

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1151

**Address:** 27 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1888

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 07.22

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 27 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment no. 5, Section 64, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. A. Trevena and John Gubby owned the land originally.

Section 64 was the site of the Immigration Depot on the Geelong Town Plan of 1858. It was subdivided and offered for sale on 31 May 1881, but only two allotments were initially sold because of the high price being asked. John Gubby, subsequent part-owner of allotment no. 5, sold his land to F.E. Matthews in 1888. Geelong architect, A.J. Derrick called tenders for the construction of this house for Matthews on 6 April 1888. The successful tenderer was Charles Mills, contractor. The weatherboard house, built on stone foundations, consisted of 5 rooms, with a kitchen, bathroom, servant's room, pantry and cellar. When William H. Grieves purchased the residence in 1890, a verandah was added on 3 sides of the building. Grieves appears to have died in c.1895, as the house (then numbered 73 Swanston Street) was in the hands of Maria Elizabeth Grieves by 1896. There may have been some extension to the house at about this time, but the descriptions given in the Bellerine Ward Rate Books varied so greatly between 1896 and 1910 that this cannot be ascertained. A washhouse was added between 1900 and 1905.

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Maria Grieves occupied the residence until 1916, when the house was sold to James Campbell Brown. Sanitary works were carried out on the property, new fittings being provided to kitchen, laundry, bathroom and external toilet facilities. It may have been James' son, Charles Naples Brown, who owned and occupied the house (that had been renumbered as 27 Swanston Street) from soon after this until 1925, when the property was sold to Patrick O'Donnell, sergeant of police. Some internal change was made to the building in c.1925, when the number of rooms in the house was reduced to 5. O'Donnell resided there until the 1940s. Leonard Walshe, a woolclasser, and his wife Ena Alice, purchased the property in c.1950. Sanitary facilities on the property were upgraded in the 1950s while in more recent years the extensive restoration work has been carried out.

### Description

The house at 27 Swanston Street, Geelong, is set on a corner allotment. It has modest front and side setbacks that are comprised of open grassed areas with a perimeter rose garden. The front and side are bound by a timber picket fence and gate that are approximately 1300 mm high near the corner and approximately 1500 mm high towards the rear.

The predominantly symmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Victorian styled house is characterised by a main hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with rear hipped roof forms that project or recede at the sides and a return bullnosed verandah that encircles the front the house. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Early rendered chimneys with projecting cornices adorn the roofline. Narrow overhangs with paired timber brackets and decorative panels between adorn the roofline.

The symmetrical composition is accentuated at the front by the early central timber framed doorway and the flanking timber framed double hung tripartite windows. The front timber and glazed door has been introduced, but the sidelights are early, as are the timber framed double hung windows at the sides.

A feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by introduced turned timber verandah columns, and has an introduced timber fretwork valance.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 27 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance as a moderately intact example of the Victorian style. Built in 1888 to a design by the Geelong architect A.J. Derrick for F.E. Matthews, the house has experienced some alterations but appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 27 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of the Victorian style. These qualities include the main hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the rear hipped roof forms that project or recede at the sides and the return bullnosed verandah that encircles the front the house. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the predominantly symmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves with paired timber brackets and decorative panels between, rendered chimneys with projecting cornices, central timber framed doorway and flanking timber framed double hung tripartite windows, other timber framed double hung windows, and the sidelights to the front doorway. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 27 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with F.E. Matthews, original owner who instigated construction in 1888. The house also has associations with the Geelong

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architect, A.J. Derrick.

Overall, the house at 27 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

### References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1950.

Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

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