

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1164

**Address:** 107 Swanston Street Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1923

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 02.17

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site at 107 Swanston Street, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment no.10, Section 78, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. Robert Anderson was first to purchase this land, on 13 October 1854.

Emily Seward, householder of 13 Bourke Crescent, bought the land from Mary Irene Coward, also a householder, of St. Kilda in 1923. She immediately had a 4-roomed weatherboard house built on the site. Emily owned and occupied the residence until the 1930s. In c.1940, the then owner, Joseph Cooney of Bellerine Street, sold the property to Iverine Victoria Kitching of "Clyde Ville", Bannockburn. She let the house, the address of the property until the early 1960s being 113 Swanston Street. One of Kitching's tenants, Miles Osman, a waterside worker, and his wife Frances Jean purchased the house in c.1960.

### Description

The house at 107 Swanston Street, Geelong, is set on a wide allotment, with a typical modest front setback and narrow side setbacks. The front garden is rudimentary, with some shrubs and grassed areas. The front is bound by a timber flat-capped picket fence

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and gate, approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, interwar Californian Bungalow styled house is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage. There is a skillion addition at the rear. These roof forms are clad in dark red corrugated colorbond. An early brick chimney (now painted) adorns the roofline. Wide overhangs and exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves.

An unusual feature of the design are the early front timber framed double hung window arranged in pairs. They are surmounted by rectangular transom windows. The other single timber framed double hung windows along the sides also appear to be early, as does the timber framed doorway with sidelight under the verandah.

The verandah is supported by early, squat and round concrete columns which in turn are supported by early painted brick piers with concrete cappings and unpainted rectangular motifs. There is also an early solid painted brick balustrade of identical design as the piers.

Other early decorative features of the design include the ridge capping and finials and the gable infill (timberwork simulating shingling and the timber ventilators).

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

The house at 107 Swanston Street, Geelong, has significance has a reasonably intact example of the interwar Californian Bungalow style. Built in 1923 for Mrs E. Seward, the house appears to be in good-fair condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 107 Swanston Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Californian Bungalow style. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the verandah gable that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated profile to the roof cladding, brick chimney (now painted), wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, unusual paired timber framed double hung windows at the front surmounted by rectangular transom windows, other single timber framed double hung windows along the sides, timber framed doorway with sidelight under the verandah, squat and round concrete verandah columns, painted brick verandah piers with concrete cappings and unpainted rectangular motifs, painted brick verandah balustrade, roof ridge capping and finials and the gable infill (timberwork simulating shingling and the timber ventilators). The front timber flat-capped picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 107 Swanston Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the interwar (1920s-1940s) period. In particular, this house has associations with Mrs E. Seward, original owner from 1923.

Overall, the house at 107 Swanston Street is of LOCAL significance.

### **References**

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1923.  
Voters' Roll, Barwon Ward, 1992, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Electoral Roll, Division Corio, Subdivision Geelong, 1984, Geelong Historical Records Centre.  
Sands & McDougall's Directory of Geelong, 1972, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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

Geelong City Council Rate Books (Barwon Ward), 1920-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Land Title Search App 35560, Land Titles Office, Marland House, Bourke Street, Melbourne.