

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse

**Project File No:** 1140

**Address:** 343 Ryrie Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1900-1901

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 03.24

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 343 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is located on part of Lot 22, Section 64 of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. In earlier years, Section 64 had been the site of Geelong's Immigration Depot.

The weatherboard house was built in late 1900-early 1901 for Mr. John Alexander Dawson, Manager and Electrical Engineer of the first electric light and power station, Geelong Electric Light Company, which opened on 3 May, 1901. The architects for both the power station and residence were Messrs. Hendy and Apted of 173 Moorabool St., Geelong. The Contractor and Builder of the residence was J. W. Tingate of Autumn Street, Geelong West. G. J. Searle constructed the chimneys and the painters were Messrs. Orr and Drew.

Mr. Dawson occupied the residence until 1906. Canon George Goodman, incumbent at Christ Church, Geelong, then owned the property, and resided there, with his daughter, Ada, until his death in 1908. Ada remained there until 1919, when the property was acquired by the Presbyterian Church to become the Manse for the Minister at St. Andrew's. The Rev. David William Smith resided there until his departure in December 1926. The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (now Uniting) is situated at the corner of

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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Sydney Parade and Sydney Avenue, Geelong. Rev. Smith was followed by the following Ministers:-

Rev. W.W. Ingram	1927 - 1949
Rev. G.A. Wood	1949 - 1963
Rev. J.D. Martin	1963 - 1967
Rev. W.H. Littler	1967 - 1975
Rev. A. Hodgson	1975 - 1986
Rev. Jan Taylor	1987 - 1994
Rev. John Clarke	1995 - 1998

The Manse became part of the property of St. Andrew's Uniting Church, Geelong East Parish, with Union in 1977.

Extensive restoration, including re-blocking and rewiring, and refurbishment were carried out from October 1986 to February 1987. In April 1997, the building was repainted, following advice from the City of Geelong Heritage Advisor, leading to a Heritage Award in 1997.

### Description

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on a long allotment, although of average size for the area. The house has a front setback of approximately 4 metres. The front garden consists of a concrete path, lawned areas and perimeter shrubbery and trees. The site is bound at the front by a timber post and rail and cyclone wire fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by complex roof forms, including a central hip and projecting gables at the front and side, return bullnosed verandah and the corner tower with a bellcast conical roof, emphasising the diagonal composition. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Early strapped brick chimneys with introduced overpainting adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs with decorative timber brackets are features of the eaves. The timber framed double hung windows, arranged in pairs and projecting bays, are early, with the corner bay having timber panels in the lower reaches.

A prominent feature of the design is the corner tower. It has a curved stuccoed finish under the eaves, below which are early timber framed multi-paned windows and timber shingling.

Other features of the design include the decorative gable infill, including the shingling and vertical battening, together with the stucco work, curved battening, curved solid stucco bracket under the front gable and timber brackets under the side gables, and the window hood.

Another feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by turned timber verandah columns. The verandah floor is of timber construction.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse, 343 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance as a relatively intact example of the timber Federation style. This house was built in 1900-01 for John Alexander Dawson, Manager and Electrical Engineer of the first electric light and power station in Geelong known as the Geelong Electric Light Company. From 1919 until the present day, the house has been the Manse for the St. Andrew's Uniting (formerly Presbyterian) Church.

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the complex roof forms that include the central hip and projecting gables at the front and side, return bullnosed verandah and the corner tower with a bellcast conical roof, emphasising the diagonal composition. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, strapped brick chimneys (but not overpainting), modest eaves with decorative timber brackets, timber framed double hung windows arranged in pairs and projecting bays, timber panelling below the corner window bay, curved stuccoed finish under the eaves of the tower and the timber framed multi-paned windows and timber shingling, decorative gable infill (shingling and vertical battening, stucco work, curved battening, curved solid stucco bracket under the front gable and timber brackets under the side gables), window hood, timber verandah floor and the turned timber verandah columns. The front garden and fence also contribute to the significance of the place.

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It has associations with residential developments in Geelong during the Federation (c.1895-1915) period. Importantly, this house has associations with John Alexander Dawson, Manager and Electrical Engineer of the first electric light and power station in Geelong known as the Geelong Electric Light Company. Dawson had this house built in 1900-01 to a design by the architects, Hendy and Apted. The house has further associations with Canon George Goodman of Christ Church, Geelong, prior to its long association as the St. Andrew's Presybterian (now Uniting) Church Manse from 1919 until the present day.

The St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised and valued by sections of the Geelong community for religious reasons as the home of the incumbent Minister to St. Andrew's Uniting Church.

Overall, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

V. Anderson, 'Brief History', prepared for the St. Andrew's Council of Elders, August 1997.

Anderson cited the following sources:

Geelong City Rate Books, Geelong Historical Records Centre

Hendy and Apted Correspondence, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Morrow Index to the Geelong Advertiser, Geelong Historical Records Centre

Brief History pamphlet for an Open Day held after refurbishment in February 1987, V. Anderson collection.

Geelong Town Plan, 1909, Geelong Historical Records Centre.