

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 0956

**Address:** 34 Gurr Street East Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1924

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 05.26

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 34 Gurr Street, East Geelong, is located on parts of lots 35 and 36 of subdivision LP3113, which is part of Crown Allotments 20 and 21, Section 94, of the 1923 Geelong Town Plan. The land originally belonged to G. F. Belcher and N. Sadler.

Wilson Birrell, a painter, bought land at this location from Walter Hughan, a contractor of Carr Street, in 1924 and had a 5 roomed weatherboard house built there in the same year. The Birrell family occupied the site until the 1940s, when it was purchased by Raymond Robert and Lilian Amy Wilson, and they lived there until the 1960s.

### Description

The house at 34 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 brick paving, grassed areas and perimeter flowers and plantings, and some substantial trees. The front is bound by an introduced timber picket fence and recessed gateway, approximately 1200 mm high, and timber lychgate, approximately 2000 mm high that is covered in creeper. The carport at the front of the site has also been introduced.

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The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a dominant gable roof form, together with a minor verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. At the rear is an introduced single storey pitched roof addition. An unpainted brick chimney adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

The timber framed double hung windows are early, including the projecting flat-roofed bay on the front facade. Other early features of the design include the timber framed and leadlighted diamond window flanking the verandah gable, timber framed doorway under the verandah at the side, and the timber gable ventilators.

The verandah is supported by introduced widely-spaced paired square timber columns with decorative geometric timber fretwork between.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 34 Gurr Street, East Geelong, has significance as a moderately intact example of the interwar Californian Bungalow style. Built in 1924 for Wilson Birrell and family, the house has experienced some alterations and additions and appears to be in good condition from the street.

The house at 34 Gurr 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, together with the minor verandah gable that projects 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, unpainted brick chimney, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, timber framed double hung windows including the projecting flat-roofed bay on the front facade, timber framed and leadlighted diamond window flanking the verandah gable, timber framed doorway under the verandah at the side, timber gable ventilators, and the widely-spaced paired square timber verandah columns with decorative geometric timber fretwork between.

The house at 34 Gurr Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in East Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with Wilson Birrell, a painter and original owner from 1924, and with the Birrell family who occupied the property until the 1940s.

Overall, the house at 34 Gurr Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1924, 1985.
- Certificate of Title Vol. 669, folio 7337, dated 18 February, 1913.
- Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- 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 / Barwon Ward), 1920-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Geelong Town Plan 1923, Public Records Office, Melbourne.