



**ALPINE SHIRE
HERITAGE REVIEW (VOL. 1)
REPORT + APPENDIX A**

JUNE 2026



**ARCHITECTS
CONSERVATION +
CONSULTANTS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

RBA acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call the Alpine Shire. We recognise their continuing connection to Country and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We extend that respect to all First Nation peoples.

COVER PAGE IMAGE

Big Tree (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Smith Street, Myrtleford (HO35)

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Contemporary and historical sources utilised in the preparation of this report are acknowledged and referenced in footnotes and/or figure captions.

REPORT REGISTER

The following report register documents the development and issue of *Alpine Shire Heritage Review Report* as prepared by RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants in line with its quality management system.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1	BRIEF	1
1.2	RESPONSE TO BRIEF	1
1.3	LOCATION/STUDY AREA	3
1.4	AUTHORSHIP	4
1.5	LIMITATIONS	4
1.6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1	INTRODUCTION	5
2.2	GUIDING DOCUMENTS	5
2.3	SITE INSPECTIONS	6
2.4	RESEARCH	6
2.5	PREVIOUS STUDIES	7
2.6	THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY	7
2.7	ANALYSING THE EXTANT FABRIC	8
2.8	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	9
2.9	CITATION FORMAT	10

3 FINDINGS

3.1	INTRODUCTION	10
3.2	EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS	10
3.3	PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAYS	10
3.4	APPLICATION OF THE HERCON CRITERIA	11

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1	INTRODUCTION	12
4.2	EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS	14
4.3	PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAYS	16
4.4	PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS	17

APPENDIX A – EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS - CITATIONS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BRIEF

The Alpine Shire Council commissioned RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants (RBA) to prepare the Alpine Shire Heritage Review in February 2024. This project was developed as a way of progressing some of the heritage work identified in the Alpine Planning Scheme Review of 2023.

The two key aspects that constitute this brief relate to:

- Preparation of citations for 65 existing heritage places included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay for which there is either no, or minimal at best, information included in Hermes (several were identified by the National Trust),
- Review the 17 citations (included in the Alpine Shire Heritage Study, 2008) that were not included in Amendment C39.

1.2 RESPONSE TO BRIEF

BACKGROUND

Whereas previously individually significant places within a precinct might be afforded an individual heritage overlay (which may have been introduced prior to the precinct being created and left as a separate HO), it has become standard heritage practice to streamline the system (that is, avoid having two HOs apply at one place).

There are some instances, however, where a separate heritage overlay is required as different controls would apply (e.g., there is a significant tree on a particular site). Such situations are explained in the *PPN01: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (August 2018) as follows:

The provisions applying to individual buildings and structures are the same as the provisions applying to areas, so there is no need to separately schedule and map a significant building, feature or property located within a significant area.

The only instance where an individual property within a significant area should be scheduled and mapped is where it is proposed that a different requirement should apply. For example, external painting controls may be justified for an individual building of significance but not over the heritage precinct surrounding the building.

Alternatively, tree controls may be justified for a specific tree or property within a significant precinct but not over the whole precinct. In such situations the individual property or tree should be both scheduled and mapped.

Significant buildings or structures within a significant precinct can be identified through a local planning policy.

All places included on the VHR however are required to be separately listed in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay according to Section 56 (1) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

1.2.1 INITIAL SCOPE

WANDILIGONG PRECINCT (H083)

Of the 65 existing heritage places to be reviewed 43 are included in the Wandiligong precinct (H083).

Although the 'Wandiligong Heritage Study – Stage 2' was undertaken in 2008 by LGRM - Services, this report however lacks detail on the initial 43 individual buildings included in the Schedule (a further two HOs have been added in recent years) that form the precinct as well as the precinct as a whole in the accepted format whereby the elements that are significant are clearly identified in the 'what is significant' section and the relevant heritage values are defined and articulated in the 'how is it significant' and 'why is it significant' sections.

Given that the 43 places are included with a precinct, rather than preparing a separate citation/SoS for each, a detailed schedule was prepared as part of the citation for H083.

In the schedule, details about each individual HO within the precinct were included:

- Name
- Address
- Date of construction (if known, mainly for public buildings)
- Summary description – roof (form and cladding), chimneys (if present), wall materials, façade configuration (symmetrical or asymmetrical), summary details around the door (if visible), windows and verandah.

Note that two of the places included in the list at Wandiligong – HO72 Primary School No.275) and HO82 (Growlers Gold Bucket Dredge Site) - are included on the VHR (so that Heritage Victoria are the responsible authority) and have an appropriate SoS. The school is included within HO83 however the dredge site is not.

OTHER EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS

Of the remaining 21 places (not included on the VHR), there are:

- 11 trees or avenues,
- 10 buildings.

PROPOSED HERITAGE PLACES

The 17 citations to be reviewed for places removed post-exhibition from Amendment C39.

The places ranged in type from a cairn and shelters in the high country, tobacco kilns, two former hospitals now used as residences, a dredge hole, and a concrete bridge, among others.

1.2.2 ADDITIONAL SCOPE

As the project evolved, updated citations for two other existing heritage overlays were requested by Council and subsequently prepared:

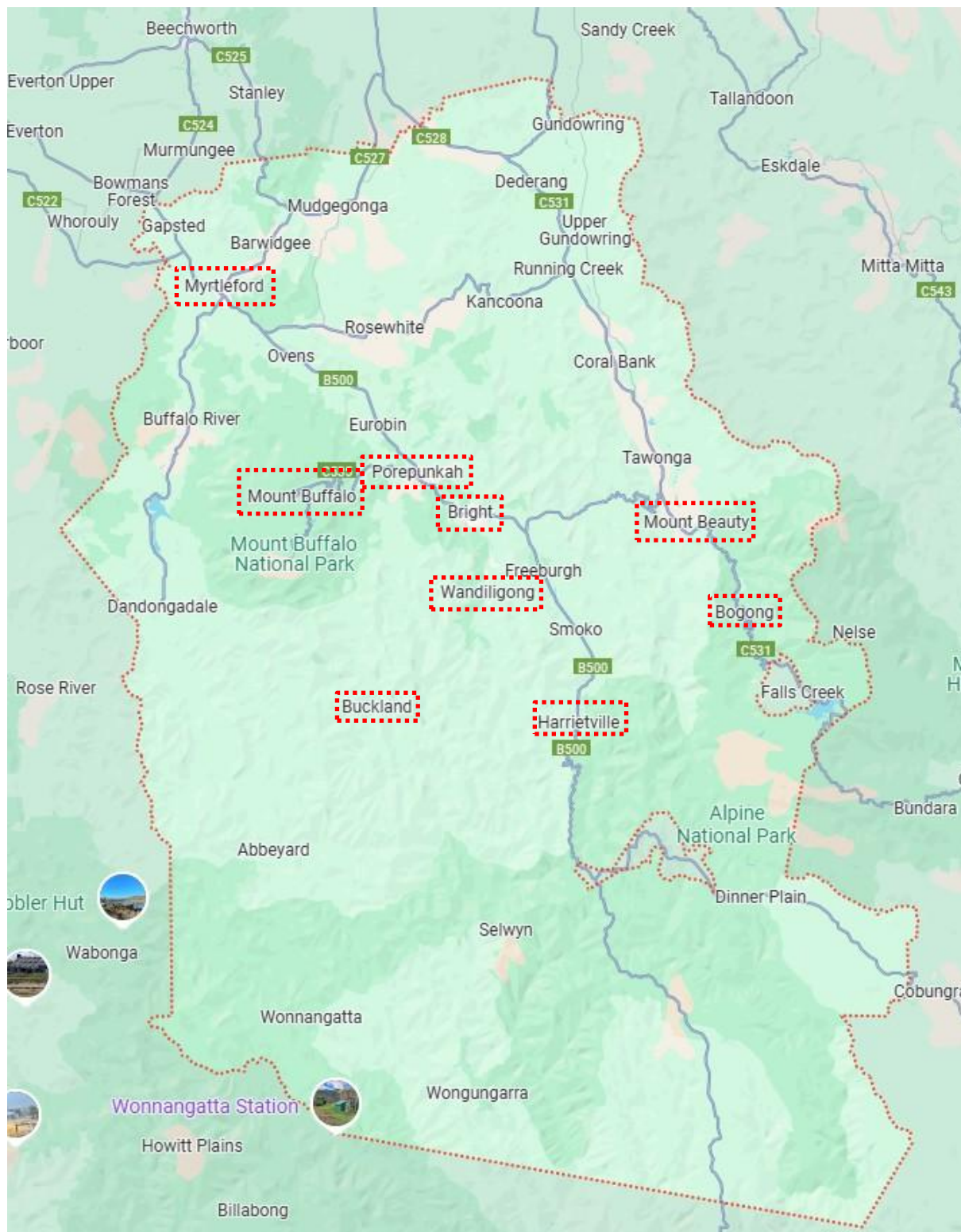
- HO94 - All Saints Anglican Church, 1 Church Street, Bright
- HO175 - Ivan Swinburne Reserve, Great Alpine Road, Myrtleford

In addition, the opportunity was taken to combine two inter-related heritage overlays in Bright:

- HO11 - Former Bright Railway Station
- HO118 - Former Bright Railway Goods Shed and Crane Mill Road and Steel Water Tank

1.3 LOCATION/STUDY AREA

The sites to be reviewed were located across the Shire. Many were in the towns of Bright, Myrtleford and Wandiligong which have a high concentration generally of heritage places. A few were in smaller localities such as Buckland, Germantown and Harrietville and a few were in the mountainous areas including Mt Buffalo and Bogong.



Map of the Alpine Shire, highlighting most of the localities where places were located (Source: Google)

1.4 AUTHORSHIP

The Alpine Shire Heritage Review has been prepared by an RBA team led by Anthony Hemingway and the following personnel:

- Anthony Hemingway, Principal: Heritage, and architectural historian
- Patrick Wilson, senior heritage consultant/professional historian
- Chamathya Gunawardena, heritage consultant
- Nicci Foster, heritage planner and student archaeologist
- Kristiana Scheffel, professional historian/ heritage consultant

1.5 LIMITATIONS

The Alpine Shire Heritage Review was restricted to assessing post-contact built and some landscape heritage components. No investigation was undertaken of potential Aboriginal cultural heritage matters, which is subject to a different Act.

1.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RBA gratefully acknowledges the assistance rendered by Council officers and John Taylor of the Myrtleford & District Historical Society.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The methodology adopted in undertaking the Review was in accordance with the following two guiding documents:

- 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' – Planning Practice Note 1 (August 2018), and
- Burra Charter or Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Australia ICOMOS, rev. 2013).

The key tasks for the Alpine Shire Heritage Review included:

- Site inspections,
- Historical research and analysis of the extant building fabric in relation to documentary evidence,
- Analysing the intactness and integrity of the extant building fabric as part of preparing a physical description,
- Assessment of the significance of each place based on the research and the extant fabric, as well as a comparative analysis,
- Preparation of citations (Statement of Significance, history, and description) for those places warranting heritage protection, with reference to the relevant HERCON criteria, and
- Recommendations for any specific controls and extent of the proposed heritage overlay.

2.2 GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The places being reviewed in this heritage study, both those currently included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay and those proposed to be, have been assessed on a first principal basis according to the guiding framework employed for assessing heritage places of local heritage significance in Victoria:

- Applying the Heritage Overlay
- The Burra Charter

APPLYING THE HERITAGE OVERLAY (PPN01)

Applying the Heritage Overlay: Planning Practice Note 1 (August 2018) – a Victoria Government publication – provides guidance about the use of the Heritage Overlay, including the following:

- What places should be included in the Heritage Overlay?
- What are recognised heritage criteria?
- Writing Statements of Significance.

In particular, it outlines how the assessment of heritage significance should be undertaken; for instance, the employment of the HERCON Criteria, satisfying requisite thresholds, and the emphasis put on a place's ability to tangibly demonstrate heritage significance.

The practice note indicates that the HERCON criteria are to be employed when assessing heritage significance (refer to section 2.8).

BURRA CHARTER

The methodology adopted for the study is generally consistent with the terminology principles, and processes outlined in the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance*, *The Burra Charter* (rev. 2013) and its practice notes.

Article 1 of the *Charter* provides the following definitions employed with this review:

- **Place** means a geographically defined area. It may include elements, objects, spaces and views. Place may have tangible and intangible dimensions.

- **Cultural significance** means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations.
- Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.
- Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.
- **Fabric** means all the physical material of the place including elements, fixtures, contents, and objects.
- **Setting** means the immediate and extended environment of a place that is part of or contributes to its cultural significance and distinctive character.

2.3 SITE INSPECTIONS

This fieldwork was undertaken over several days for the initial phase during March 2024 and for the second phase in December 2024.

These inspections aimed at confirming the likely period of construction and relative intactness/integrity of the individual places. Every site was recorded photographically, with some on-site inspections being possible.

The level of visibility from the public realm varied though most sites were visible with only a few being (largely) concealed by a high fence, deep setbacks or dense foliage

Where an element/building was partly/wholly obscured or could only be viewed at a distance, research was subsequently undertaken (aerial maps, historical research, real estate photographs in some instances, etc.) in order to make a reasonably informed view of its original and likely existing state.

2.4 RESEARCH

In the preparation of the citations, there was a reliance on relevant scholarly works, heritage studies, and historical images, especially aerial photographs.

Key resources utilised during this stage include, but were not limited to:

PRIMARY SOURCES

Aerial + Street View Imagery

- Geoscience Australia
- Google Street View Archive
- Landata
- Nearmap

Other (images, maps, archival research, digitised newspapers, etc.)

