

CITY OF GREATER  
**GEE LONG**

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**St Andrews Presbyterian Manse**

---



**Location:**

343 Ryrie Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 217767

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Individually Significant

**Heritage Overlay Numbers:** HO1639, HO1140

**Listing Authority:** Greater Geelong City

**Precinct:**

City East Heritage Area

**Statement of Significance:**

Significant

C Listed - Local Significance

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse, 343 Ryrie Street, Geelong, has significance has a relatively intact example of the timber Federation style. This house was built in 190001 for John Alexander Dawson, Manager and Electrical Engineer of the first electric light and power station in Geelong known as the Geelong Electric Light Company. From 1919 until the present day, the house has been the Manse for the St. Andrews Uniting (formerly Presbyterian) Church.

The St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the complex roof forms that include the central hip and projecting gables at the front and side, return bullnosed verandah and the corner tower with a bell-cast conical roof, emphasising the diagonal composition. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall cladding, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, strapped brick chimneys but not over-painting, modest eaves with decorative timber brackets, timber framed double hung windows arranged in pairs and projecting bays, timber panelling below the corner window bay, curved stuccoed finish under the eaves of the tower and the timber framed multi-paned windows and timber shingling, decorative gable infill (shingling and vertical battening, stucco work, curved battening, curved solid stucco bracket under the front gable and timber brackets under the side gables), window hood, timber verandah floor and the turned timber verandah columns. The front garden and fence also contribute to the significance of the place.

The St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It has associations with residential developments in Geelong during the Federation c.18951915 period. Importantly, this house has associations with John Alexander Dawson, Manager and Electrical Engineer of the first electric light and power station in Geelong known as the Geelong Electric Light Company. Dawson had this house built in 190001 to a design by the architects, Hendy and Apted. The house has further associations with Canon George Goodman of Christ Church, Geelong, prior to its long association as the St. Andrews Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church Manse from 1919 until the present day.

The St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised and valued by sections of the Geelong community for religious reasons as the home of the incumbent Minister to St. Andrews Uniting Church.

Overall, St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street is of LOCAL significance.

## References

V. Anderson, 'Brief History', prepared for the St. Andrew's Council of Elders, August 1997. Anderson cited the following sources:  
Geelong City Rate Books, Geelong Historical Records Centre

Hendy and Apted Correspondence, Geelong Historical Records Centre

Morrow Index to the Geelong Advertiser, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Brief History pamphlet for an Open Day held after refurbishment in

## Description

The St. Andrews Presbyterian Manse at 343 Ryrie Street, Geelong, is set on a long allotment, although of average size for the area. The house has a front setback of approximately 4 metres. The front garden consists of a concrete path, lawned areas and perimeter shrubbery and trees. The site is bound at the front by a timber post and rail and cyclone wire fence, approximately 1200 mm high.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, Federation styled house is characterised by complex roof forms, including a central hip and projecting gables at the front and side, return bullnosed verandah and the corner tower with a bell-cast conical roof, emphasising the diagonal composition. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Early strapped brick chimneys with introduced over-painting adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs with decorative timber brackets are features of the eaves. The timber framed double hung windows, arranged in pairs and projecting bays, are early, with the corner bay having timber panels in the lower reaches.

A prominent feature of the design is the corner tower. It has a curved stuccoed finish under the eaves, below which are early timber framed multi-paned windows and timber shingling.

Other features of the design include the decorative gable infill, including the shingling and vertical battening, together with the stucco work, curved battening, curved solid stucco bracket under the front gable and timber brackets under the side gables, and the window hood.

Another feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by turned timber verandah columns. The verandah floor is of timber construction.

Largely intact, weatherboard with shingle boards, hipped & gableroof  
clad in corrugated metal sheeting, banded brick chimneys (nowpainted),  
octagonal corner tower with bell-cast roof, decorative corniceto eaves,  
roughcast & singles to gable end & tower, returnbullnose  
verandah with turned timber posts & timber deck, timbersash windows  
(projecting part has multi-pane with coloured glass toupper sash), side  
entry with highlight.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5, Graeme Butler, 1991; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study Volume 1, Graeme Butler, 1993; Greater Geelong - Geelong City 'C' Citations Study, Dr David Rowe, 2002; Geelong City Fringe Heritage Area Review, RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants, 2018
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	20639
Property number	217767

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*