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# Merchiston Hall



B0256 Merchiston Hall

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## Location

2a Garden Street,, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No B0256

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

National

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0192

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 19, 2005

Merchiston Hall, an eight room two storey stone mansion with outbuildings was erected in 1856 for James Cowie, a pioneer Geelong merchant, businessman and politician. Backhouse and Reynolds were the architects for this stucco rendered Italianate mansion with single storey colonnaded verandah and upper balcony. James Leggatt built the mansion at a cost of c. 5,000 pounds. G F Belcher, a Geelong businessman, acquired the property in 1872.

Merchiston Hall, which was originally built to command views over Corio Bay and the infant Botanical Gardens, is perhaps the finest Italianate style mansion in Geelong and most distinguished work of the accomplished architectural firm of Backhouse and Reynolds. The disciplined axial composition is sensitively detailed and an

exemplar of Italianate architecture of the mid nineteenth century in Victoria. James Cowie was a significant pioneer resident and later M L C for Geelong.

Merchiston Hall is maintained in excellent, near original condition.

Classified: 21/05/1959

Hermes Number 68236

Property Number

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*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/>*