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# Freemasons Hall (Formerly Geelong Unity & Prudence Lodge)



Freemasons - 79 Gheringhap Street, Geelong

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## Location

79 Gheringhap Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 213872

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO948

## Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

C Listed - Local Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, this Masonic hall shows a typically innovatory approach to the strict iconography of the Masonic craft by two of Geelong's best-known architects, Percy Everett and J Angus Laird. It also represents the first structure to be custom-designed for the Geelong Lodge, which itself is one of the oldest in the State. It is remarkably well preserved externally and faithfully represents the aesthetic choices made by some of Geelong's foremost citizens of the time and one of its most celebrated designers, Percy Everett, as demonstrated in the praise meted out in the *Geelong Advertiser*. It also plays a role in the Geelong's civic thoroughfare, Gheringhap Street, with its fine array of notable public and ecclesiastic structures.

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1993;

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Hermes Number 18912

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Reminiscent of Percy Everett's Peace Memorial, the main facade possesses the conservative Classical revival framework expected of a Masonic Hall, but it is executed in a more innovatory way than the comparable examples of the era. For example, the Masonic hall in Dandenong Road, Malvern is a typical Classical revival, Neo-grec design, compared to the free treatment used here and on the Collingwood Masonic Temple.

Composed in three parts, the centre bay holds the Doric porch and balconette, but the main element here is the tall-arched window above, configured as an exaggerated serlian motif.

Contemporary Greek revival elements, such as the lattice-pattern window mullions in the flanking window strips, connect the building with main-stream architectural work, such as the former Port Authority Building, Melbourne. Similarly, detailing is achieved structurally by the use of face-brick in patterns and projecting panels, rather than the traditional cement. The impressive verticality of the three-storeys on the facade translates to two on the side and rear elevations. Similarly, red-brick walling replaces the more expensive manganese but the custom-pattern of the metal-framed window mullions is continued on the rear elevation.

*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/>*