- Certificates of title
- HERMES database
- National Library of Australia (NLA)
- Parish and Township Plans
- Public Records of Victoria (PROV) – especially public building files
- State Library of New South Wales (SLNSW)
- State Library of Victoria (SLV)
- Trove – newspapers including:
 - *Age, Argus and Herald*
 - *Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness*

- *Myrtleford Times*
- *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*
- *Victoria Government Gazette*

SECONDARY SOURCES

- *Back to Myrtleford*, 1929, SLV
- Brian Lloyd and Kathy Nunn, *Bright Gold: the story of the people and the gold of Bright and Wandiligong*, Histec [Brighton] 1987
- Brian Lloyd, *Gold at Harrierville – gold mining at Harrierville 1852-1982*, Shoestring Press [Wangaratta] 1982
- Bet Moore with Dave Deakin *Nothing worth saving' : the history of the Wandiligong Preservation Society 1972-2005*, 2005
- Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford – Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby [Adelaide] 1973
- Wandiligong Preservation Society, *Wandiligong: a valley through time*, Wandiligong 1988

2.5 PREVIOUS STUDIES

The relevant studies were undertaken by LGRM – Services as follows:

- 'Thematic Environmental History' (29 June 2004)
- 'Wandiligong Heritage Study – Stage 2' (2008)
- 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study – place citations' (2008)
- 'Mount Beauty and Bogong Heritage Study – Stage 2' (2008)

Two earlier typological studies were also relevant:

- 'Survey of the street trees in the township of Bright', Jeffery Mish (1988)
- 'Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Survey', Graeme Butler & Associates (1996)

2.6 THEMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

The *Thematic Environmental History* of the Alpine Shire (2004) provides an understanding of the important themes in the municipality. It was prepared in 2004 by LGRM – Services and six primary themes, some with multiple sub-themes, were devised based on *Australian Historic Themes* (published by Australian Heritage Commission in 2000), rather than the more specific *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes* (published by Heritage Council of Victoria in 2010).

Consideration of the Thematic Environmental History allows for a nuanced or non-standard approach to the assessment of some places that embody an under-represented theme. As a result, some altered places might be considered significant if they were a rare example of a type.

The *Thematic Environmental History* provides a basis for the inclusion of places in the Heritage Overlay according to the following themes:

- Setting
- Peopling Australia - Fighting for land
 - Developing local, regional and national economies
 - Surveying the continent - looking for agricultural land
 - Developing primary production
 - Developing primary production - Grazing stock
 - Developing primary production - Developing agricultural industries

- Surveying the continent - Looking for precious metals
- Utilising natural resources - Mining
- Utilising natural resources - Making forests into saleable resources
- Utilising natural resources - Tapping natural energy sources
- Catering for tourists, Lodging People
- Altering the environment - Regulating waterways
- Building settlements, towns and cities
 - Making settlements
 - Significant phases
- Governing
 - Administering Australia - Conserving fragile environments (scientific)
 - Administering Australia - Conserving Australian resources
 - Administering Australia - Conserving fragile environments
- Peopling Australia - Migrating to seek opportunity

2.7 ANALYSING THE EXTANT FABRIC

A prerequisite for understanding a place's potential significance is the analysis of extant fabric. Such an investigation requires an understanding of a place's development, the intactness and/or integrity of the remaining fabric, and a comparison with other similar sites (if they exist).

The definitions provided by *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* for 'intactness' and 'integrity' have been adopted for the study:

- **Intactness:** refers to the degree to which a place or object retains its significant fabric. Note: Intactness should not be confused with condition – a place may be highly intact but the fabric may be in a very fragile condition.
- **Integrity:** refers to the degree to which the heritage values of the place or object are still evident and can be understood and appreciated (for example, the degree to which the original design or use of a place or object can still be discerned). If considerable change to a place or object has occurred (through encroaching development, changes to the fabric, physical deterioration of the fabric etc) the significant values may not be readily identifiable and the place or object may have low-level integrity.

Generally, the issue of intactness and integrity – the ability to 'read' a place as to how it appeared or functioned originally or has evolved over time (if such developments contribute to its heritage value or are readily understandable, sympathetic, or unintrusive) – is considered critical in determining relative heritage significance.

The key consideration is whether cumulative change or later intervention/s has critically compromised a place's presentation and/or significance. This question is assessed on a case-by-case basis; however, modifications have generally been considered in light of their impact on the ability to interpret/understand the heritage item from the public domain or if they dominate the original part.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

An important aspect of any heritage assessment is comparing a place with others of its typology within the municipality in order to determine how the site in question differs from other similar examples.

An understanding of the thresholds for local significance was based on reviewing the statements of significance for existing Heritage Overlays in the Alpine Shire and the *Alpine Shire Thematic History*, as well as the authors' experience of similar examples more broadly across Victoria.

2.8 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HERCON CRITERIA

These widely used criteria were adopted at the 1998 Conference on Heritage (HERCON) and are based on the earlier and much-used Australian Heritage Commission (now Australian Heritage Council, AHC) criteria for the Register of the National Estate (RNE).

The HERCON criteria are essentially a rationalised (more user-friendly) version of the AHC Criteria (which included different sub-criteria for cultural or natural heritage). It is also noted in the aforementioned practice note that 'The adoption of the above criteria does not diminish heritage assessment work undertaken before 2012 using older versions of criteria.'

Reference to the relevant HERCON criteria is included in brackets within the statements of significance. The criteria are outlined in the following table.

CRITERION DEFINITION	
A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).
B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).
C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential)
D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness)
E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).
F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).
G	Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance)
H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

2.9 CITATION FORMAT

A citation has been prepared for each place recommended to remain or to be included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Alpine Planning Scheme. Each citation includes:

- Name and address,
- Construction date/s,
- Period/s,
- Date inspected,
- Images,
- Statement of Significance,
- Description,
- History,
- Thematic context,
- Comparative analysis,
- Proposed Heritage Overlay schedule controls,
- Recommended extent of the Heritage Overlay,

3 FINDINGS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The discussion of the findings has been discussed according to the following:

- existing heritage overlays
- proposed heritage places

3.2 EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS

The citations for the existing heritage overlays provided minimal detail. At best, there was a paragraph relating to the history and a short sentence for the description.

As such, the citations had to be prepared according to contemporary standards.

The significance of 21 existing heritage overlays was reviewed and 18 were determined to warrant retention in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

Two places had been demolished or removed (HO24 and HO33) and one was unnecessary (HO28) as two related items were on the same allotment (HO27 and HO28). Two inter-related adjacent/overlapping places (HO11 and HO118) were combined so that HO118 became redundant.

The mapping for places in Myrtleford area was indicative at best and in all instances demarcated by a small square, so that they do not align with the property boundaries as is standard practice and indicated in the PPNO1. One place – HO23 – was difficult to find because the location was inaccurate by over 1 kilometre.

WANDILIGONG PRECINCT (HO83)

The Wandiligong Precinct includes 42 individual heritage overlays that were to be reviewed (excluding HO204 and HO206, which were recently assessed, as well as one place included on the VHR [HO72/VHR – H1638]), which are all buildings dating to the late 19th century, many of which are cottages. A detailed schedule of these places (including HO72) was prepared as part of the citation for HO83 including a summary description and any known history, mainly for the public buildings.

3.3 PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAYS

Whilst the citations prepared in 2008 broadly conform with the standards outlined in the PPNO1, they are less detailed than contemporary best practice.

Specifically, it was necessary to review and update or supplement:

- the SoS, especially the 'What is Significant' section.
- the history, as a greater array of historical resources are available on-line than when the study was undertaken.
- the physical description, provide more detail and review in light of any changes that may have occurred in the ensuing 17-year period.
- the proposed extent of the heritage overlay and the appropriate planning controls.
- Provide accurate mapping, which required assistance from Council for places in the high country.

Of the 17 proposed overlays, five were not recommended to be included in the Schedule and accordingly, citations were not prepared. Of these five places, four were found not to meet the threshold because they were considerably altered and so the extant fabric did not represent what had been previously defined as significant. In the other case, the place, Eurobin Falls, was included in Buffalo National Park and is a place of scenic beauty with no historic built fabric associated with the place of any significance. As such, there was no basis for requiring a heritage overlay as the place is protected by a government agency/department.

As such, twelve were assessed as reaching the threshold for local significance and citations were prepared.

3.4 APPLICATION OF THE HERCON CRITERIA

In the context of a local heritage study, a place is required to satisfy one or more of the eight HERCON Criteria at the local level according to *Applying the Heritage Overlay* (PPN01, 2018).

The process outlined in the publication *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines* was employed to assess the potential significance of places, albeit in a form modified for application at the local level. This publication assists in determining the ability of the extant fabric to demonstrate significance and which Criterion/Criteria would be most appropriate.

The three criteria most commonly employed are Criterion A (Historical value), Criterion D (Representative value), and/or Criterion E (Aesthetic value). How these criteria might apply is outlined as follows:

- Criterion A: Clear physical evidence of the place's associations with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life recognised (or recognisable) as having historical importance to the Alpine Shire's cultural history.
- Criterion D: The principal characteristics of its class, which is of historical importance to the Shire.
- Criterion E: That the attributes/qualities of a place are manifestly distinctive or exceptional, of landmark status, or widely recognised/appreciated. It should be noted that from a heritage assessment perspective, aesthetics is not synonymous with beauty.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The section summarises the various recommendations in the citations.

4.2 EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS

RETAIN

It is recommended that the 21 existing heritage overlays for which new citations have been prepared (refer to Appendix A) are retained and are adopted by Council. Subsequently their Statements of Significance should be included in Clause 72.04 as Incorporated Documents.

NAME AND/OR ADDRESS

In some instances, changes have recommended to either the name and/or address and extent/mapping.

HO	EXISTING NAME	ADDRESS	CHANGE	RATIONALE
HO4	Powder Magazine	7-11 Bakers Gully Road, Bright	Former Bright Powder Magazine	Better define the place
HO5	Bunya Pines	Burke Street, Bright	Burke Street Plantings	Mixture of Bunya pines and Himalayan cedars, and Corsican pines.
HO7	Quercus palustris (Pin Oak) x 88	Delaney Ave (between Hawthorn & Tyntynder Lanes), Bright	Avenue of Oaks and Himalayan Cedars	There is a mixture of trees, with more cedars than oaks (three types, with Pin oak being the most common, but also Scarlet and English oaks)
HO13	Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17	Wood St (between Anderson St and Gully Creek), Bright	Wood Street Plantings	Mixture of Bunya pines and Himalayan cedars, Corsican pines and a Ponderosa pine
HO194	All Saints Anglican Church	1 Church Street, Bright	All Saints Anglican Church Complex	Includes several elements - a vicarage, front gate and fence, and several trees
HO11	Former Bright Railway Station	Railway Ave and 1B Blue Wren Road, Bright	Former Bright Railway Station Complex	Expand to include HO118, i.e., goods shed and water tower
HO23	Italian Cypress Tree	Old Buffalo Heffer Station, Lot 2 PS 219290, Parish of Myrtleford	Two Italian Cypresses, 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang	There are two cypresses and the location was Incorrect.
HO25	Former State Primary School	29 Elgin St, Myrtleford	Former State School No. 955	More precisely identify the place.
HO26	Elms Road Reserve	Lawrence St (Corner Duke St), Myrtleford	Pair of English Elms	More precisely identify the place.
HO27	Rothery Home	82 Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd), Myrtleford	Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime, 82-86 Myrtle St	In part due to combining separate citations for the house and tree

HO	EXISTING NAME	ADDRESS	CHANGE	RATIONALE
HO29	Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gum), South west of Lot 3 LP 33528	Parish of Myrtleford, North west corner of Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd) and Prince St, Myrtleford	River Red Gum Myrtle Street and Prince Street, Myrtleford	Include scientific name under tree controls (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>) Simplify address
HO30	RSL Memorial & Memorial Square	Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd) & Clyde St, Myrtleford	Memorial Square	To give significance to all the elements in the square
HO31	Phoenix Tree, Medi Median Reserve, South of Lot 17 LP 16933, Parish of Myrtleford	Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd), west of Prince Street, Myrtleford	Myrtle Street – Median Reserve	Simplify address
HO34	St Andrew's Church	32 Smith Street, Myrtleford	Former St Andrew's Church	No longer used as a church
HO35	Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gum),	Reserve No.1 PS 345771V, Parish of Myrtleford, Smith St (Yarrah Pl), Myrtleford	'Big Tree' (River Red Gum) Big Tree Reserve	This tree is widely referred to as the Big Tree. Include scientific name under tree controls (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)
HO175	Ivan Swinburne Reserve	Great Alpine Road, Myrtleford	Ivan Swinburne Reserve and Trees Add (intersection with J Brown Road)	Better define site and location

EXTENT

The mapping for all those in Myrtleford were indicative only and so more appropriate and accurate mapping has been required to align it with the heritage place. Elsewhere, the mapping was generally appropriate with only some minor alterations to the tree avenue in Burke Street, Bright (HO5).

In Myrtleford, where there is a clearly defined parcel of land associated with the site, the mapping has been extended to include it. For trees, a curtilage of five metres from the edge of the canopy has generally been applied.

REMOVE FROM THE SCHEDULE

It is recommended that the following four places are removed from the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

HO	NAME	ADDRESS	RATIONALE
HO24	O'Donnell's House	14 Elgin Street, Myrtleford	Demolished Also known as the Barwidgee Homestead
HO28	Rothery Tree	82 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford	Unnecessary as part of the same site as HO27 (82-86 Myrtle Street)
HO33	Pine Tree	34 Smith Street, Myrtleford	Removed

HO	NAME	ADDRESS	RATIONALE
HO118	Former Bright Railway Goods Shed and Crane Mill Road and Steel Water Tank	23 Mil Road, Mill Road [sic], Bright	Combine with HO11 (Bright Railway Station)

REMOVE FROM THE SCHEDULE WITHIN HO83

It is recommended that individual heritage overlay associated with 43 places within HO83, the Wandiligong Precinct, are removed as it is unnecessary to have two heritage overlays apply at the one site.

The following group of 43 places have been consequently graded as 'Contributory' to HO83 in the schedule included in the revised statement of significance and citation for the precinct.

