

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

---

**Site Name:** Residence

**Project File No:** 1171

**Address:** 20 Sydney Avenue Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1893-96

**Integrity:** Moderate-High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

---

**Photograph No:** 07.14

**Survey Date:** March 2002

---



### History

This site named "Morago" at 20 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, is located on parts of Allotments 5 and 6, Section 67, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. H. Earle was the original owner of the land.

A six- roomed weatherboard house, with kitchen and bathroom, appears to have been built for Mrs. Emma Bell, a householder, in the period 1893-1896. After her death in 1896, the property was in the hands of her Estate for a few years and was then sold to Anna Pescott. In 1905, then owner, Henry Callan, seems to have bequeathed the house to Patrick Joseph Callan, a tanner and later, skin merchant. Patrick was Henry's son and he occupied the residence for the next 20 years or so, making some structural alterations in c.1915, when the house was described as a five-roomed weatherboard house (with a bathroom, washhouse and stable) in the Barwon Ward Rate books. From the late 1920s to the 1950s, Callan leased the property, as he moved to other addresses in McKillop Street and Moorabool Street. Before 1960, one of Callan's tenants, Lloyd (or Raymond Lloyd) Cowley, an engineer, bought the residence, and the Cowley family were the owner/occupiers of the property for over 30 years from that time.

# GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

---

## Description

The house at 20 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, is set on an irregularly-shaped allotment. It has a modest front setback comprised of perimeter flower beds and grassed areas, and a side driveway. The front is bound by a timber picket fence and gates that are approximately 1300 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Edwardian styled house is characterised by a rear main hipped roof form, together with a gable roof and hipped roof verandah that project towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel. An early unpainted red brick chimney with terra cotta pots adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the front hipped roof verandah and the verandah formed under the projecting gable. They are supported by paired timber columns with moulded timber capitals and decorative Art Nouveau tulip fretwork between, and a large timber Art Nouveau arch also decorated with tulip fretwork.

Other early features including the projecting bays of timber framed casement windows with highlights with leadlighting, and the timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights.

## Statement of Cultural Significance

The house at 20 Sydney Avenue, Geelong, has significance as a predominantly intact example of the Edwardian style. Built between 1893 and 1896, the house appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 20 Sydney Avenue is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the Edwardian style. These qualities include the rear main hipped roof form, together with the verandah gable roof and hipped roof verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated steel roof cladding, unpainted red brick chimney with terra cotta pots, narrow eaves, paired timber verandah columns with decorative Art Nouveau tulip fretwork between, large timber Art Nouveau arch decorated with tulip fretwork, projecting bays of timber framed casement windows with highlights with leadlighting, and the timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights. The front timber picket fence also contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 20 Sydney Avenue is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with residential developments in Geelong during the Edwardian period (c.1890-1915). In particular, this house has associations with Emma Bell, original owner, who instigated construction between 1893 and 1896.

Overall, the house at 20 Sydney Avenue is of LOCAL significance.

## References

Reports and Drainage Plans, Barwon Water profits system, 1921.  
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.  
Sands & McDougall's "Invicta" Geelong Directory, 1968, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

## **GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS**

---

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

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.