

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1153

**Address:** 44 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1902

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 07.21

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 44 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment no.20, Section 12, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. D. Benjamin was the original owner of the land.

Thomas Clarke, a farmer on 18 acres at Murradoc, near Drysdale, and one-time member of the Corio Bay Rowing Club, purchased the land at this site from the executors of Benjamin's Estate in 1901. In the following year, 1902, this house and the neighbouring three houses were built for Clarke as part of a speculative development. Each house was identical in design, being constructed of weatherboards and having 6 rooms with bathroom and pantry. This house (then addressed as 60 Swanston Street) was sold immediately to George Forbes, an accountant, who occupied the residence until some time between 1915 and 1920, when it was acquired by railway employee, George D. McKee. By 1920 the house was re-numbered as 44 Swanston Street, and its description in the Bellerine Ward rate book included a washhouse. McKee appears to have died shortly after taking possession of the property, as Ada Jane McKay, possibly George's widow, owned it by 1925, and lived there for at least the next 15 years. In the 1940s, the house was purchased by Ruth Jackman of 22 Beveridge Street, Herne Hill. She sold it in 1950 to Frederick John and Constance Vernal Naylor of 11 Herd Street, Belmont. By 1971, the property was in the hands of William Lowther Hunter Armstrong and his wife

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Susannah.

### Description

The house at 44 Swanston Street, Geelong, is one of an unusual set of four identically designed timber houses neighbouring each other. This house is set on an average block for the area and has a modest front setback and narrow side setbacks. The front is largely rudimentary, with grassed areas, but it is especially denote for the large exotic tree. The front is bound by an introduced timber post and aluminium palisade fence and gate that are approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Late Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with a conical bay window and hipped bullnosed verandah that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Narrow overhangs, worked timber brackets and panelling are features of the eaves. Three early rendered brick chimneys with projecting corniced tops adorn the roofline.

A feature of the design is the front verandah. It has an early projecting gabled portico, and is supported by turned timber columns with decorative framed timber fretwork valances. The valance within the verandah portico forms an arch and is also early.

Other early features of the design include the timber framed double hung windows in the projecting bay, including the moulded timber architraves and the timber label moulds. The front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights is also early, but the full length timber framed windows under the verandah have been introduced. The turned finial surmounting the projecting bay and verandah portico are also early.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 44 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance as part of an unusual set of four intact Late Victorian Italianate styled timber houses. Built in 1902 as part of a speculative development for Thomas Clarke, farmer, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 44 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an intact Late Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the hipped roof form that traverses the site, together with the conical bay window and hipped bullnosed verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, narrow eaves with worked timber brackets and panelling, three rendered brick chimneys with projecting corniced tops, projecting gabled verandah portico, turned verandah timber columns, decorative framed timber fretwork valances including the arched valance within the verandah portico, timber framed double hung windows, moulded timber window architraves, timber window label moulds, the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, and the turned timber finials surmounting the projecting bay and verandah portico. The significance of the dwelling also relies on the retention of the neighbouring three houses of identical design and construction.

The house at 44 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong in the late 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with Thomas Clarke, farmer of Drysdale, who instigated construction of this house in 1902 as part of speculative development of four houses in Swanston Street.

Overall, the house at 44 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.