HO	NAME	ADDRESS
HO41	Cottage	42 Centenary Ave, Wandiligong
HO43	Timber cottage	44 Centenary Ave, Wandiligong
HO38	House	69 Centenary Ave, Wandiligong
HO42	Cottage	74 Centenary Ave, Wandiligong
HO39	Cottage	78 Centenary Ave, Wandiligong
HO40	"Hazelbrook"	Centenary Ave, Wandiligong CA S31, Section T, Parish of Bright
HO44	House	28 Grenvilles Rd, Wandiligong
HO46	Timber Cottage	22 Growlers Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO47	Cottage	2 Jagoes Gully Rd, Wandiligong
HO48	Cottage	37 Jagoes Gully Rd, Wandiligong
HO49	Timber Cottage	9 Long Tunnel Track, Wandiligong
HO50	Former Church of England	483 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO51	Former Library	479 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO52	Brick Cottage	375 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO55	Former Parsonage (Uniting Church)	497 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO56	Uniting Church	499 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO57	Timber Shop and Dwelling	517 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO58	Former General Store	521 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO59	"Nut Cottage"	5 Gillards Lane, Wandiligong
HO60	"Until"	571 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO61	Former Post Office	518 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO62	"Redruth"	516 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong

HO	NAME	ADDRESS
HO63	Manchester Unity Hall	, 462 Morses Creek Road, Wandiligong
HO64	House	444 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO65	House	418 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO66	House	406 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO67	"Mill Cottage"	382 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO68	"Coburn Villa"	380 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO69	General Store	522 Morses Creek Rd, Wandiligong
HO53	Timber Cottage	10 Norleys Lane, Wandiligong
HO71	"Cora Linn"	CA 2, Section W, Parish of Bright Peabody Rd, Wandiligong
HO74	Timber Cottage	135 School Rd, Wandiligong
HO54	Timber House and early Sheds	136 School Road, Wandiligong
HO75	Former Roman Catholic Church (St Peters)	155 School Rd, Wandiligong
HO73	Former Police Residence	169 School Rd, Wandiligong
HO45	Timber Cottage	2 Sidling Track, Wandiligong
HO76	"The Nut House" and Slab Cottage and Dairy and Cellar	, 48 Sidling Track, Wandiligong
HO70	Brick Cottage	3 Smithy Lane, Wandiligong
HO77	Cottage	6 Smithy Lane, Wandiligong
HO78	Cottage	33 White Star Rd, Wandiligong
HO79	Cottage	60 White Star Rd, Wandiligong
HO80	"Glenora"	45 Williams Rd, Wandiligong
HO81	"Claremont"	5 Williams Rd, Wandiligong

4.3 PROPOSED HERITAGE OVERLAYS

ADD TO THE SCHEDULE

It is recommended that the twelve proposed heritage overlays for which new citations have been prepared (refer to Appendix B) are adopted by Council. Subsequently their Statements of Significance should be included in Clause 72.04 as Incorporated Documents.

EXCLUDE FROM THE SCHEDULE

It is recommended that the following five potential heritage places included in the earlier heritage study from 2008 are not included in the Schedule for the reasons summarised in the table below.

NO.	ADDRESS	NAME	RATIONALE
HO214	7377 Great Alpine Road, Bright	Tobacco Kiln (Log)	One of two, redundant timber log kilns that were relocated from the Pizzini property at Eurobin in 2000. Initially part of a tobacco museum at Bright. The other kiln relocated to the Rotary Park in Myrtleford (HO208) is more intact and has greater integrity, as it retains its ridge ventilator.
HO128	776 Buckland Valley Road, Buckland	Tobacco Workers Houses	The three houses have been externally altered. They are completely reclad in metal sheeting with a shiplap profile, replacing original asbestos sheeting – likely corrugated to the base, vertically orientated, with battened sheeting to the gable (evident to two houses to the rear). The windows are timber-framed but were likely to have been sliding aluminium. The current format was in place by 2008, according to the photographs taken during stage 1.
HO93	Staircase Spur, Mt Bogong	Snow Pole Line	Of historical interest however the extant fabric is not associated with the late Victorian period when they were established (1895). No original or early poles survive, including the distinctive early 20th century metal/whistling type. It is understood that the poles need to be regularly renewed as they deteriorate due to the harsh conditions.
HO165	Mt Buffalo Road, Mt Buffalo	Eurobin Falls	No significant built fabric associated with site. Included within a National Park so natural beauty is protected.
HO193	6938 Great Alpine Road, Porepunkah	Former Ovens Crossing Inn	Remnant Victorian period stone fabric converted to a house. According to the owner, the building had collapsed and during the 1960s/70s it was used as a chook shed without a roof. With the conversion to a house, two rooms have been added to one end. There is no record of the original appearance however the current configuration is unlikely to relate to the format of the original outbuilding. Overall, the building has low integrity.

4.4 PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Specific planning scheme controls have been recommended to be retained for existing places or to be introduced to several of the proposed heritage overlays, as summarised below according to each control type. In some instances, an existing control is recommended to be removed.

4.4.1 EXTERNAL PAINT CONTROLS

External paint controls have been recommended for individual places with walls of rendered masonry, weatherboard, metal/battened sheeting, or face brick walls which have been overpainted. Note buildings with walls of unpainted face brick or stained timber are not included as a permit is required to change these according to Clause 43.01.

EXISTING

Add (0)

Remove (6):

- HO2, Blair, Cleve Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts, Bogong
- HO11, Former Bright Railway Station Complex, Bright
- HO27, Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store, and Common Lime, Myrtleford
- HO30, Memorial Square, Myrtleford
- HO34, Former St Andrew's Church, Myrtleford
- HO94, All Saints Anglican Church Complex, Bright

Retain (4):

- HO3, Alpine Hotel, Bright
- HO25, Former State School no. 995, Myrtleford
- HO32, Myrtleford Civic Centre, Myrtleford
- HO83, Wandiligong Precinct

PROPOSED:

Add (4):

- HO104, Pine House, Bright
- HO123, House (former Lyndhurst Private Hospital), Bright
- HO153, Avalon House, Harrietville
- HO168, MUMC Hut, Mt Feathertop

4.4.2 INTERNAL ALTERATION CONTROLS

Internal alteration controls have been recommended to be removed from the four of the existing and be retained at one place.

EXISTING

Remove (4):

- HO2, Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts, Bogong
- HO3, Alpine Hotel, Bright
- HO11, Former Bright Railway Station Complex, Bright

- HO34, Former St Andrew's Church, Myrtleford

Retain (1):

- HO32, Myrtleford Civic Centre, Myrtleford – Council Chambers

4.4.3 TREE CONTROLS

Tree Controls have been recommended - to be added, removed or retained - as follows:

EXISTING

Add (3):

- HO11, Former Bright Railway Station Complex, Bright – English elms
- HO32, Myrtleford Civic Centre, Myrtleford – Liquidambars x 3
- HO94, All Saints Anglican Church Complex, Bright – English elms and magnolia

Remove (3):

- HO25, Former State School no. 995, Myrtleford
- HO31, Phoenix Tree, Myrtleford
- HO34, Former St Andrew's Church, Myrtleford

Retain (12):

- HO5, Burke Street Plantings, Bright
- HO7, Avenue of Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Bright
- HO13, Wood Street Plantings, Bright
- HO23, Two Italian Cypressess, Myrtleford
- HO26, Pair of English Elms, Myrtleford
- HO27, Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store, and Common Lime, Myrtleford
- HO29, Red River Gum, Myrtleford
- HO30, Memorial Square, Myrtleford
- HO35, 'Big Tree' (Red River Gum), Myrtleford
- HO36, Coast Redwood, Porepunkah
- HO83, Wandiligong Precinct
- HO175, Ivan Swinburne Reserve and Trees, Myrtleford

PROPOSED:

Add (1)

- HO89, Clover Arboretum, Bogong

4.4.4 SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM CONTROLS

Solar Energy System controls have been recommended to all places as is standard heritage practice except for trees, and avenues.

EXISTING

Remove: all trees/avenues,

Retain: all others

PROPOSED

Add (8): all

4.4.5 OUTBUILDINGS OR FENCES

Fence or outbuilding controls have been recommended to be retained or included as follows:

EXISTING

Add (3):

- HO11, Former Bright Railway Station Complex, Bright – goods shed, water tank
- HO27, Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store, and Common Lime, Myrtleford – rear outbuilding
- HO34, Former St Andrew's Church, Myrtleford – brick front fence (excluding gate)

Retain (1):

- HO94, All Saints Anglican Church Complex, Bright – front fence

PROPOSED

Add (1):

- HO210, Three Concrete Tobacco Kilns, Myrtleford

4.4.6 PROHIBITED USES PERMITTED

Prohibited Uses Permitted controls have been recommended to be retained for one place and removed for another place as follows:

EXISTING

Add (0)

Remove (1):

- HO32, Myrtleford Civic Centre, Myrtleford

Retain (1):

- HO11, Former Bright Railway Station Complex, Bright

PROPOSED

Add (0)

4.4.7 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE PLACE**EXISTING**

Add (2):

Two river red gums have been identified as an Aboriginal Place on consultation with the local First Nations representatives:

- HO29, Red River Gum, Myrtleford
- HO35, 'Big Tree' (Red River Gum), Myrtleford

APPENDIX A – EXISTING HERITAGE OVERLAYS (vol. 1)

The following table summarises the individual heritage overlays recommended to be retained in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay and for which the citations are attached.

HO	NAME	ADDRESS
HO2	Blair Hut, Cleve Cole Memorial Hut, Cope Hut, Fitzgerald's Hut, Tawonga Huts	Alpine National Park
HO3	Alpine Hotel	7 Anderson Street, Bright
HO4	Former Bright Powder Magazine	7-11 Bakers Gully Road, Bright
HO5	Burke Street Plantings, Burke Street	Burke Street, Bright
HO94	All Saints Anglican Church Complex	1 Church Street, Bright
HO7	Avenue of Oaks and Himalayan Cedars	Delany Avenue, Bright
HO11	Former Bright Railway Station Complex	Railway Avenue and 1B Blue Wren Close, Bright
HO13	Wood Street Plantings, Wood Street	Wood Street, Bright
HO23	Two Italian Cypresses	154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang
HO25	Former State School no. 995	29 Elgin Street, Myrtleford
HO26	Pair of English Elms	51 Prince Street, Myrtleford
HO27	Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime	82-86 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford
HO29	Red River Gum	Myrtle Street and Prince Street, Myrtleford
HO31	Phoenix Tree	Myrtle Street - Median Reserve, Myrtleford
HO30	Memorial Square	Myrtle Street - Memorial Square, Myrtleford
HO32	Myrtleford Civic Centre	14 O'Donnell Avenue, Myrtleford
HO34	Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Church	32 Smith Street, Myrtleford
HO35	'Big Tree' (Red River Gum)	Big Tree Reserve, Myrtleford
HO36	Coast Redwood	Back Porepukah Road (Bright Country Golf Club), Porepukah
HO175	Ivan Swinburne Reserve and Trees	Great Alpine Road (intersection of J Brown Road), Myrtleford
HO83	Wandiligong Precinct	Wandiligong

HO2: BLAIR, CLEVE, COPE, FITZGERALD & TAWONGA HUTS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The *Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts*, High Plains, Bogong, are significant. They either date from the interwar period (1920s and 1930s) or later 20th century (Fitzgerald Hut, part of the Cleve, and some of the Tawonga group).

The general elements that are significant are the form, massing, and gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal. Floors are timber except for Blair's, which is earthen. Windows are varied type with timber to early 20th century buildings/parts and doors.

The other specific significant elements at each hut are:

- Blair Hut – walls of notched logs, rudimentary fireplace.
- Cleve (Cole Memorial) Hut - rubble granite construction including a squat chimney.
- Cope Hut – walls of corrugated metal sheeting, stone chimney, timber windows.
- Fitzgerald Hut – location and form only.
- Tawonga Huts (nos 1, 3, 4) – buildings with walls of corrugated metal sheeting, including a chimney to Hut 1

Hut 2 of the Tawonga group is not significant, as well as the fabric of the Fitzgerald Hut with its timber slab walls and concrete floor.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The *Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts*, High Plains, Bogong are of local historical and representative significance to the Alpine Shire.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The *Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts* are of historical significance for their long association with alpine grazing and particular families (Blair's and Fitzgerald's) and/or tourism, specifically bushwalking and skiing (Cleve, Cope, Tawonga group), providing enclosure in this isolated and harsh terrain. The earlier intact examples (Blairs, Cleve, Cope) in particular are iconic. Criterion A

The *Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts* are of representative significance as examples of rudimentary vernacular construction given their often-isolated location. Whilst some local granite has been employed - more substantial Cleve and some fireplaces – they are otherwise clad light weight (and more readily transportable) corrugated metal, including some chimneys (with an external timber-frame). Criterion D

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):

3.3.3 Developing Primary Production: Grazing Stock

The High Country graziers established a network of huts, yards and tracks throughout the summer pasture areas, grazing cattle and sheep. Grazing of horses was also carried out. In times of severe drought, it was not unusual for large numbers of sheep from distant areas such as the Riverina to be depastured in the Alps. In each of the drought years of 1902/03 and 1914/15, for instance, an estimated 40,000 sheep were depastured in the Bogong and Hotham high country.

The annual running of mobs of cattle to and from the High Country became a feature of twentieth-century life in the valleys of the Shire. As Melbourne-based bushwalking and ski clubs began venturing into the High Country from the 1920s onwards, they came into contact with the cattlemen, and used their huts for shelter. (p25)

3.3.9 Catering for Tourists: Lodging People

Bogong High Plains was skied from Mt Hotham in the 1920s, and the old mining track snow pole lines from the 1890s were renewed in 1925. The first winter skiing ascent of Mt Bogong was carried out in 1928, with access from Mountain Creek. Cleve Cole, a member of the Ski Club of Victoria (SCV), was instrumental in early promotion of Bogong, as access was improved. Cleve Cole died in shocking weather conditions on Mt Bogong in 1936, and the Cleve Cole Memorial Hut was dedicated in his honour in 1938.

