

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** "Elvie" Residence

**Project File No:** 0955

**Address:** 18 Gurr Street East Geelong 3219

**Approx. Date:** 1914

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 05.27 & 05.28

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 18 Gurr Street, East Geelong, is located on Allotment 18, Section 94, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The land was originally the property of G. F. Belcher.

In 1914, Cothilde Warrington Martin, a timber merchant, purchased this site from William Warrington Bradley. He built a 5 roomed weatherboard house with a lobby, bathroom and pantry and which is now known as 'Elvie'. Martin and his wife, Lucy, resided there until his death in the early 1960s. Structural alterations occurred in 1922 when a room was added at the rear of the house, and a concrete floor replaced an existing wooden floor. Lucy Martin continued to reside at this address until her death in c.1970.

### Description

The house at 18 Gurr Street, East Geelong, is set on a wide allotment, having a typical front setback but one substantial side setback, compared with other properties visually connected to the site. The front garden consists of a brick paved pathway, open grassed areas and perimeter flowers and other plantings. There are some trees to the eastern side of the front garden. The front is bound by an early timber post and rail and cyclone wire fence with a metal gate that are both approximately 1200 mm high.

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The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Late Federation styled house is characterised by complex roof forms including a recessed broad hipped roof, projecting gables at the front and side and a projecting hipped verandah roof that follows the roof pitch of the main hipped roof. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel and there is a return verandah formed under the front gable and side projecting hips. Three unpainted brick chimneys with rendered tops and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Broad overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return verandah under the projecting gable and hipped roofs. It is supported by square timber columns with large arched fretwork valances. At the side, the verandah has introduced banks of timber framed windows and weatherboard wall cladding.

Under the verandahs are boxed timber framed double hung windows, arranged in a pairs under the front hipped verandah and gable, and as a corner window under the front gable. The timber framed doorway at the front is early, and has an early timber door with upper glazing and sidelights.

Other early features of the design include the gable infill (stucco panelling and timber battening).

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

The house at 18 Gurr Street, East Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Late Federation style. Built in 1914 for Cothilde Martin, the house appears to be in fair-good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 18 Gurr Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Late Federation style. These qualities include the complex roof forms including the recessed broad hipped roof, projecting gables at the front and side and the projecting hipped verandah roof that follows the roof pitch of the main hipped roof. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the return verandah under the front gable and hipped roofs, asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, three unpainted brick chimneys with rendered tops and terra cotta pots, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, square timber verandah columns with large arched fretwork valances, boxed timber framed double hung windows, arranged in a pairs under the front hipped verandah and gable, timber framed doorway at the front with timber door having upper glazing and the sidelights, and the gable infill (stucco panelling and timber battening). The front timber post and rail and cyclone wire fence and metal gate also contribute to the significance of the place.

The house at 18 Gurr Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in East Geelong during the Federation (c.1895-1915) period. In particular, this house has associations with Cothilde Warrington Martin, timber merchant and original owner from 1914.

Overall, the house at 18 Gurr Street is of LOCAL significance.

### **References**

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1922, 1937.  
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Sands & McDougall's 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 (Ormond / Barwon Ward), 1914-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Geelong Town Plan 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

