

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1092

**Address:** 372 Myers Street East Geelong 3219

**Approx. Date:** 1923-24

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 06.03

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 372 Myers Street, East Geelong, is located on Lot 8/2, LP 6312, which is part of Crown Allotments 3 and 4, Section 88, of the 1881 Plan of Geelong. H. Earle and F. Rushbrook were the original owners of the land.

In 1923-24 a grocer, Charles Alexander Bye, had a 5-roomed weatherboard house built at this site, after buying Lot 8 of the new subdivision in 1923. In 1926 the house was extended to 7 rooms, necessitating plumbing and drainage alterations. The owner/occupier by 1930 was Gus Oswald Jacobi, a builder, who may have been responsible for the earlier extensions. Teacher, Leslie Prime, and his wife Louisa Elizabeth, were joint resident owners of the house by the end of the decade. In 1950, the Primes sold the property to Ronald Errol White, an engineer of 14 Frederick Street, who soon took up residence, and remained there until at least the mid 1970s.

### Description

The house at 372 Myers Street, East Geelong, is set on an average-sized allotment for the local area. The house has a sizeable front setback, with one very narrow side setback and a wider side setback having a concrete driveway to a rear garage. The front garden

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consists of perimeter flower beds, grassed areas and some exotic trees. The front is bound by an introduced aluminium palisade fence, approximately 1300 mm high.

The symmetrical, predominantly single storey, horizontal weatherboard, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a dominant gable roof form that traverses the side, together with an attic gable that projects towards the street frontage and front verandah. These roof forms are clad in early terra cotta tiles. An early unpainted pressed red brick chimney with a terra cotta pot adorns the roofline. Broad overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

Other early features of the design are the two projecting bowed bays at the front, between an early recessed central doorway. The bay windows have early timber framed double hung leadlighted windows, with brick bases having decorative brick banding. The front doorway has two early timber framed and glazed doors. Other ground floor timber framed double hung windows also appear to be early, but the timber framed windows in the attic appear to have been introduced.

Another early feature of the design is the front verandah. It is supported by early unpainted pressed red brick piers with brick cappings and rendered, tapered columns.

Other early decorative features of the design include the terra cotta finials and the gable infill (timber brackets and timber shingling).

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

The house at 372 Myers Street, East Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the interwar Californian Bungalow style. Built in 1923-24 for Charles Bye, grocer, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 372 Myers 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 that traverses the side, together with the attic gable that projects towards the street frontage and the front verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the predominantly single storey height (second storey within the roof space), symmetrical composition, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, terra cotta tile roof cladding, unpainted pressed red brick chimney with terra cotta pot, broad eaves with exposed timber rafters, two projecting bowed bays at the front with timber framed double hung leadlighted windows and brick bases with decorative bandings, central front timber framed doorway with two timber framed and glazed doors, other timber framed double hung windows, unpainted pressed red brick verandah piers with brick cappings and rendered tapered columns, terra cotta finials and the gable infill (timber brackets and timber shingling).

The house at 372 Myers 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 Charles Bye, grocer and original owner, who had it built in 1923-24.

Overall, the house at 372 Myers Street is of LOCAL significance.

### **References**

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1988.  
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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Sands & McDougall's "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Geelong City Council Rate Books (Ormond and Barwon Wards), 1923-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.