As skiers penetrated further into the Alps, use was made of various existing cattlemen's huts, and new huts were built. These included the Feathertop Bungalow, opened by a consortium in 1925, and later run by the Victorian Railways. It was burnt down in the 1939 bushfires and not replaced. Another was Cope Hut, funded by the State Tourist Committee in 1929. Many others followed. (p59)

VICTORIAN ALPINE HUTS HERITAGE STUDY (1996):

A detailed assessments of the five huts was undertaken in 1996 as part of the 'Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Study' (Graeme Butler & Associates).

Details of each of the huts are summarised below.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

BLAIR'S HUT

Address	West Kiewa Loggin Road, Snake Valley	AMG Coordinates	Zone 55: 515450, 5913800
Construction Date	1931-32	Purpose/Use	Cattleman's Hut



Blair's Hut (Jimmy Harris, 2013)

(Source: Flickr, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jimmyharris/9313768128/>, accessed 12.02, 24)

SIGNIFICANCE (1996)

Blairs Hut is historically significant for its long association with alpine grazing and the Blair family. It has been pictured in many publications and was one of the huts used by early cross-country ski tourers, as noted in Weston's guide to mountain huts. The layout shown in this early plan has not changed.

It is now one of the oldest group of surviving cattlemens' huts and is a notable example of log construction (part new). The roof structure which is built up from full-length log purlins virtually as a continuation of the wall structure, is of particular interest as is the internal fireplace (also renewed). It is in good condition but many elements lack integrity to their original construction.

SUMMARY HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1922	Frank F. Blair reopens the stock route known as Constable Dungey's Track with government funding to establish it as a tourist track.
1923-24	Blair and his brother, Tom, construct the first hut at this location.
1925	Blair takes the first, or one of the first, overnight ski-touring parties to the High Plains, staying at Blair's hut.
1931-32	Blair's Hut is destroyed by fire but rebuilt shortly thereafter by Blair and his family. The hut is finished shortly after Christmas 1932. Photos from the time show the hut to have a bark roof with sapling frame and the fireplace similarly constructed of vertical bark slabs.
1968	Bark roof and chimney replaced with corrugated iron.

DATE	EVENT
1993	Renewal works to log walls and door. Some logs remain from the late 1940s.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Blair's Hut has been constructed of notched logs with a gable roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting.

There is a chimney located to the south elevation which has a roughly shaped flue of corrugated sheeting.

It has a rectangular floor plan with a single door built of hardwood planks and one, small awning window to the eastern wall. The floors are earthen, and stones have been loosely laid to create the fireplace.

The space is largely open with the exception of a timber table and two double bunk pole-framed sleeping platforms.

CLEVE COLE MEMORIAL HUT

Address	Camp Valley Walking Track, Camp Valley	AMG Coordinates	Zone 55: 529100, 5931900
Construction Date	1937	Purpose/Use	Tourism



Cleve Cole Memorial Hut
(Source: David Tatnall, 1991, SLV: H92.195/18)

SIGNIFICANCE (1996)

The hut is significant for its sustained link with the High Plains tourism and its reflection of that use in its siting, construction materials and form. The hut has been the subject of many publications because of its association with the now legendary cross-country skier, Cleve Cole. It is also architect designed and as such differs from most of the other structures on the High Plains. It shows more clearly the way the building design was intended to thwart the environment and provide comfort for its inhabitants than the typical vernacular cattlemen's hut. The use of stone construction also distinguishes it from other traditional mountain huts in Victoria: instead adopting the imagery of European and American alpine huts and park structures. This parallels similar use of rubble stone in the 1930s at reserves such as at the Buchan caves and the Yarra Bend National Park golf clubhouse (1934).

SUMMARY HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1936-37	Hut designed by architect Malcolm McColl and constructed in three stages during the summer of 1936-37. The first stage consisted of the public bunks and living space, the second included the club bunk room and the last, the kitchen, meal annexe and bathroom. It was built for the Ski Club of Victoria and dedicated in memory to pioneer cross-country skier, Cleve Cole, who died while skiing in 1936. Cole was the first to complete a winter ascent of Mt Bogong in 1928.
1948-49	Urgent works undertaken to stabilise the structure including renewal of the roof and flashing and rebuilding of the stone chimney.
1949	The Ski Club constructs a second shelter for public use and begins locking up the Cleve Cole Hut in order to reduce wear. The Club began charging access to the hut in order to raise funds for its continued maintenance.
1965	Mt. Bogong Club was formed and took over maintenance of the hut.
1989	Hut was extended, reputedly to the original plans, by the Bogong Ski Club.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Cleve Cole Memorial Hut was constructed in two phases, the original 1930s section and the 1989 store addition.

The walls are rubble granite and the gable roof is clad in corrugated metal sheeting. There is a single, squat chimney with projecting flue pipe.

A variety of window types are evident - timber-framed (awning, sash, and casements) to the original section and aluminium-framed sliding and glass bricks to the addition.

There is a singular entrance to the western elevation with a timber board door to an enclosed porch. Two plaques are located on the wall near the entry which read 'In memory of Cleve Cole died 1936' and 'Mt Bogong 1928-1978 first winter ascent August 1928 Ski Club of Victoria.' The latter was unveiled in 1978.

The hut is larger than other examples of its type with internal living space, kitchen, bunk rooms, bathroom, and store. The hut has hardwood timber flooring except for the store and bathroom which are concrete, with timber ceilings throughout.

COPE HUT

Address	Alpine Walking Track, Mt Cope	AMG Coordinates	Zone 55: 525858, 5915266
Construction Date	1929	Purpose/Use	Tourism



Cope Hut
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

SIGNIFICANCE (1996)

The hut is significant for its long-term link with the High Plains tourism and its faithful reflection of that use in its siting, construction materials and form. It was the first purpose-built tourist structure on the High Plains, it has received much publicity and use for that purpose over time and is in near original condition. It is also linked with the early survey work for the SEC Kiewa Scheme.

SUMMARY HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1929	The Cope Hut is constructed for the Ski Club of Victoria to provide additional facilities for ski tourism. The hut was designed by the Public Works Department, presumably under the supervision of Chief Architect E. Evan Smith.
1930s	Hut used by State Electricity Commission employees with new pack tracks cut allowing easier access to the building.
1988	Hut classified by the National Trust as the first hut purpose-built for ski-touring.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Cope's Hut is timber-framed and clad in corrugated metal sheeting with the base of the rubble granite chimney incorporated into the front elevation. It has a steeply pitched gable roof and rear skillion with a central recess.

The hut is situated on a slope with timber steps and covered entry in front of the timber board door.

The windows are timber framed however in a variety of types – fixed, four paned; sliding to the rear skillion recess (kitchen); and single casements to each gable end.

The main front room building consists of a central fireplace and timber table with sleeping areas at each end comprised of two sets of timber bunks and an elevated platform above, accessed by a timber ladder.

The two adjoining stores to the rear are accessed separately through the main room.

FITZGERALD'S HUT

Address	Kelly Track, Marms Point	AMG Coordinates	Zone 55: 532381, 5918555
Construction Date	1993	Purpose/Use	Cattleman's Hut



1903 Fitzgerald's Hut prior to fire.
(Source: David Tatnall, 1980s (printed 1991), SLV H92.195/1)



Hut in 1996
(Source: Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Study, p104)

SIGNIFICANCE (1996)

This hut has no known significance except for its symbolic link with the previous hut on the site and the limited controversy which surrounded its replacement.

SUMMARY HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1903	George Silas Fitzgerald, owner of Shannon Vale estate, constructs a hut along the Kelly Track. The hut is kept open for use by cattlemen, hikers, and skiers.
Ca.1928	Original shingled roof replaced with corrugated iron sheeting and chimney partly reconstructed.
1991	Hut destroyed after chimney caught fire.
1993	After much debate, the hut was reconstructed with support from the Wollangarra Youth Group at Licola, the Fitzgerald family, Heyfield and Glen Valley residents, the National Park Service and members of the school responsible for the fire.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

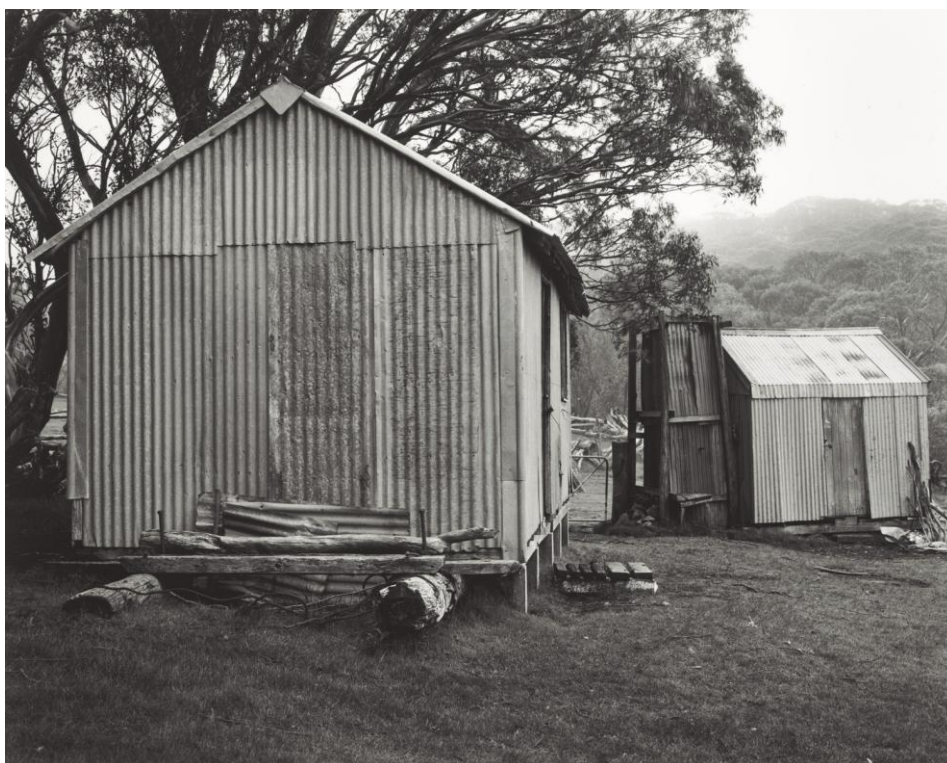
The extant hut has been constructed six metres northwest of the 1903 hut site. Whilst the primary footprint of the original with its external chimney has been recreated, it is different in its materiality (not weatherboard), fenestration pattern, and a verandah has been included. Sleepers, reputedly brought from the Nullabor Plains, have been employed over a drop slab resting on concrete strip footings.

The steeply pitched gable roof is clad in corrugated metal sheeting with a projecting chimney to the western elevation, whose shaft is clad with corrugated metal sheeting and framed with saplings. There is a single door to the south elevation and three, six-paned fixed windows.

The interior has timber flooring and ceiling, as well as a rubble stone fireplace with a timber mantel. The furniture consists of elevated timber bunks, a table, and a chest of drawers.

TAWONGA HUTS

Address	Fainter Fire Track, Mt Jaithmathang	AMG Coordinates	Zone 55: 518000, 5916300
Construction Date	1928-1950s	Purpose/Use	Worker Housing/Cattleman's Hut



Huts three (left) and one (right)
(Source: David Tatnall, 1980s (printed 1991), SLV H92.195/10)



Hut 2 (1996)
(Source: Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Study, p308)



Hut 4 (1996)
(Source: Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Study, p310)

SIGNIFICANCE (1996)

Hut 2 is of no known significance but huts 1 (modified), 3 and 4 appear to have links with the SEC Kiewa hydro-electricity project although perhaps not from the early date previously thought (1928) and not on this site. All huts are in the traditional form and materials associated with twentieth-century cattlemen's huts.

The huts have been linked with High Plains grazing since resiting here. The site itself has a longer grazing associated with the hut ruins nearby, lending significance to the group.

The log fence although probably renewed over the years is a strong and visually traditional element in the complex and the form hut site adds symbolic value to the place.

SUMMARY HISTORY

DATE	EVENT
1928	The first of the four huts (referred to in Butler's 1996 study as Hut 4) is reputedly built for the State Electricity Commission during their surveying work. This hut was originally known as the Pretty Valley refuge or Survey Hut.
1950s	Huts 1, 3, and 4 are relocated from Pretty Valley to the Tawonga Hut Creek site. Hut 2 is constructed on the site by cattlemen Ben and Jack Cooper.
2000	Hut 4 destroyed in fire and rebuilt.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

This group consists of four huts, three of which, Huts 1, 3, and 4, have been relocated from the SEC's work site in the Pretty Valley. Hut 2 was constructed on the site in the early 1950s. Hut 1 is a refuge, Huts 2 and 3 are accommodation, and Hut 4 is a store.

These huts are all timber-framed with corrugated metal cladding to their walls and gable roofs. The three SEC huts are all clad with some variant of 'Lysaght Custom Orb' sheeting with Hut 2 being distinguished from the SEC huts with its later, horizontal cladding.

Only Hut 1 has a chimney. It is located along a side elevation and has an external timber frame, comprised of bush poles and sawn members, with corrugated metal sheeting.

All four huts have a timber board door, of varying format, but only the SEC huts have windows. These are all fixed timber-framed, with those to Huts 3 and 4 being four-paned and that to Hut 1 being two-paned.

Huts 1 and 2 likely had potbellied stoves, but these have been removed, and in the case of Hut 1, replaced with a stone fireplace. The internal composition of Hut 3 is unknown due to the hut being locked, but presumably has timber flooring like the other three.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no other huts of this type in the high country included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

There is some comparison to be had with the only stone hut among the group – the Cleve Cole Memorial Hut – with HO96, which is another serial listing of three stone kiosks in Bright which are located at:

- Municipal Caravan Park, Cherry Lane,
- Delany Ave,
- Centenary Park, Mountbatten Ave.

This group of shelters are all constructed in random course rubble with gable roofs and were erected during the mid-1920s to support tourists and reflect the contemporary adoption of what is defined as 'Parkitecture'. The latter is a style of vernacular-influenced stone architecture that was developed in the early and middle 20th century by the United States National Park Service.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 216281

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register: B6018 (Mountain Huts - Weston's, Blair, Cleve Cole, Cope, Fitzgerald, Tawonga Huts Complex) – local significance.

