Fitzroy Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1924

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 04.11 & 04.12

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 12 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotments 18 and 19, Section 57, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1923.

John Albert Rankin had an 8 room weatherboard house built on this land (purchased previously from Ida Jane Newton) in 1924. John, a clerk and later an accountant, resided there until his apparent death in the 1950s, whereupon the property passed to his son, also John Rankin, a chemist. In 1968, the residence (then known as 10 Fitzroy Street) seems to have been purchased by A. L. Course. The address of the property was changed to 12 Fitzroy Street in the early 1980s.

### Description

The house at 12 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is set on a contextually large allotment for the local area. The house has a sizeable frontage that consists of a rambling concrete path and side driveway, open grassed areas and perimeter flower beds. The are narrower side setbacks. The front is bound by an introduced lower brick and open patterned block fence, approximately 700 mm high.

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The substantial, asymmetrical, predominantly single storey (with attic), horizontal weatherboard, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a dominant gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a minor attic dormer and single storey gable that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in early terra cotta tiles. Two early unpainted brick and rendered chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Wide overhangs and large timber brackets and rafters are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the recessed verandah at the front. It is supported by early square tapered columns on brick piers with concrete cappings.

Other features of the design are the timber framed windows arranged as a projecting bay at one corner, bowed bay under the projecting gable and as horizontal banks. There is also an early timber framed portal window under the verandah and a segmentally arched window under the projecting gable. The timber doorway has an early timber and glazed door and sidelight. The early flat roofed dormer has a bank of timber framed windows.

Early decorative features of the design include the window leadlighting and the gable infill (timber shingling, battening and panelling and the oculus ventilator).

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

The house at 12 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, has significance as an intact example of a substantial interwar Californian Bungalow. Built in 1924 for John Rankin, clerk and accountant, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 12 Fitzroy Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Californian Bungalow style. These qualities include the dominant gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the minor attic dormer and single storey gable that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, predominantly single storey height (with attic within the roof space), horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, terra cotta tile roof cladding, two unpainted brick and rendered chimneys with terra cotta pots, wide eaves and large timber brackets and rafters, recessed verandah at the front supported by square tapered columns on brick piers with concrete cappings, timber framed windows arranged as a projecting bay at one corner, bowed bay under the projecting gable and as horizontal banks, timber framed portal window under the verandah, segmentally arched window under the projecting gable, timber doorway and timber and glazed door and sidelight, bank of timber framed dormer windows, and the decorative features including the window leadlighting and the gable infill (timber shingling, battening and panelling and the oculus ventilator).

The house at 12 Fitzroy Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of substantial residences in Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with John Albert Rankin, clerk and accountant and original owner, from 1924 until the 1950s. The property remained in the Rankin family until 1968.

Overall, the house at 12 Fitzroy Street is of LOCAL significance.

### **References**

Drainage plans and Reports, Barwon Water profits system, 1925, 1976.  
Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Sands & McDougall Directory of Geelong 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Bellerine Ward), 1920-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong Town Plan 1923. Public Records Office. Melbourne.

