

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1170

**Address:** 8 Sydney Avenue Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1911-12

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 12.07

**Survey Date:** June 2002

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### History

This site at 8 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, is located on part of Crown Allotment 3, Section 69, of the 1881 Geelong Town Plan. The first owner of this land was J. Daniel.

A 6-roomed weatherboard house (with pantry and bathroom) was built at this location in 1911-12 for Edwin Henry Wray, a traveller and later a skin merchant. The house was leased until sold in 1918 (three years after a wash house had been added in 1915). The new owner, Dugdale, quickly resold the property to James Osborne Skrine, a salesman, who lived there for two years, before the residence was purchased by H.R. Crowcott. Crowcott had maintenance work carried out in the wet areas of the house in 1921, before the property was again on the market. The house was bought by Eric Warren Vaughan, a manager, and he occupied it until his business took him to 113 Wattle Valley Road, Camberwell in the 1930s. From the 1940s to the early 1960s, the dwelling was in the hands of Commonwealth Peace Officer, George William Wise, and his wife, Lillie Pearl. By the late 1960s, ownership of the house belonged to Lillie alone, and she remained there for a number of years.

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## Description

The house at 8 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, is set on a wide short allotment and has a modest front setback with a narrow side setback and another wider side setback having a driveway. The front garden has perimeter trees and flower beds and is bound by an introduced fence comprised of unpainted brick piers and plinth, and aluminium palisades.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by complex roof forms including a recessed hipped roof that traverses the site, together with a hipped roof, minor gables and gambrel roof that project towards the front, a recessed gable that projects at the side, and a return encircling verandah under the roof forms. These roofs are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. Two early unpainted brick chimneys with rendered and projecting tops and terra cotta pots adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the timber framed leadlight casement windows arranged in projecting bowed banks at the front and with leadlight highlights. One bay has a fluted window hood above, supported by elongated and curving timber brackets.

Other early decorative features of the design include the ridge ornamentation and finials, and the gable infill (timber brackets, panelling and timber battening). The return verandah is supported by recent round columns.

## Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 8 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, has significance as a reasonably intact example of the Federation style. Built in 1911-12 for Edwin Wray, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 8 Sydney Avenue is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the Federation style. These qualities include the complex roof forms including the recessed hipped roof that traverses the site, together with the hipped roof, minor gables and gambrel roof that project towards the front, the recessed gable that projects at the side, and the return encircling verandah under the roof forms. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, two unpainted brick chimneys with rendered and projecting tops and terra cotta pots, modest eaves, timber framed leadlight casement windows arranged in projecting bowed banks at the front and with leadlight highlights, fluted window hood supported by elongated and curving timber brackets, ridge ornamentation and finials, and the gable infill (timber brackets, panelling and timber battening).

The house at 8 Sydney Avenue is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the Federation (c.1895-1915) period. In particular, this house has associations with Edwin Wray, traveller and original owner, who instigated construction in 1911-12.

Overall, the house at 8 Sydney Avenue is of LOCAL significance.

## References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1921, 1955.  
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.

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Geelong City Council Rate Books (Barwon Ward), 1893-1960, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.