

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1090

**Address:** 328 Myers Street East Geelong 3219

**Approx. Date:** 1894

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 06.05

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 328 Myers Street, Geelong, is located on Lots 108 and 109, LP3113, which appear to be on Crown Allotment no. 5, Section 94, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. One of the Belcher brothers originally owned this land.

On 5 April 1894, the Geelong architects Watts, Tombs & Durran called tenders for the erection of a villa for the law clerk, Herbert Saywell. He had purchased the land from A. Silk (owner of both Lots 108 and 109) in 1893. The weatherboard residence consisted of 5 rooms, with kitchen, bathroom and washhouse (the kitchen being incorporated into what was described as a 6-roomed house by 1905). The next owner, Angus Campbell, gentleman, also owned adjoining lots 106 and 107, which were added to the original landholdings for 328 Myers Street until 1921, when the house and land were sold to James Watt. Two rooms were added, and bathroom, kitchen, laundry and toilet facilities upgraded in 1922. In 1923, the house was briefly in the hands of James Frederick Hill, a teacher. In c.1925, the property was bought by police magistrate, David William O'Grady, who lived there until after his retirement in the late 1930s. During this period, the Barwon Ward Rate Books indicated a progressive reduction in the number of rooms in the house from 7 in the 1920s to 4 rooms in the late 1930s. John Murray, a hairdresser, possibly inherited the residence from Mary Eileen Murray in 1950, when further internal changes to

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the residence were carried out. The house seems to have been leased in the 1960s and early 1970s as two separate units, with a tenant in each, until it was sold in c.1973. At some point the house has been reclad in false brick wall cladding.

### Description

The house at 328 Myers Street, East Geelong, is set on wide allotment, with a sizeable front setback and wide side setbacks. The garden consists of open grassed areas with perimeter plantings. The front is bound by an introduced brick fence with steel balustrades and is approximately 1300 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, Federation styled house is characterised by complex roof forms including a central hipped roof, two gables that project at the front and side and a broken back return verandah with a minor gable at the corner. These roof forms are clad in painted galvanised corrugated iron. Two early unpainted red brick chimneys with projecting straps and tops adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

Early features of the design is the projecting front verandah gable and encircling return verandah. The verandahs are supported by turned timber columns and are decorated with large timber arched and rectangular fretwork valances. Other decorative features include the lattice fretwork between the paired columns under the front verandah gable, and the gable infill (timber shingling, timber brackets, stucco panelling and flying gable battening).

Under the verandah are early timber framed casement windows. These windows are arranged singularly under the projecting front gable, as a bank of three with six paned leadlighted upper lights under the verandah, and as a bank under the projecting side gable. The recessed timber framed doorway with sidelight is also early.

Another early feature of the design is the window hood over side windows, and is supported by timber fretwork brackets.

The false brick wall cladding has been introduced, probably clad over early horizontal timber weatherboards.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 328 Myers Street, East Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Federation style. Built in 1894 for Herbert Saywell to a design by the Geelong architects, Watts, Tombs and Durran, the house has experienced some alterations (particularly the introduction of the false brick wall cladding) but appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 328 Myers Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the Federation style. These qualities include the complex roof forms including the central hipped roof, two gables that project at the front and side and the broken back return verandah with the minor gable at the corner. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, two unpainted red brick chimneys with projecting straps and tops, modest eaves, front verandah gable and encircling return verandah supported by turned timber columns, large timber arched and rectangular fretwork verandah valances, fretwork between the verandah columns, gable infill (timber shingling, timber brackets, stucco panelling and flying gable battening), timber framed casement windows (including six paned leadlighted upper lights to the windows under the verandah), recessed timber framed doorway with sidelight, and the window hood over the side

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windows that is supported by timber fretwork brackets.

The house at 328 Myers 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 Herbert Saywell, original owner and law clerk who had it built in 1894. The house also has associations with the Geelong architects, Watts, Tombs and Durran.

Overall, the house at 328 Myers Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1973.
- Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Sands & McDougall's "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Geelong City Council Rate Books (Ormond and Barwon Ward), 1893-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Morrow, W., J., Index to the Geelong Advertiser, 1888-1900.