

BELMONT HERITAGE REPORT (INDIVIDUAL CITATIONS)
(FORMERLY PART OF THE GREATER GEELONG OUTER AREAS HERITAGE STUDY STAGE 2)

ADMINISTRATIVE SHEET

Existing Use/Type		Key Dates		Site Address	
Religious		Original 1954		Street/Site Name	
		Major Changes		No. 25 Regent Street	
Survey Date		Cons Man Plan		Town/Suburb	
17/04/1998		High Priority		Belmont	
		Precinct Name		Postcode	
				3216	
Recorded By		Current Site Name			
David Rowe		Geelong Masonic Centre (fmr Church)			



Heritage Status

Register of the National Estate
 Database No. File No.

Victorian Heritage Register

Planning Scheme:
 C.G.G.

Heritage Inventory (Archaeological)

National Trust Register:

Other:

Recommended Heritage Listings

Victorian Heritage Register
 Victorian Heritage Inventory
 Register of the National Estate
 HO City of Greater Geelong

Heritage Study Degrees of Significance

A H C Assessment Criteria	Significance Level
Aesthetic value <input type="text" value="D.2"/>	Local
Historic value <input type="text" value="A.4, H.1"/>	Local
Scientific value <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Social value <input type="text" value="G.1"/>	Local
Overall Significance Level	<input type="text" value="Local"/>

Condition of the fabric

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Ruinous
 Unexposed

Integrity of the site

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor
 Partially excavated
 Fully excavated

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TECHNICAL SHEET

Precinct Name

Site Plan/Location Sketch (not to scale)

Site Address

No. Street/Site Name

Town/Suburb Postcode

Site Name

Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates

E 267185km N 5771465km

Map

Scale

Ownership

Cadastral Location

County

Parish

Allotment

Block

Types of Sites

- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> monument | <input type="checkbox"/> recreational | <input type="checkbox"/> residential | <input type="checkbox"/> aviation | <input type="checkbox"/> gate | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin | <input type="checkbox"/> tree(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime | <input type="checkbox"/> fence | <input type="checkbox"/> garden | <input type="checkbox"/> machinery | <input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous |

Historical Themes

Heritage Study Theme	AHC Theme No.	Heritage Study Theme	AHC Theme No.
Early settlement	<input type="text"/>	Industry	<input type="text"/>
Maritime	<input type="text"/>	Community Life	<input type="text" value="clChurches"/>
Tourism	<input type="text"/>	Urbanization	<input type="text"/>
Transport	<input type="text"/>	Landscapes	<input type="text"/>
Townships	<input type="text"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="text"/>

Significant Architectural Features

- Original Materials
- Original Chimneys
- Wall Decoration
- Verandah Structure
- Verandah Decoration
- Original Parapet
- Other Prominent Elevations
- Appropriate Fence
- Early Garden

Roof

Openings

Decoration

Finish

Stylistic Character

Present Threats

- Human; mining
- Human; visitor erosion
- Human; vandalism
- Human; development
- Human; conservation/maintenance
- Human; stock
- Natural Forces; erosion
- Natural Forces; vegetation
- Not threatened

