

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1154

**Address:** 46 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1902

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 07.20

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 46 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on Crown Allotment 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 62 Swanston Street) was sold immediately to Maria Hoff, householder, who in turn sold it to Herbert Jarman, a butcher. He occupied the residence until some time between 1910 and 1915 when it was acquired by accountant, George Ebenezer Crowley and he lived there for approximately 10 years. In the early 1920s the house (by then re-numbered as 46 Swanston Street) was purchased by John James Young, manager, who sold it before 1930 to Alfred James Ponting, a carpenter. By the end of the 1930s, the property was in the hands of Harriet E. Carroll, householder, who resided there until possibly 1982.

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## Description

The house at 46 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 has a garden characterised by perimeter flower beds and grassed areas. The front is bound by a timber picket fence that is approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, predominantly 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. Two 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, as is the pair of timber framed double hung windows with moulded architraves under the front verandah. The turned finials surmounting the projecting bay and verandah portico are also early.

The rear two storey, hipped wing has been introduced.

## Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 46 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 46 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, two 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, and the front timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, and the turned finials surmounting the projecting bay and verandah portico. The framed timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place. The significance of the dwelling also relies on the retention of the neighbouring three houses of identical design and construction.

The house at 46 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 46 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

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### References

- Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1982.
- Voters' Roll, Bellerine Ward, 1992, 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 (Bellerine Ward), 1901-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.
- Investigator, Journal of the Geelong Historical Society, September, 1988 and March, 1989, Geelong Historical Records Centre.