

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: Residence

Project File No: 0939

Address: 77 Garden Street East Geelong 3219

Approx. Date: 1907

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 04.21

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 77 Garden Street, Geelong, on the east side of the street, is located on Allotments 19 and 20, Section 92A, which is part of the former Corio Cricket Club Reserve in the Geelong Town Plan of 1858.

In 1905, Lots 19-22 were held by James Watt, a carpenter of Chilwell. He built this 5-roomed weatherboard house (with kitchen, bathroom and washhouse) on Lots 19 and 20 in 1907. He appears to have lived there for only a few years before the residence was passed on to his son, Albert, a traveller. Albert lived there for almost 50 years until his death in 1959. Albert's spinster daughters, Dorothy May and Mavis Watt, resided there until about 1967, when Dorothy became the sole occupant for the remaining 5 years of her life. Mavis died in 1971, her sister the following year.

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Description

The house at 77 Garden Street, Geelong, is set on a slightly wider allotment of the local area. The house has a modest front setback and narrow side setbacks. The front garden is largely rudimentary, consisting of an open grassed area some perimeter flowers and shrubs. The front is bound by an introduced timber capped and vertically clad fence and gate that are approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Edwardian styled house is characterised by a steeply pitched gambrel roof form, together with a minor gable and side hipped verandah with a gabled portico that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Three early multi-corbelled unpainted brick chimneys with terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs and worked timber brackets (above the front verandah) are features of the eaves.

The timber framed double hung boxed windows are early and are arranged in pairs on the front gable and under the verandah. The timber window sills are also supported by early worked timber brackets. The other timber framed double hung windows at the side also appear to be early. The timber framed doorway is also early, and has an early timber and glazed door with sidelight and highlights.

A feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by turned timber columns and has a decorative timber fretwork valance and brackets, and a similarly decorated timber balustrade.

Early decorative features of the design include the flying gable at the front with the curving stuccoed window head, and the timber shingling gable and gambrel infill.

Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 77 Garden Street, Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the Edwardian style. Built in 1907 for James Watt, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 77 Garden Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an Edwardian style. These qualities include the steeply pitched gambrel roof form, together with the minor gable and side hipped verandah with the gabled portico 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, three multi-corbelled unpainted brick chimneys with terra cotta pots, modest eaves with worked timber brackets above the front verandah, paired timber framed double hung boxed windows with timber window sills supported by worked timber brackets, timber framed doorway with a timber and glazed door and sidelight and highlights, other timber framed double hung windows, turned timber verandah columns, decorative timber fretwork verandah valance and brackets, similarly decorated timber verandah balustrade, flying gable at the front with the curving stuccoed window head, and the timber shingling gable and gambrel infill.

The house at 77 Garden 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 James Watt, original owner and carpenter of Chilwell from 1907.

Overall, the house at 77 Garden Street is of LOCAL significance.

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References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 1966.
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 (Ormond and Barwon Ward), 1905-1960.
Geelong Town Plan 1858, Geelong Historical Records Centre.