

# Victorian Heritage Database Report **FORMER SYNAGOGUE**



## **Location:**

74-78 MCKILLOP STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## **Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1103**

Listing Authority: VHR

## **Heritage Overlay Number: HO240**

## **Statement of Significance:**

The former Synagogue at Geelong was built in 1861 by builders Jones and Halpin to a design by Geelong architect John Young. The stucco rendered brick structure in classical revival style replaced an earlier structure constructed in 1854.

The building is now used as an office.

The former Synagogue is architecturally, historically and socially significant to the state of Victoria.

The building is an unusually elaborate early synagogue and as one of only two known synagogues remaining in regional Victoria, it is a rare example of a building type. It is also an extraordinary example of an architectural design in the Italianate style and is an important example of the eclectic and diverse work of architect John Young. It displays decorative treatment unusual in buildings of this time, especially the detailing of the side bays, the corner piers and the broken pediment with its heavy brackets above the semi-circular gable light, the distinctive detailing of the stucco porch and the unusual form and glazing pattern of the arched side windows.

The former Synagogue is important for its religious and social associations with the Jewish community in Geelong who, although a small group in the community, made a disproportionate contribution to public life. It has associations with various prominent figures who played important roles in the Geelong area and in Victoria as a whole, including Jonas Felix Australia Levien, agriculturist, politician and, according to tradition, the first Jewish child born in Victoria; Benjamin Jonas Fink, politician and land boom speculator; and Zilla Crawcour, the first woman to hold mayoral office in Australia.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1861 -
Architect / Designer	Long, John
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	3015
Property number	

*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*