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Blair, Cleve, Cope, Fitzgerald & Tawonga Huts*, High Plains, Bogong are included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire Planning Scheme* as HO2.

The huts are not currently mapped.

It would be appropriate to map them with a five-metre curtilage about each (group).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: Define a five-metre curtilage about each hut or group of huts.

Name change: None

Controls: Remove external paint and internal alteration controls

Future Assessment: Consider assessment of other huts in the municipality including Wallace's, Kelly's, Dinner Plain, and on Mt Buffalo near the Chalet.

H03: ALPINE HOTEL, BRIGHT

Address	7 Anderson Street, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Late 19 th century	Period	Victorian



Alpine Hotel
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Alpine Hotel* at 7-9 Anderson, Bright is significant. Whilst a relocated building from Growlers Creek (Wandiligong) was erected on the site in 1868, the two-storey section was constructed in 1890 to the design of Melbourne architect P E Treeby, who only practised for about five years in Australia. In 1938 it underwent a major remodelling in the Moderne style at the hand of R H McIntyre, who was responsible for many such contemporary renovations, but during the late 20th century most of the changes were reversed.

The significant part is the two-storey section including its splayed form, roof clad in corrugated sheet metal, one surviving chimney, parapet with reinstated Anglo-Dutch style detailing of pediments surmounted by orbs, re-instated two-level timber verandah (though longer than it was originally) with curvilinear brackets and balustrade, and original fenestration pattern of single, double-hung sash windows (those to the upper level with six-pane upper sashes).

The rendered finish to the ground floor is not significant.

The single storey sections to the east, west and rear are not significant. Whilst outside the extent of the heritage overlay, the separate two storey wing at the north end of the parcel of land is also not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Alpine Hotel* is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Alpine Hotel* is of historical significance for being among the earliest hotels established in the municipality and has operated at the site for over 150 years, serving the local community and travellers alike. The large two storey section reflects the increased economic prosperity in Bright brought about by the arrival of the railway during the 1880s, which in turn encouraged greater tourism to the region. (Criterion A)

The *Alpine Hotel* is of aesthetic significance as a mostly intact, prominent building in the Anglo-Dutch style, a rare such example in the municipality. The hotel is a landmark at the epicentre of Bright and is distinguished by its splayed footprint, pediments with orbs, two-level timber verandah with curvilinear balustrade, and remarkably intact pattern of windows. Whilst much of the detailing has been reinstated, it is generally consistent with the original. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (2008)²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reefing at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp66-67

constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local skifields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Alpine Heritage Study (2008)

In 1890 John McFarlane's new two-storey brick Alpine Hotel, furnished in the latest style, was a firm favourite with tourists. Captain McFarlane arrived in Australia aboard his own steamer, the *Australia*. After selling the ship he lived for some time in South Yarra before purchasing and rebuilding the Alpine Hotel. He was a founder of the Alpine Tourist Club and undertook many community activities. The Alpine club promoted Bright as the ideal tourist resort advertising the scenic beauty and the facilities of the town and its surroundings. The Alpine Hotel and the Empire Hotel (The Chalet) were the venues for the Australian Association for Advancement of Science Congress fird [sic] trip and also in 1891 when the Governor and his entourage visited Bright.

Additional History

The site relates to Lot 5 in Section G, Bright, which consisted of nearly 28 perches (696m²), and was acquired by J V Bradley on 29 August 1862.³ It was one of two adjacent parcels Bradley purchased, with the other being Lot 4 acquired on 13 January 1863.

The site was likely undeveloped until the first hotel building was erected on it in late 1868 – the earlier single storey Alpine Hotel, which was shifted from the Growlers Creek township (later Wandiligong).⁴ It seems that the first building occupied the east end of the site (at the corner with Barnard Street and is likely the section depicted in an early 20th photograph, following). The earliest reference to the Alpine Hotel at Growlers Creek dates to August 1860 when it was being used for a court proceeding,⁵ not an uncommon circumstance in the early years of rapidly evolving townships when hotels were used for a wide range of events and meetings. At this time, it was said to be built of pine with a shingle roof, comprised of 12 rooms, cellars and 10-stall stables, and was the terminus for the Beechworth coach.⁶ The hotel had been re-erected in Bright by 30 October 1868 when a 'Grand Ball and Supper' was held there.⁷

With the imminent arrival of the railway, the time was ripe for expansion. The two storey section was designed by Philip Edward Treeby, a Melbourne - based architect, who sought tenders for the erection of a brick hotel in Bright in April 1890,⁸ which was opened at the end of that year.

The advantages of the upgraded hotel and the services offered were advertised in December 1890 as follows:

The new brick two-story addition now open.
Tourists and visitors generally to this health Invigorating mountainous district will receive every attention at this hotel.
Mountain ponies and guides (by arrangement with Alpine Tourist Club)
The Commercial Travellers Association hotel
Coaches leave here for Omeo.

³ Township Plan of Bright B573(5)

⁴ Brian Lloyd and Kathy Nunn, *Bright Gold: the story of the people and the gold of Bright and Wandiligong*, Histec [Brighton] 1987, p74

⁵ 'Libel Case', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 29 August 1860, p1

⁶ Lloyd and Nunn, *Bright Gold*: ..., p41

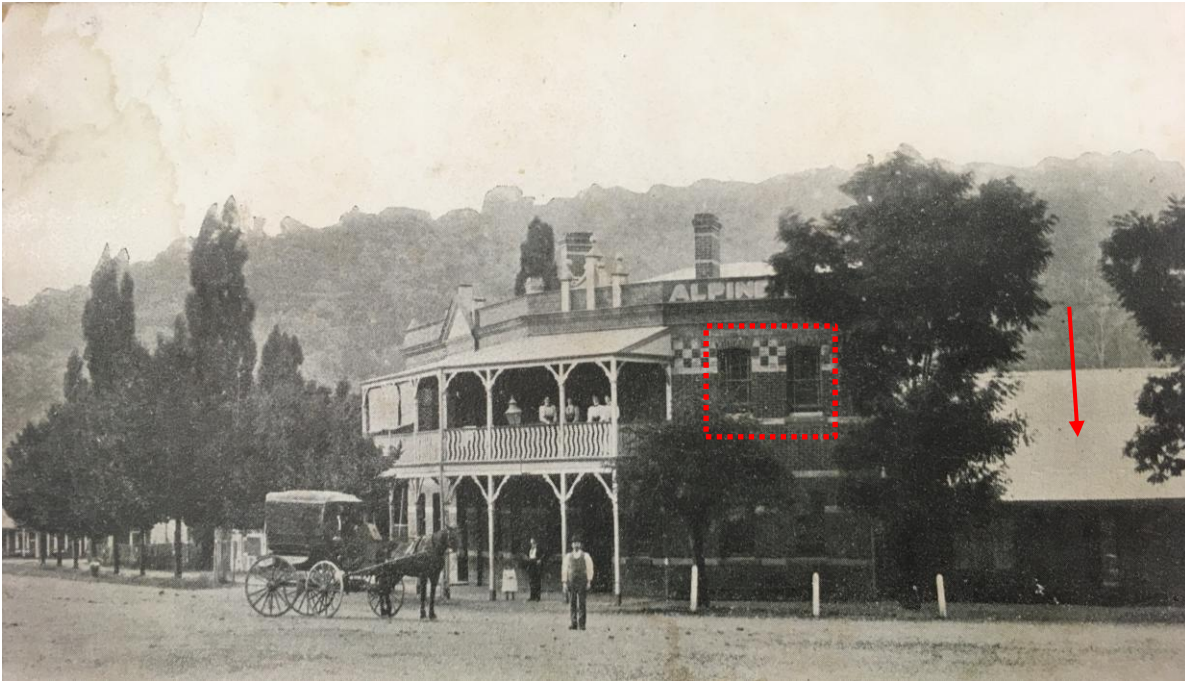
⁷ *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 22 October 1868, p3

⁸ Australian Architectural Index, record no. 16703. *Australasian Builder and Contractor's News*, 26.4.1890, p977

Letters and telegrams attended.
JOHN M FARLANE, Proprietor

Philip Edward Treeby (1860-1937) was born, educated and studied in Melbourne, though may have completed his architectural studies in England. He practised for about five years in Brighton before emigrating to South Africa in 1894, where he remained for the rest of his life.⁹ During his time practicing in Victoria, he designed a wide range of buildings including a few hotels.¹⁰

A photograph, taken about a decade or so after the completion of the two-storey section, shows the original banding (probably cream brick) and chequerboard section of brickwork to the upper level and margin lights (possibly only to the end bays). Also evident is a single storey section to the east with a high gable roof, which was likely the original 1860s timber building.



1904-1914, 'The Garden of the Gods. Captain MacFarlane's Alpine Hotel,' with earlier/original section on right (arrow). Note margin lights to the upper level windows (dashed)
(Source: SLV, H37502)

By circa 1920s, when the following image was taken, the earlier eastern single storey section had been replaced with another single storey section. This new section was designed in a bungalow-like mode in red brick with banding extending from the adjacent part and featuring a gable end with timber-framed sheeting in a square configuration. The image provides a clear view of the two main chimneys (now removed) and reveals that the outer orbs to the central pediment had been removed by that time. In addition, the margin light windows to both upper-level windows had been replaced with six-pane upper sashes and single pane lower sashes.

⁹ https://artefacts.co.za/main/Buildings/archframes_mob.php?archid=1738, accessed 28.05.2024

¹⁰ Australian Architectural Index



Circa 1920s image with a new single storey section to the east,
Note the altered window sash types to the two storey section (dashed)
(Source: 'Alpine Hotel, Bright', H32492/1092, Rose Series P.736, SLV)

In 1936, Joseph Alonzo Attridge took over the license,¹¹ and two years later he commissioned a major remodelling of the hotel involving the removal of much of the original detailing. At this time, the two-level verandah was replaced with a part masonry alternative, the remaining decorative elements to the parapet were removed and a wider stepped parapet created, the ground floor was rendered, and the face brickwork to the first floor overpainted, resulting in the building being re-stylised in the Moderne idiom (see below). Details of the works designed by Robert H. McIntyre, who undertook many hotel 'upgrades' during the interwar years, were outlined in the *Herald*:

BIG RECONSTRUCTION FOR ALPINE HOTEL AT BRIGHT

Extensive alterations are being made to the Alpine Hotel, Bright. Occupying a large, oblique site, with the main frontage to Anderson Street, the hotel will have the new façade completed by a deep tile base. It will have pillars of local stone as main supports for the first floor balcony, with its distinctive wooden pillars and balustrading.

Additions to the main building will increase accommodation to 12 bedrooms on the first floor, and will provide six bedrooms on the ground floor. The enlarged dining room will be served by a new kitchen wing comprising pantry, servery, main kitchen and boiler room, and a spacious entrance lounge will be constructed beside the entrance hall.

A large parlor, occupying the main corner, will connect with a new second parlor set behind the Anderson Street public bar, which is being extended.

The work is being carried out for the owner, Mr Attridge, to the plans of Robert H. McIntyre, architect, of Melbourne, the builder being A. E. Zumpe, of East Kew.¹²

¹¹ 'Licensing Transfers', *Argus*, 20 October 1936, p7

¹² 'Alps Hotel Rebuilding', *Herald*, 25 August 1938, p8



Circa 1950 Image showing the Alpine Hotel after the 1938 modifications
(Source: 'Hotel Alpine, Bright', H32492/2969, Rose Series P.2100, SLV)

The footprint of the hotel as of 1952 is evident on the following aerial, showing that the early 20th century single storey section to the east did not extend to Barnard Street.

The extant single storey section (Barnard Street) had been built by 1975.¹³



Aerial from March 1952, with the narrower single storey section to the east highlighted
(Source: Pine Plantations Project (Bright Area), Run 2, Frame 343, Geoscience)



Aerial from May 1975, showing wider single storey section
(Source: Special Project Census Photography, Frame 5018, Run 2, Geoscience)

In 1990, the two-storey section was returned largely to its original presentation with the timber verandah and parapet rebuilt, and caps reinstated to the two surviving chimneys (of three). Banding reflecting the original contrasting brickwork was painted over the rendered lower level and heavily overpainted upper level.

¹³ It is also evident in a photograph for 4 November 1980, taken by John Collins ('Bright, Alpine Hotel, Anderson and Barnard Sts,' SLV H90.100/2332)

Recently, the central reinstated chimney has been removed and the contrasting paintwork (red with cream banding), indicative of the original brickwork, has been lost by the use of a consistent grey colour.



Circa 2008, showing original colour scheme in the paintwork
Note the reinstated chimney cap
(Source: Council)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES

5.6 Entertaining and socialising

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The hotel occupies a prominent corner at the epicentre of Bright in front of the Memorial Clocktower on Mafeking square. It consists of an 1890 two-storey section to the west (Anderson Street) and a single storey circa 1970 at the east end (Barnard Street), as well as other additions to the west and rear.

The two-storey section has a splayed footprint about the corner, with a gable and one surviving chimney shaft at the west end (other chimneys have been removed) and hip at the east end. The roof is clad in corrugated sheet metal however is largely concealed by a parapet.

The original face red brick of the two-storey section, in garden wall bond (three courses or more courses of stretchers to a row of headers), has been modified – the lower level of the façade was rendered in 1938 and has an incised ('speed') line typical of the period. The upper level has been heavily overpainted or similar (with only the underlying brickwork being faintly visible) whereas the side and rear elevations are lightly overpainted (that is the underlying brickwork is clearly visible). For some years, until recently, the original contrasting colour scheme of red and cream banding/highlights had been reinstated in the paintwork. It is likely that removal of the overpainting to the upper level would reveal the original contrasting brickwork.

The two-storey timber verandah replicates most of the original detailing - the curvilinear brackets and balusters, though the timber posts lack the original mouldings, including a capital and annulet (narrow moulding). Furthermore, it is longer than originally was the case (at the east end). The parapet features a reinstated cornice (though less

elaborate), a triangular pediment to the west end and more complex pediment to the centre, both surmounted by an orb/s, similar to the original Anglo-Dutch style detailing.



