



126 Swanston Street

History

The rate books of 1912 list Robert Ratcliffe, a carpenter, as the first owner and occupier of this residence. 126 Swanston Street was described in the rate books as a weatherboard, five room cottage with bath and wash house. 126 Swanston Street and the neighbouring property 128 Swanston Street are identical, suggesting they were constructed by the same builder. By 1929 Robert Ratcliffe had disposed of the property which subsequently passed through the hands of a number of different occupiers and owners.

Description

126 Swanston Street is a substantially intact timber Federation Bungalow residence retaining a high degree of integrity. The house has an unusual facade with a Federation style return verandah, a large corrugated iron roof, two prominent gables flanking the central entrance, and a chimney with corbelled brick works. Notable details include the timber double verandah posts with valance, curvilinear Art Nouveau brackets, and double hung sash windows. Both gables feature wide barge boards, casement windows, stucco, and small brackets. The front fence is appropriate to the style of the residence. The timber verandah floor appears to be relatively recent although the original floor would also have been timber. 126 Swanston Street is one of a pair with the same form and decorative timber details as the adjacent building 128 Swanston Street.

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Significance

126 Swanston Street has architectural significance at a local level. It is a representative example of Federation Bungalow housing which was once common in the Geelong region and has a high degree of integrity. The building retains its characteristic siting and form, as well as notable features including a large corrugated iron roof, a Federation style return verandah, prominent gables flanking the central entrance, timber verandah posts with valance, curvilinear Art Nouveau brackets, wide barge boards and casement windows. It forms a pair with 128 Swanston Street.