

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0929

**Address:** 51 Fitzroy Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1910

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 02.21

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 51 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is located on part of Allotment 9, Section 71, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The Crown grantee of the land was James Gattie Carr.

By August 1903, this portion of allotment 9 was owned by Jessie Oliver Jackson Wilson. It is not clear how the land came into the possession of the miller, Thomas Repton Bodington, and his wife, Elizabeth, but they appear to have owned the property when a 5-roomed weatherboard house with bathroom and pantry was erected here in c.1910. It is possible that the house has been moved from another portion of the same allotment, to the south, "off Fitzroy Street". It is known to have been bought by Elizabeth Bodington from Henry Stringer in May 1904, and where a 5 roomed weatherboard house is known to have been built a few years earlier.

The house at 51 Fitzroy Street remained in the ownership of the Bodington family until Elizabeth's daughter, Mary Cecilia Bodington, who inherited it when her mother died in 1960. A portico appears to have been added at the front in the second half of the 20th century.

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## Description

The house at 51 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, is set on an short allotment for the local area, due to a land subdivision in the early 20th century. The house has a modest front setback and the garden consists of perimeter flower beds and grassed areas. The front is bound by a timber picket fence and gate that are approximately 1500 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, unusual Edwardian styled house is characterised by a rear hipped and gabled roof form that traverses the site, together with a gable, side skillion verandah (following the pitch of the recessed roof) and verandah gable that project towards the street frontage. The verandah gable appears to be a later addition. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. An early brick chimney (now painted white) adorns the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

The timber framed double hung windows under the verandah, projecting gable and at the sides are early, as is the timber framed doorway at the front.

An early decorative feature of the design is the gable infill within the projecting gable (timber battening and panelling), and the identical infill in the verandah gable has been sympathetically introduced. The square timber verandah columns and decorative timber fretwork valance are also introduced but appropriate. Another appropriate feature of the design (although also possibly introduced) is the hipped window hood at the front, supported by timber brackets.

## Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 51 Fitzroy Street, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of an unusual Edwardian style. Built in c.1910 for Thomas and Elizabeth Bodington, the house appears to be in fair condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 51 Fitzroy Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an intact Edwardian style. These qualities include the rear hipped and gabled roof form that traverses the site, together with the gable and side skillion verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, brick chimney (but not the overpainting), modest eaves, timber framed double hung windows, timber framed front doorway, gable infill (timber battening and panelling), square timber verandah columns, decorative timber fretwork verandah valances, and the hipped window hood at the front supported by timber brackets. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 51 Fitzroy Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the Edwardian (c.1890-1915) period. In particular, this house has associations with Thomas and Elizabeth Bodington, original owners from c.1910 when the house appears to have been built.

Overall, the house at 51 Fitzroy Street is of LOCAL significance.

## References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1921, 1957, 1968, 1981, 1983.  
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Sands & McDougall "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong City Council Rate Books (Barwon Ward), 1905-1960.  
Geelong Town Plan 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.