West end (Anderson Street), the underlying brickwork being faintly visible in the area highlighted
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The fenestration pattern of regularly spaced double-hung sash windows is remarkably intact. The upper-level windows have six-paned upper sashes (at least at the west end). At ground level, one of the three original doorways survive - the central door has been bricked in and the eastern door has been shifted and widened. To the rear upper level, a group of three original small windows with non-projecting sills and brick voussoirs to the lintels are evident to the centre, whilst the three other openings (two windows and a door) are not original.



Gable end at west end



Late 20th century addition, corner of Barnard Street

The single storey addition at the east end has a mixture of similar double-hung sash windows to the earlier section combined with larger doorways/openings. At the west end is an open, timber-framed addition with a gable roof and a low stone wall/balustrade.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

None of the three other hotels included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay - also (largely) brick buildings which date to the 19th or early 20th century - are readily comparable to the subject building.

Oriental Guesthouse, 2 Ireland Avenue, Bright (HO112). Originally built as the Empire Hotel in 1862 as a single storey building (possibly timber), it was heavily modified in 1886 after the arrival of the railway increased tourist trade. The two-storey brick and timber building has evolved over time and its construction phases are not certain. It has a consistent fenestration pattern comprised of single double hung sash windows and two-level timber verandahs.

Railway Hotel, 99-103 Standish Street, Myrtleford (HO186). Whilst established at the site during the 1870s, the extant building dates to 1904. The single storey building is indicative of the early Federation period by retaining some detailing typical of the Victorian however in combination with some detailing typical of the early 20th century. It has a gambrel roof, clad in corrugated sheet metal partly concealed by a panelled parapet. The red brick walls been overpainted with that side being removed to reveal earlier signage. A mixture of window types is evident – pairs of double hung sashes and segmental arch windows with highlights and casements, with some likely altered at one end of the façade. The bullnose verandah has decorative brackets.

Ovens (or Happy Valley) Hotel, 4994 Great Alpine Road, Ovens (HO187). An inn was established at the site during the early 1850s. An early timber building was replaced with the extant brick hotel in 1875 with some sections dating to c.1900. The brickwork of the original section has been overpainted and the wide hipped roof is clad in corrugated sheet metal with brackets to the cornice. The openings with several double hung sash windows are largely intact.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105301

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register: B1036 (file only)

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	Yes
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Alpine Hotel*, 7-9 Anderson Street, Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire Planning Scheme* as HO5. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the original building at the southern part of the consolidated parcel of land.



The current extent of HO3 is depicted in red
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: No

Name change: none

Planning Scheme Controls: remove internal alteration controls

H04: FORMER BRIGHT POWDER MAGAZINE

Address	7-11 Bakers Gully Road, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024 (street only)
Construction Date	1871	Period	Victorian



Power Magazine – circa 2008
(Source: VHD, National Trust Heritage Register, B1654)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Former Bright Powder Magazine* at 7-11 Bakers Gully Road, Bright is significant. It was built in 1871 in an isolated location to store gunpowder, replacing a slab structure that was situated in the centre of the town. Two years later a timber tramway was built to more safely transport the explosives across the site.

The significant elements of the powder magazine are its form, T-shaped footprint, gable roof clad in slate, timber bargeboard and fascias, walls of handmade bricks and basalt plinth, and original windows with granite sills and some lintels, mostly slot type and the large window opening in the projecting bay (with casements, timber shutters and a rendered lintel with AD 1871 inscribed). It is likely that the interior is barrel vaulted.

Non-original elements are not significant including the chimney, verandah, and additions to north and west.

How is it Significant?

The *Former Bright Powder Magazine* is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Former Bright Powder Magazine* is of historical significance for reflecting the changing requirements of gold mining in the locality during the 19th century when gunpowder was required to extract deep alluvial and quartz deposits, after the surface alluvial deposits had been exhausted. Built in 1871, it is also significant for being the earliest surviving masonry buildings designed by the Public Works Department (PWD) surviving in the municipality. (Criterion A)

The *Former Bright Powder Magazine* is of aesthetic significance for being a largely intact and fine example of the output of the PWD during the 1870s in its design and material palette (basalt, granite, handmade bricks, and slate). It reflects key characteristics of the building typology – wide brick walls, slot windows, and barrel vaulting – all included to limit the potential for sparks to cause havoc. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

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¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

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Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

With the changing methods of gold mining from the late 1850s as the surface alluvial gold was exhausted, miners started extracting deep alluvial and quartz deposits, which required gunpowder for blasting. As a result, many powder magazines were built for the Department of Public Works (PWD), with several formats developed.³

Plans for a magazine at Bright had been prepared in 1867 by P H Scratchley, Inspector of Works in the Manufacturing Department of the War Office. The original design was for a two-storey building with an associated shifting room for clothes and shoes.⁴

The reason for the delay is unknown however in May 1870 the Bright Shire Council instructed the secretary to write to the Minister of Mines urging for a powder magazine to be built.⁵

In mid-1871, when tenders were awarded, it was for a single storey building with the tender being awarded to a local contractor reported as follows:

On Wednesday last, the tenders for erecting a powder magazine at Bright, were opened at the Crown Lands Office, Melbourne, and that of Mr Lewis Griffiths, of Beechworth, for £984 7s 4d was accepted.⁶

The 55,000 bricks used in the construction of the powder magazine were hand made on the site. The building had a copper lightning conductor connected to subterranean copper plates. It was surrounded by an eight-foot earthen wall and the entry was through large double iron gates opened by a caretaker who could be aroused by a bell. Designed to accommodate 300 tons of explosives stored in kegs, the latter were delivered by bullock wagons to a gate from where they were transferred to the building on the tramway.⁷

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp66-67

³ Bruce Trethowan, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria: An Architectural History' [Research Report], University of Melbourne 1975 vol. 1, building types G. Powder Magazines, np

⁴ Brian Lloyd and Kathy Nunn, *Bright Gold: the story of the people and the gold of Bright and Wandiligong*, Histec [Brighton] 1987, p85

⁵ 'Bright Shire Council', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 17 May 1870, p2

⁶ 'Powder Magazine at Bright', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 1 July 1871, p2

⁷ Lloyd and Nunn, *Bright Gold: ...*, pp85-86

Two years later in April 1873, the Department of Public Works (PWD), sought tenders for a timber tramway at the site:

TENDERS will be received until Twelve o'clock on Thursday, the 17th instant, for TRAMWAY and TRUCK, Powder Magazine, Bright.

Drawings and specifications may be seen at this office; also at the Warden's offices, Beechworth and Bright.⁸

The tender was awarded soon after to J. Oxenham for £44 15s.⁹

In 1874, a local reporter described the earlier timber powder magazine and the risks it posed to the township because of its central location. This building survived until 1998.¹⁰

It is not long since that almost the whole of the stock of blasting powder used in the mining division was stored in a small slab building in the centre of Bright—a building so notoriously unsafe that a former owner of it made it his boast that its very position and condition made it imperative upon his neighbors to be most cautious in the use or abuse of that good servant, but bad master — fire. The writer, from being domiciled within a few feet of this interesting little building — containing, mark you, almost always from three to five tons of gun-powder — thought that perhaps he, along with many other valuable residents of Bright, might have to leave that pretty, town in rather a hasty and probably an undignified manner, ill case the slab shanty referred to took fire; and consequently after some trouble, he got a promise that a powder magazine would be erected on a formal application from the inhabitants, or their local representatives being made.¹¹

During some of the 1880s, from 1883, it was also used to store gold/money with the risk posed by the Kelly Gang and was managed by the police.¹²

It has not been confirmed when it ceased to be used for storing explosives but in 1914, the local health officer L S. Kidd suggested that it be converted into ward for treatment of infectious diseases.¹³

It seems, according to the following plan, that it was being used as a residence by late 1946 when the extant parcel of land was created. It is located outside the township boundaries and relates to Lot 9 in Section 6, which initially consisted of 1 acre, 2 roods, 23 perches (6282m²), and was acquired by I D Walker on 17 May 1946.¹⁴ The contemporary survey plan (following) provides details of the footprint of the building at that time, other buildings on the site, geology, etc. Initially it included the adjacent property that is identified as 5 Bakers Gully Road,¹⁵ however the later was excised in 1975.¹⁶ Walker retained the property for 45 years, until his death in late 1991.¹⁷

⁸ Ovens and Murray Advertiser, 8 April 1873, p3

⁹ 'Topics of the Day', *Herald*, 17 April 1873, p2

¹⁰ 'Another Powder Magazine', *Bright & District Historical Newsletter*, 2006-2007, p2

¹¹ 'Bright', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 31 January 1874, p1

¹² Lloyd and Nunn, *Bright Gold: ...*, p86

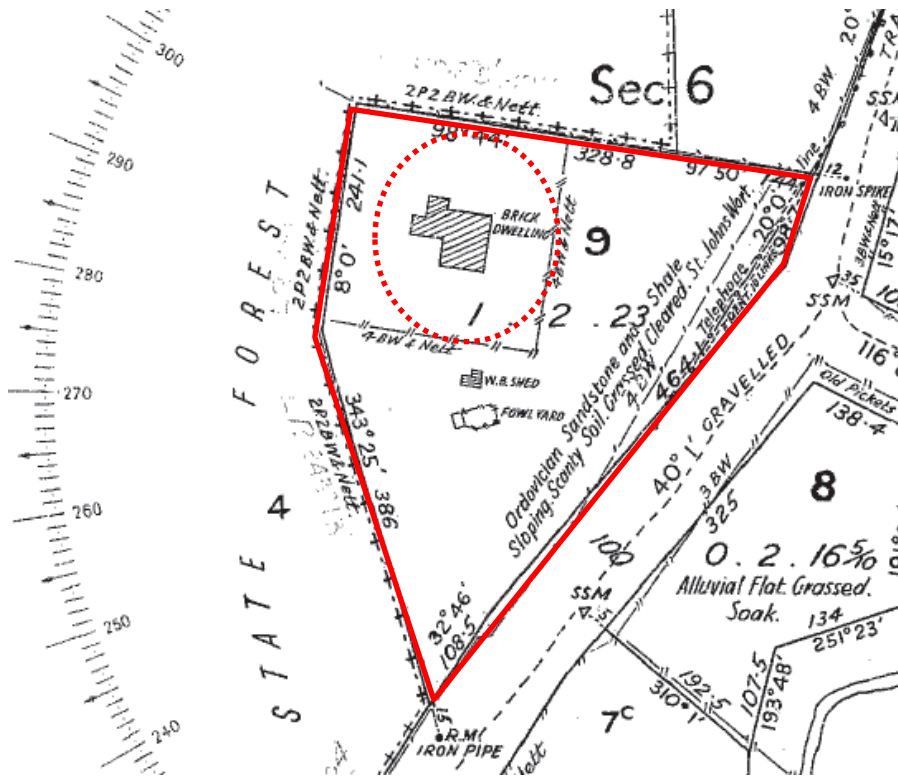
¹³ *Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness*, 8 October 1914, p5

¹⁴ Bright Parish Plan B573(15)

¹⁵ Certificate of Title, vol. 6888, folio 493

¹⁶ LP116542

¹⁷ Certificate of Title, vol. 9131, folio 266



Site details in 1946, showing the original parcel of land (solid line), powder magazine (dashed)
 (Source: OP38127, Landata)

The building is evident on the following 1952 aerial when there was minimal development in the vicinity.



Aerial from March 1952 with magazine highlighted
 (Source: Pine Plantations Project (Bright Area), Run 3, Frame 318, Geoscience)

The larger house to the south was built post-1975.¹⁸

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

4.5 Gold mining

6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

A site inspection was not possible, and so the description is based on photographs dating to 1964 and circa 2008.

The powder magazine is located in the north-west corner of the property, whose terrain slopes to the east. It is well setback from the road (about 45 metres) and only minimal views from the public domain are possible due to the established screen of trees to the front of the site.

The building has a T-shaped plan with a gable roof clad in slate with timber bargeboard and fascias. There is a chimney at the south end, which may be an addition. The walls consist of light variegated brickwork laid in English bond (alternating courses of headers and stretchers) above a basalt plinth.



1964 (John Collins) showing central projecting bay and north end with slot windows
(Source: H2010.1/710, SLV)

There is one large window opening with casements in the projecting bay with timber shutters and a rendered lintel with the construction date inscribed – AD 1871. Other windows are mostly a small, narrow slot type with granite sills whilst the lintels are either cambered brick with voussoirs or granite.

¹⁸ Aerial - 22 May 1975, Special Project Census Photography, Frame 5018, Run 2



▲ 1964 (John Collins), showing north end. Note non-original window highlighted
(Source: H2010.1/709, SLV)

◀ 1964 (John Collins), central projecting bay and verandah
(Source: H90.100/236, SLV)

Alterations include the introduction of a verandah at the south end and a multi-paned, double-hung sash window to the north elevation. There is an addition to the north-west corner and west side.

Originally, the single storey brick building was said to be comprised of two arched storage chambers with 2.5 foot (about 76cm) thick walls. The chambers were 22 feet (6.7m) long, 9 feet (2.7m) wide and 12 feet (3.7m) high. In order to limit the risk of an inadvertent explosion, originally all door furniture was brass.¹⁹

Many of the other designs for powder magazines included buttressing, which is not evident at the subject site. Other similar examples were built at Jamieson Smythesdale, and Stawell, all in 1869.²⁰

It is unknown if any tramway remnants survive.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no other powder magazines included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay and only a few key early buildings designed by the PWD. Most of this group are primary schools, though those located in the two smaller settlements are timber buildings. It is the earliest masonry example of this group.