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**BELMONT HERITAGE REPORT (INDIVIDUAL CITATIONS)
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Site Address	No.	Street/Site Name	Town/Suburb	Postcode
	25	Regent Street	Belmont	3216
Site Name <input style="width: 80%;" type="text" value="Geelong Masonic Centre (fmr Church)"/>				
Description				
<p>The site at 25-27 Regent Street has a significant view of the Barwon River aqueduct to east and is visually connected to the Belmont Fire Station and corner shop to the eastern end of Regent Street, and to St Stephen's Anglican Church to the north-west. The former Methodist Church building is set in a predominantly single storey residential streetscape, denoted by brick and timber houses with pitched roofs of different styles and periods. The former Church building has small setbacks to the front and west side, with a small courtyard between the Church and the non-significant Sunday School on the east.</p> <p>The single storey face brick, rectangular, postwar Gothic styled former church building is characterised by its dominant, tiled gabled roof with minor transept gables along the south end and the imposing square tower with a squat spire at the north end. The eaves are supported by narrow brick buttresses along the sides. The majority of the windows are pointed, and have cement rendered sills and leadlighting. The windows in the transept gables and tower are rectangular and oriented vertically. These are closely spaced in horizontal banks and also have leadlighting. The ventilation openings in the tower are also pointed. The original, main timber double doors on the tower are also pointed.</p> <p>Early decorative features include the buttresses, projecting brick voussoirs capping the windows and doors which act as drip moulds, leadlighting, colour variation in the brickwork delineating the plinth from the walls, and the cross on the top of the squat spire.</p>				
History				
<p>The Regent Street Methodist Church congregation commenced planning for a new church in 1949.² The earlier timber church was showing signs of rapid deterioration, due to restricted repairs during World War 2.² Years of fundraising to build the church ensued, including the growing of vegetables and pea crops on land loaned by Mr Len Bush.² Designs for the church were prepared by the architect Raymond Wilson and the construction was overseen by Mr E.J. Lyons.² In April 1953, the digging and pouring of concrete foundations was carried out by working bees.² On Anzac Day, 1953, an Open Air Service of dedication was conducted.² However, due to the strict Government controls on building materials, it was not until 27 March 1954 that the laying of the Foundation Stone and Record Capsule was celebrated.² The Rev. C.F. McRae conducted the service.² The Church was officially opened by Rev. McRae on 19 November, 1955, the total cost of the works being £15,824.^{1,2}</p> <p>Once the Church was completed, it became head of the Circuit which comprised Regent Street, Highton, Grovedale, Bellbrae, Barwon Heads and South Geelong.² Between 1955 and 1975 this Church was noted as the most active Methodist Church in the Geelong area.² The building has continued to function as a Church until 1999, when it was sold to the Geelong Freemasonic fraternity.³</p>				
Heritage Precinct: Significant Urban Character Features visually connected to this place <i>(this section is only applicable to places in precincts)</i>				
Precinct Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>				
Neighbouring Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Similar Types <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Bulk/Form <input type="checkbox"/> Similar Styles <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Architectural Detailing <input type="checkbox"/> Similar Construction Dates <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Materials & Finishes <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Set Backs <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Fence Designs & Locations			
	Urban Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Historical Development <input type="checkbox"/> Original Paving <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Urban Focii <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Allotment Sizes <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Views <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Street Furniture <input type="checkbox"/> Original Kerbing		
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Treelines <input type="checkbox"/> Public Gardens <input type="checkbox"/> Median Strips <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nature Strips			

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Site Address	No. 25	Street/Site Name Regent Street	Town/Suburb Belmont	Postcode 3216
			Site Name	Geelong Masonic Centre (fmr Church)

Comparative Listings

Statement of Cultural Significance

The Geelong Masonic Centre (former Church building only) at 25-27 Regent Street is *aesthetically* significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of the postwar Gothic style which include the dominant gable roof form with projecting minor transept gables to the south and the imposing square tower to the north end. Other intact design qualities include the face brickwork, pointed and rectangular windows and leadlighting, cement rendered sills, pointed ventilation openings, pointed double timber doors, brick voussoirs and the squat spire with the cross above. The Church building also makes a significant contribution to the predominantly single storey residential streetscape

The Geelong Masonic Centre (former Church building only) at 25-27 Regent Street is *historically* significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is of importance for its association with the development of the Methodist (and later Uniting) Church in the Belmont region. It is also of **LOCAL** historical significance because of its association with the Geelong builder, E.J. Lyons, and with the architect, Raymond Wilson.

The Geelong Masonic Centre (former Church building) at 25-27 Regent Street is *socially* significant at a **LOCAL** level. It has been and continues to be recognised by the community for reasons of its religious associations and forms a particular and significant component of the heritage of the Belmont region.

Overall, the Geelong Masonic Centre (former Church building only) at 25-27 Regent Street is of **LOCAL** significance.

Opportunities are available for an extension to the existing hall building on the west elevation. To allow for sufficient visual separation with the significant former Church building, it is recommended that no extension project any further than the west wall of the existing western wing at the south end. It is also recommended that no extension project further forward (to the Regent Street frontage) of the existing hall building. The height of any new work is encouraged to be no higher than the existing hall building.

References

1. Shire of South Barwon Rate Book, 1955-56.
2. Lyons & Barnes, *The Centenary of the Belmont Regent Street Uniting Church* and interview by Rowe & Huddle with Mr Eric Lyons, retired Geelong builder, 3 March, 1999.
3. Personal comment, David Rowe.

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