



## House 3 Little Ryrie Street

### History

(Refer 1 Little Ryrie Street)

Emerging from the sale of the La Trobe Terrace Wesleyan

reserve in 1872, this allotment was sold to James Wood, a Geelong clerk, (presumably of Wood Brothers, timber merchants, of Little Ryrie Street).<sup>1</sup> Wood built the house soon afterwards, being first listed in rate books of 1873 as owning (and later occupying) an unfinished weatherboard four-room house with kitchen, pantry and servant's room.<sup>2</sup> Later he leased the house to Francis Leary and Robert J. Robshaw.<sup>3</sup>

Wood sold to Mary Aldwinckle (widow) in 1888, who financed the purchase with a loan from William Ducker.<sup>4</sup> By 1891 she had subdivided, creating today's 5 Little Ryrie Street (later W.G. Hearne & Co., manufacturing

chemists), and two new owners, (5) Frances Jarman and (3) Frederick Band (a Moorabool Street watchmaker).<sup>5</sup> Band occupied the house (then 5 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, pantry) up to this century.<sup>6</sup> Clifton Keats of Melbourne was a later owner of 3 Little Ryrie when it was described as weatherboard and six rooms.<sup>7</sup>

Occupiers this century included Ivan Niddrie (painter), Arthur Godfrey, John Jennings and Mrs. Annie McAsey.<sup>8</sup>

The house (and 1 Little Ryrie) is shown in an 1879 panorama taken from the tower of the nearby school. Identical in appearance to today, the house was contained by a timber picket fence and adjoined by a vacant site surrounded by a paling fence.<sup>9</sup> The Geelong Water Board Plan shows this house, much as it is today, as a double-fronted, bayed timber dwelling with extensive rear service wing and stables on to Wesley Place.<sup>10</sup>

1 Brownhill, p.170; GD1882-3, TO Vol.535, Fol.106851

2 RB1873,306; RB1875,304

3 RB1890,350; RB1880,320

4 *ibid.*

5 *ibid.*; TO Vol.2376/475075, Vol. 2508/50132

6 RB1900, 269

7 RB1930, 357

8 D1920-50; RB1930, 357

9 GHRC collection

10 GW & ST DP26

City of Geelong Urban Conservation Study  
Significant Sites

**Description**

A double-fronted, hipped-roof timber house with a slate roof, twin window bays and simulated stone wall cladding (ashlar). Atypical for its period, the entry is in a recessed porch, (rather than from under a verandah). Typical quarry tile floor paving and chaste cast-iron brackets ornament the porch.

**External Integrity**

Generally original, except for fence replacement and security door addition.

**Streetscape**

Closely related to 1 Little Ryrie Street as a 19th century residential enclave in a mixed use area and backing on to Ryrie Street with its individually important residential sites. Contributes to precinct 6.1.

**Significance**

Historically, associated with prominent Geelong businessmen (Frederick Band, James Wood).

Architecturally, distinguished by its double-bayed verandahless design (presumably architect design) and a contributing part of a small but valuable 19th century residential precinct.