- Bright Post Office, Ireland Street (HO113). An elaborate brick building from 1889, though enlarged in 1901.
- Bright P-12 College No. 776 (Old Primary School Building), 8 Park Street (HO122). Constructed in 1876 in a restrained variant of the Gothic style, it was enlarged in 1882 and remodelled in 1915.
- Harrierville Primary School (Old Building) Great Alpine Road (HO151). A timber building erected during the 1860s, which was heavily modified in 1912.
- Myrtleford State School, 29 Elgin Street (HO25). The first phase of this brick building was completed in 1870 with additions from 1875 and 1886. It has also been partly modified.
- Porepunkah Primary School (Old Section) Martley Street (HO194). A timber building dating to the early 1910s.

¹⁹ Lloyd and Nunn, *Bright Gold: ...*, pp85-86

²⁰ Bruce Trethowan, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria: An Architectural History' [Research Report], University of Melbourne 1975 vol. 2, App. 3, part seven - powder magazines, np

- Wandiligong Primary School, 119 School Road (HO72/VHR – H1638). A substantial brick building with some Gothic style detailing constructed in two key phases - 1877 and 1881. Some windows have been enlarged as was standard practice.

HERITAGE LISTING

HERMES number: 216279

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register: B1654 – local significance

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Former Bright Powder Magazine, 7-11 Bakers Gully Road, Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire Planning Scheme* as HO4. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the original building and an appropriate curtilage.



The current extent of HO4 is depicted
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: No

Name change: from Powder Magazine to Former Bright Powder Magazine

H05: BURKE STREET PLANTINGS

Address	Burke Street, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Late 19 th century	Period	Victorian



Bunya pines at east end of Burke Street
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Burke Street Plantings* in Burke Street, Bright are significant.

The eleven trees are significant element, being:

- 5 x Bunya pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*)
- 4 x Himalayan cedars (*Cedrus deodara*)
- 2 x Corsican pines (*Pinus nigra var. corsicana*)

All other elements are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Burke Street Plantings* are of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Burke Street Plantings* are of historical significance for being one of the oldest avenues in the shire and so a remnant of the early avenue plantings that were instigated in the township of Bright from about the 1860s and for which it has been widely known since about the 1880s. (Criterion A)

The *Burke Street Plantings* are of aesthetic significance as an intact and imposing example of the late Victorian approach – consisting of a diversity of natives (Bunya pines) and exotics (Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines) – to street planting. It reflects the contemporary interests in botanical and naturalism or wild garden. Rather than the deciduous planting, and the autumnal splendour, for which the town is widely known, Burke Street, along with the similar planting in the nearby Wood Street, are planted with a variety of evergreen coniferous trees. It remains a verdant enclave in the centre of the township. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reefing at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp66-67

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

History of street trees in Bright³

Following the declaration of the Shire of Bright in 1866, improvements recommended for the town included an extensive street tree planting scheme. This was most likely in response to a desire to develop more attractive surroundings and a more pleasant setting for the town in the wake of the gold-mining period of the 1850s. During this period of activity the landscape suffered extensive damage and erosion as a result of mining practices. The local council planted a wide range of exotic deciduous species, including oaks, elms, poplars, maples, dogwoods and chestnuts. It is thought that Ferdinand Mueller, the Government Botanist from 1859, was involved in the provision or suggestion of appropriate tree species. While there is a record of Mueller providing trees for planting at the Bright Cemetery in 1873, no evidence has been found of his direct involvement in selecting or providing the tree stock for the streets of Bright. Mueller carried out a large-scale disbursement of seeds and plants from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens during the period 1859–73.

The street trees of Bright are regularly mentioned in contemporary articles and in publications from the early 1880s. They are frequently referred to as 'English trees'. A description of Bright in 1881 described it as 'a picturesque little town ... with tree-lined streets'. When the Vagabond visited Bright in 1884 he noted the 'poplar lined and English looking streets of Bright'. A photograph dated c1870-1875 shows the presence of mature Poplars in the township, although these appear to be not planted as street trees.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

It is not known precisely when these trees were planted however it is likely during the late 19th century, or if not, the early 20th century.

The following undated, but early image taken by J H Henry captures a Bunya pine at the east end of the street more established/larger than nearby specimens with a backdrop of the Uniting Church, which was built in 1884.

³ GML, 'Great Alpine Road (western gateway), Bright - Landscape and Heritage Preliminary Assessment Report', October 2023, p9



Undated (circa 1900) 'Bright', John Henry Harvey, active 1880-1938
(Source: H91.300/880, SLV)

The avenue was well-established by the mid-20th century according to the two following images – the first is a long view down Burke Street capturing the west end and the second records the east end (at full height) at the intersection with Anderson Street.



Circa 1950, 'Memorial drinking fountain, Bright',
(Source: H32492/6773, Rose Series P.10194, SLV)



Circa 1945 - circa 1954, 'Memorial, Bright',
(Source: Victorian Railways, H91.50/1178, SLV)

The trees are evident on the following 1963 aerial.



Aerial from 30.12.1963 with the Burke Street Plantings highlighted
(Source: Standard Mapping Photography, Frame 63, Run 7, Geoscience)

REFERENCES

LRGM – Services, *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History*, October 2008

2008 Alpine Heritage Study

Lloyd B & Nunn K, 1987, Bright Gold, Histec Publications, p135

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

National Trust Heritage Register (T11403)

A street planting in the centre of Bright near the Memorial Clock, comprising mixed conifers, including *Cedrus deodara* (x7), *Araucaria bidwillii* (x5) and *Pinus nigra var. maritima* (x2)*. This is an outstanding planting of conifers which form a very attractive feature and dominate the skyline of the town centre. This planting is possibly the best example of conifer species recommended for street planting in the mid-1800s. (now **Pinus nigra var. corsicana*).

The trees were assessed in 1987 and subsequently in 2011 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	03/11/1987	06/01/2011
Spread (m)	15.3	E-W 10; N-S 15
Girth (m)	4.15	4
Height (m)	22.2	23
Estimated Age (yrs)	100	124
Condition:	Good	Good

Additional Description:

The avenue of eleven trees is nearly 100 metres in length and extends along the side of the central, narrow asphalted carriageway of Burke Street.

The well-established avenue is comprised of five Bunya pines, four Himalayan cedars, and two Corsican pines which are generally paired. Their trunks are separated from the car parking areas by low timber retaining walls/planter boxes.

The Bunya pine or bunya-bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree in the family *Araucariaceae* which is endemic to Australia, mainly southeast Queensland. They can reach a height of 50 metres with a single unbranched trunk with dark brown or black flaky bark and their leaves small and rigid with a sharp tip. Part of their distinct appearance is determined by their varying branch configuration with those at the top tending to be ascending and those at the lower parts tending to droop. The cones are located at the apex of the tree (terminal) with the female (or seed) cone being larger than the male (or pollen) cone and maturing after (December to March) the male (October to November).⁴

The Himalayan cedar or deodar (*Cedrus deodora*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree which is native to the sub-continent in East-Afghanistan, South Western Tibet, Western Nepal, Northern Pakistan, and North-Central India but is widely grown as an ornamental tree. Specimens can reach 40-50 metres in height, have a trunk up to 3 metres in diameter, a conic crown, and level branches and drooping branchlets and needle-like leaves. The smaller male cones

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Araucaria_bidwillii, accessed 05.03.2024

shed their pollen in autumn and the larger female cones disintegrate when mature (about 12 months) when their winged-seeds are released.⁵



Bunya pine, Burke Street



Corsican pine, Burke Street (Source: RBA, March 2024)

The Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *Corsicana*) is another large evergreen coniferous tree, which is native to the island of Corsica (part of France). Typically slender, they can reach a height of 27 metres and are one of several subspecies of black pines which are found across southern Europe. They have horizontal branches and fissured dark greyish-brown bark.⁶ There is a modern, stone amenities block at the south-west end.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

During the late 19th century there were few seminal texts prepared about approaches to gardening in Australia however William Guilfoyle, who was head of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens from 1873 to 1908, was influenced by the idea of the 'wild garden and attempted to give it a distinctively local expression.'⁷ Bunya pines were one of the popular rainforest species, along with Moreton Bay figs, which could be grown across a wide climatic range and imbued gardens with 'a distinctively Australian flavour'.⁸

More broadly, the use of Bunya pines for street planting was not common, as they more typically survive in the gardens of late 19th century homesteads and public gardens. This avenue is also distinguished by the inclusion of two Corsican pines, which are an unusual type of exotic.

The two other key avenues in Bright are:

- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1946-47 and is comprised of a combination of deciduous and evergreen trees. The profile of deciduous trees is predominated by a

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus_deodara, accessed 05.03.2024

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_nigra, accessed 22.04.2024; Corsican pine, <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/learn/trees/corsican-pine>, accessed 22.04.2024

⁷ Richard Aitken, *The Garden of Ideas – Four Centuries of Australian Style*, Melbourne 2011, p137

⁸ Richard Aitken, *The Garden of Ideas – Four Centuries of Australian Style*, Melbourne 2011, p137

range of oaks - mainly Pin oaks, with some Scarlet and English oaks, whereas the evergreens are all Himalayan cedars.

- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood St (between Anderson St and Gully Creek), Bright. This avenue in the street to the north of Burke Street was planted about the same time as HO5 and also includes Bunya pines and Himalayan cedars.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105315

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register: T11403, Cedrus deodara et alia

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Burke Street Plantings* in Burke Street, Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire Planning Scheme* as HO5. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the road reserve/public domain of the northern arm of the street.



The current extent of HO5 is depicted in red, with additional area shaded
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: extend eastwards to fully capture canopy of the pair of Bunya pines near the intersection with the Ireland Street.

Name change: *Burke Street Plantings* rather than *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14

H07: AVENUE OF OAKS AND HIMALAYAN CEDARS

Address	Delany Avenue, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1946-47	Period	Interwar



Delany Avenue
(Source: Council, May 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Delany Avenue* in Bright is significant.

About 80 trees are significant element, being:

- 44 x Himalayan cedars (*Cedrus deodara*),
- 27 x Pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*),
- 10 x Scarlet oaks (*Quercus coccinea*),
- 2 x English oaks (*Quercus robur*).

All other elements are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Delany Avenue* is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Delany Avenue* is of historical significance for being a commemorative avenue in the shire, established soon after the end of WWII in 1946 to 1947. It is also of historical significance by reflecting a continuity in the particular planting approach employed elsewhere in the township by way of its generally alternating planting of diverse species, one of which the Himalayan cedar had been utilised during the late 19th century. (Criterion A)

The *Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Delany Avenue* is of aesthetic significance as a long and intact avenue, forming part of the Great Alpine way at the eastern entry to the township, and consisting of an alternating combination of deciduous and evergreen exotics, respectively a variety of oaks and Himalayan cedars. It has landmark status by providing a blaze of autumnal splendour for which the town is widely known due to the inclusion of many Scarlet and Pin oaks. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reeving grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reeving at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp66-67

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

History of street trees in Bright³

Following the declaration of the Shire of Bright in 1866, improvements recommended for the town included an extensive street tree planting scheme. This was most likely in response to a desire to develop more attractive surroundings and a more pleasant setting for the town in the wake of the gold-mining period of the 1850s. During this period of activity the landscape suffered extensive damage and erosion as a result of mining practices. The local council planted a wide range of exotic deciduous species, including oaks, elms, poplars, maples, dogwoods and chestnuts. It is thought that Ferdinand Mueller, the Government Botanist from 1859, was involved in the provision or suggestion of appropriate tree species. While there is a record of Mueller providing trees for planting at the Bright Cemetery in 1873, no evidence has been found of his direct involvement in selecting or providing the tree stock for the streets of Bright. Mueller carried out a large-scale disbursement of seeds and plants from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens during the period 1859–73.

The street trees of Bright are regularly mentioned in contemporary articles and in publications from the early 1880s. They are frequently referred to as 'English trees'. A description of Bright in 1881 described it as 'a picturesque little town ... with tree-lined streets'. When the Vagabond visited Bright in 1884 he noted the 'poplar lined and English looking streets of Bright'. A photograph dated c1870-1875 shows the presence of mature Poplars in the township, although these appear to be not planted as street trees.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Citation (2007)

Each planting era matches a phase in the development of the town for tourism after the decline of mining. The east end of Delany Ave was planted in 1939 and is believed to be planted as a Commemorative Avenue after WWII for soldiers who died in the war (1946-7). The trees were supplied by parents of the deceased. The majority of the original planting were believed to be Scarlet Oak rather than Pin Oak.

Additional History:

This section of tree planting is thought to be introduced during 1946 and 1947.

By April 1949, the trees in this section of Delany Avenue had evidently not been long planted as they appear as small specimens on aerial along most of this section, though not those on the north side at the east end, that is near Tyntynder Lane. The section of Delany Avenue to the west of Hawthorn Lane however was more established by this time.

³ GML, 'Great Alpine Road (western gateway), Bright - Landscape and Heritage Preliminary Assessment Report', October 2023, p9



Aerial from April 1949, with Delany Avenue highlighted
(Source: Military Mapping Photography, Run E.K.S Bright, Film SVY563, Landata)

In September 1949, this section of what was known as the Harrietteville Road was renamed Delany Avenue,⁴ with it being officially opened in September in a ceremony to commemorate the services of the Shire Secretary, Mr E J Delany.

For 39 years, Mr. Delany has been the organiser and driving force in most of Bright's progressive moves, and has been actively associated with the majority of public, charitable and patriotic utilities. Bright district will, therefore, on Saturday next, honor this citizen in a most fitting way.⁵

An aerial taken about three years later in March 1952 (following) records as similar circumstance, though with the previous gap in the north-east part filled in.

⁴ 'Bright – Delany Avenue Discussion', *Border Morning Mail*, 7 June 1949, p5

⁵ 'Bright District's Tribute to Mr E J Delany', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 7 September 1949, p3



Aerial from March 1952 with Delany Avenue highlighted
(Source: Pine Plantations Project (Bright Area), Run 2, Frame 343, Landata)

Some ten years later, the trees had grown considerably as recorded on the following aerial of December 1963.



Aerial from 30.12.1963 with Delany Avenue highlighted
(Source: Standard Mapping Photography, Frame 63, Run 7, Geoscience)

Postcards from the 1960s taken in autumn capture the original alternating sequence of evergreen and deciduous trees as being established, juvenile specimens by this time.



