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## "Grantham"



13 Retreat Road, Newtown - Exterior



13 Retreat Road, Newtown - Exterior Front View



13 Retreat Road, Newtown - Exterior Balcony



13 Retreat Road, Newtown - Exterior Side View of Balcony

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### Location

13 Retreat Road, NEWTOWN VIC 3220 - Property No 204289

### Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1627

HO1403

### Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

A Listed - State Significance

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Designed by the notable architect Angus Laird, in 1920/21 for Wesley B. McCann, director of the Australian Cement Co., this reinforced concrete house has considerable state historical significance for its associations with the Geelong cement industry, which has been described as "tone of Australia's industrial giants".

The McCann family played a Key role in the development of this major Victorian industry. It has architectural significance at state level as an important and innovative design of consistent quality by Laird. The design combines geometric Cubist forms with Classicising elements. It has technical significance as an early concrete house. It appears to retain its original paint colours. Further significance is derived from the intact completeness of the setting, including the comparable fence, gates, garage, path and apparently original garden layout.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study, Allan Willingham, 1986; Greater Geelong - City of Newtown Urban Conservation Study, Richard Peterson, 1997;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	16305
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

A five bay, hip-roofed, 1920s house, clearly architect designed. It has a Marseilles cement tile roof and is all cement rendered reinforced concrete, with geometric Cubist forms, decoration and Classicising elements. There is a large gable roof across the site, with a half-hip wing to the right-hand side. In the second and third bays, the roof sweeps down over the verandah, which is symmetrical, on squat Doric column pairs. The entrance is in the second bay, with scroll decoration over. The third bay has a balcony over its central third, with slot spandrel decoration, with a shallow front supported on three brackets. Windows are tripartite, with fine leadlight decoration in side sashes and centre light. There are hoods supported on bracket pairs. The fourth bay has a gable facing with checkerboard decoration in the upper section supported on small bracket pairs. The fifth bay, the half hip, is set back.

Entrance steps and serpentine path are red coloured concrete. The fence is compatible, with a capping and recessed panels and a pergola over the vehicular gates. They are wrought iron geometric patterns, covered in Virginia creeper. There is a compatible garage at the rear. All of the joinery appears to have its original dark green paint finish.

The garden layout may be original.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*