1960s postcard, 'Scarlet Oaks and Cedars, Delany Avenue, Bright,' Nucolorvue productions
(Source: Alpine Shire Historical Photos and Events, Facebook Group)

REFERENCES

LRGM – Services, *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History*, October 2008

2008 Alpine Heritage Study

Rotary Club of Bright, 1991, *A Guide to Beautiful Trees of Bright*.

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

- 6.5 Living in country towns
- 8.5 Preserving traditions and commemorating

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Citation (2007)

Delany Ave trees have been planted alternately to create spectacular effect in autumn. 27 *Quercus palustris* (Pin Oaks), 10 *Quercus coccinea* (Scarlet Oaks), 2 *Quercus robur* (English oak) and 44 *Cedrus deodara* (Himalayan Oaks [sic]) remain from the original planting, some trees have been replaced with the same species.

National Trust - T11402

This is an outstanding avenue in the township of Bright; located between Hawthorn and Tyndynder Lanes. These trees make a contribution to the landscape and are well known for autumn colouring. The avenue is a mixed planting of alternating *Quercus palustris* and *Cedrus deodara*. Spacing between plantings is 21 metres. A *Quercus robur* is planted outside No 109.

The trees were assessed in 1987 and subsequently in 2011 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	11/1987	06/01/2011
Spread (m)	17	E-W 17; N-S 18
Girth (m)	2	2
Height (m)	23	23
Estimated Age (yrs)	70	94
Condition:	Good	Good

Additional Description:

The avenue, which consists of about 80 trees, is about 900 metres in length and extends along the gravel and grassed sides of the asphalted carriageway of Delany Avenue between Hawthorn and Tyntynder lanes.



Delany Avenue (Source: Council, May 2024)

The avenue is comprised of 44 Himalayan cedars, 27 Pin oaks, 10 Scarlet oaks, and 2 English oaks. Nearly all of the specimens are well-established, being nearly 80 years old, though there are a few young, replacement trees. The general configuration is alternating cedar and oak on each side and slightly staggered so that individual specimens are not directly opposite each other.

The Himalayan cedar or deodar (*Cedrus deodora*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree which is native to the sub-continent in East-Afghanistan, South Western Tibet, Western Nepal, Northern Pakistan, and North-Central India but is widely grown as an ornamental tree. Specimens can reach 40-50 metres in height, have a trunk up to 3 metres in diameter, a conic crown, and level branches and drooping branchlets and needle-like leaves. The smaller male cones shed their pollen in autumn and the larger female cones disintegrate when mature (about 12 months) when their winged-seeds are released.⁶

Pin oaks (*Quercus palustris*), which is also known as the Swamp or Spanish oak, is a medium-sized deciduous tree growing to 18–22 metres. Young trees have a straight, columnar trunk with smooth bark and a pyramidal canopy, whereas at about 40 years old, it develops rougher bark with a loose, spreading canopy. This canopy is considered one of the most distinctive features of the pin oak: the upper branches point upwards, the middle branches are at right angles, and the lower branches tend to droop. The leaves have five or seven broad lobes and autumnal coloration is generally bronze, though some leaves may be red transitorily. It is a relatively short-lived, fast-growing with a lifespan of approximately 120 years. It is mainly distributed across the eastern and central parts of the USA as well as southern Ontario, Canada. However it adapts well to the climate of Victoria and NSW, in addition to South Africa and Argentina.⁷



Himalyan Cedar
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Pin Oak

Scarlet oaks (*Quercus coccinea*) is a medium to large deciduous tree that grows fast and matures relatively early, growing up to 30 metres with an open, rounded crown. The leaves are broad, glossy green with seven lobes, which

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus_deodara, accessed 05.03.2024

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_palustris, accessed 26.04.2024

become bright scarlet during autumn. It is primarily distributed across the central and eastern USA, similar to the Pin oak.⁸

English oak (*Quercus robur*), also known as common or European oak, is a large deciduous tree native to most of Europe and western Asia, though is widely cultivated in other temperate regions. It can achieve a height of 40 metres with a single stout trunk. The crown is spreading and unevenly domed, and trees often have massive lower branches. The bark is greyish-brown and closely grooved, with vertical plates. The leaves - dark green above, paler below - are arranged alternately along the twigs and are broadly oblong or ovate with 3 to 6 rounded but shallow lobes (divided no further than halfway to the midrib).⁹ There is one in front of no. 64 and one at the east end.



English oak (Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Whilst Bright had been long noted for its tree planting in the public domain, it was nonetheless part of a trend that gained momentum during the early 20th century for city beautification.¹⁰

This avenue is distinguished by its generally alternating planting of oaks (mainly Pin oaks, but also Scarlet and one/two English types) and Himalayan cedars, the later which had been utilised in other avenues in the centre of the township.

Contemporary newspaper articles from 1930s promoted the advantages of several oak species such as the following:

The oak family has a number of species valuable in our climate. The British oak, *Quercus Robur*, unfortunately is not in the list. The North American oaks, *Quercus palustris*, the pin oak, and *Q rubra*, the red oak, are two fine trees with handsome foliage which turns crimson and red before falling in autumn. In hot, dry districts there are no sturdier trees from *Quercus Ilex*, the holly or Holm oak, and *Q. Mirbeckil*, the Algerian oak. These are evergreen and form fine ornamental and shady trees. The only oaks suitable for the small garden are *Q. Coccinea*, the scarlet oak, and *Q. Robur* variety *concordia*, the golden oak, both somewhat weak in constitution, growing to 15 or 20 feet, and beautiful when they do succeed.¹¹

The two other avenues in Bright were established during the late 19th century and while also comprised of alternating/varying species, were all evergreen (pines):

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_coccinea, accessed 26.04.2024

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_robur, accessed 26.04.2024

¹⁰ Robert Freestone, 'Imagineering the City Beautiful: Parks, Gardens, and Town Planning Thought', in Georgina Whitehead (ed.), *Planting the Nation*, AGPS Melbourne 2001, pp159ff,

¹¹ 'Deciduous Trees for Winter Planting', *Argus*, 28 May 1937, p4

- HO5: *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke St, Bright. This avenue in the street to the south of Wood Street was planted about the same time as HO13 and also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO13: *Cedrus deodara* (Deodara) x 17, Wood St (between Anderson St and Gully Creek), Bright. This avenue in the street to the north of Burke Street was planted about the same time as HO5 and also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105312

National Trust Heritage Register: T11402, *Quercus palustris* et alia

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

This extent of exotic trees in Delany Avenue (part of the Great Alpine Road), Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO13. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the road reserve/public domain of Delany Avenue between Hawthorn and Tyntynder lanes.



The current extent of HO13 is depicted in red
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extent of HO: No change required

Name: Change name from 'Quercus palustris (Pin Oak) x 88 Delaney Ave (between Hawthorn & Tyntynder Lanes), Bright' to 'Oaks and Himalayan Cedars, Delany Avenue, Bright' to better reflect the range of tree species.

H011: FORMER BRIGHT RAILWAY STATION COMPLEX, BRIGHT

Address	Railway Avenue and 1B Blue Wren Close, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1890 and 1900	Period	Victorian



Bright Railway Station
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Former Bright Railway Station Complex*, Railway Avenue and 1B Blue Wren Close (water tank), Bright is significant. The railway reached Bright in 1890, when the goods shed was built and the water tower installed. The extant station building replaced the earlier, temporary structure in 1900. The significant elements are:

- the main station building,
- platform with two smaller skillion roof sheds clad in corrugated sheet metal,
- goods shed,
- dismantled crane,
- several English elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') in the vicinity of the station,

- Water tank.

The significant elements of the main station building are the massing, hip and gable roof clad in slate, three chimneys, gable ends with timber battens and rough cast finish, basalt elements (plinth, quoining, sills), red brick walls, rendered bands, original openings (mostly with segmental arched lintels), and verandahs/canopies supported on steel stanchions with scalloped valence.

The significant elements of the goods shed are the gable form extending to form side canopies, cladding in traditional sheets of corrugated metal, pattern of openings including large timber doors, timber platforms, and louvred vents.

The other relocated historic buildings and equipment – such as the John Moreton House and a police lockup – whilst not integral to the significance of the place as it was designed, have contributory value as they relate to the current adaptive reuse of the place as a local history museum.

The non-original large skillion roof shed, immediately west of the brick station building, is not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Bright Railway Station* is of local historical, representative, and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Bright Railway Station* is of historical significance for being part of the only remaining railway station complex in the Alpine Shire at the terminus of the Ovens Valley Railway (along with the nearby goods shed, crane and steel water tower – HO118). The advent of the railway in 1890 brought the remote district much increased tourist trade, connecting the area to regional centre of Wangaratta and metropolitan Melbourne. (Criterion A)

The *Bright Railway Station* is of aesthetic significance for the main station building being a distinct and highly intact example of the output of the Railways Department at the turn of the 20th century in its combination of burgeoning Arts and Crafts influences, principally to the gable end, with a restrained, late 19th century classicism. Materially it reflects the high-quality construction typical of the department at this time with a slate clad roof, extensive employment of basalt with brick and render, and an early use of the steel stanchions cantilevering to support the verandah/canopies, thus avoiding the need for posts at the edges. (Criterion E)

The *Bright Railway Station* is of representative significance for the two small skillion roof sheds at the west end of the platform being surviving examples of the standard type of the early 20th century railway infrastructure. The goods shed is indicative of standard railway design of the late 19th century. The dismantled crane is an early mechanical winch that was later adapted to an engine drive. (Criterion D)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reefing at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Alpine Heritage Study (2008): HO118 - Former Bright Railway Goods Shed

The railway to the North East had been planned since 1862 but was followed by years of indecision and bitter rivalry between towns as to where the line should go. In January 1872 construction of the track began from both Wodonga and Benalla.

The train carrying the Governor into Wangaratta arrived on 18 October 1873. Wangaratta later became the changeover point for many branch lines including Bright and Beechworth. In 1873, Kinchella, Honorary Secretary of the Ovens Railway Association called a meeting 'for the purpose of adopting steps to bring the claims of the district to railway communication prominently before the cabinet' (OMA, 14 Jan 1873).

The line reached Myrtleford in 1883, where passengers would transfer to coach to continue the journey to Porepunkah and Bright. Goods were transported by horse-drawn wagon. The passenger service to Myrtleford finished in 1952 but the goods service continued until early 1980s. The line was closed between the mainline junction and Myrtleford on 13 April 1987.

There were delays on the completion of the track to Bright but in 1888 a contract for 67,000 pounds was given to Carroll Brothers to complete the eighteen and a half miles of track in one year. The line to Bright was completed on 17 October 1890 and the first mail and passenger service arrived to a large welcoming crowd. The official party included the Hon Duncan Gillies, Premier and Minister of Railways.

The red brick Railway Station was build [sic] at the turn of the century. It was fitted out with timber ceiling and had a marble fireplace. The goods shed was probably built around the same time. The train was very important to the otherwise isolated local community for transport to Wangaratta and Melbourne and also for transporting agricultural produce to the markets.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp66-67

The railway was very important in the development of tourism in the area. Victorian Railways built the Mt Buffalo Chalet and transported guests by train to Porepunkah Station where they were met by a special people-carrier motor vehicle.

The good service continued until the line between Bright and Myrtleford was closed on 30 November 1983. The Railway Station has become the Bright Museum and is run by the Bright Historical Society.

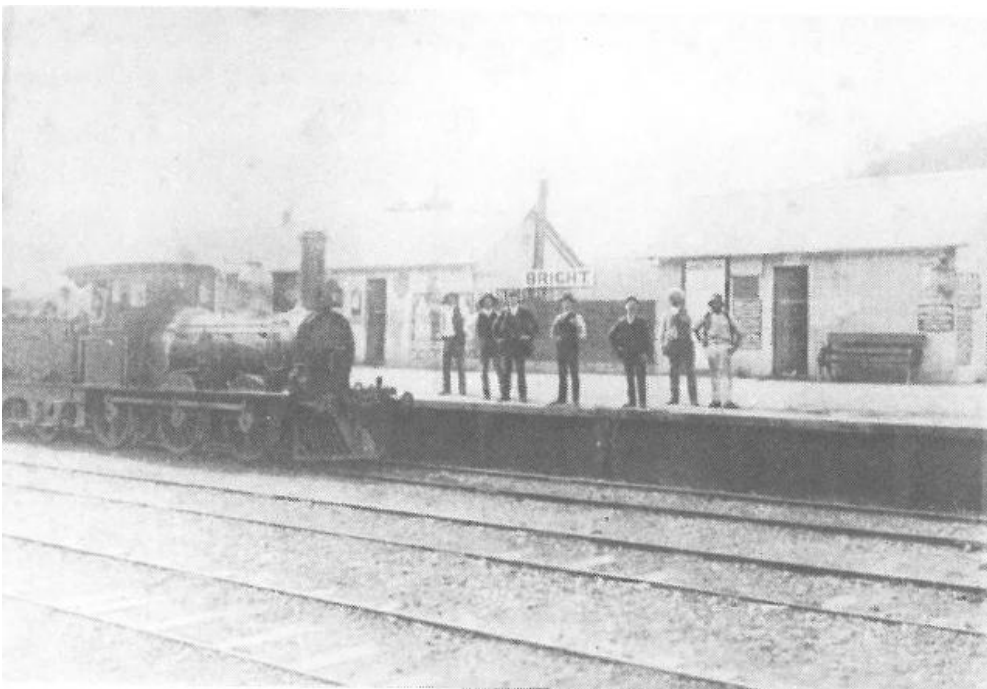
Additional History

The site relates to initially what had been Lots 3 and 4 in Section B2, Bright, both of which were large parcels (consisting of about 5 acres each) on the edge of the township and acquired by F A Thies and E G Auger respectively in August 1862.³

From the early 1870s, consideration for extending the railway line from Everton along the Ovens Valley was being considered and local communities lobbied for it, though many farmers, whose holdings would be affected, were discontent with the proposal. The first section – Everton to Myrtleford – was surveyed in 1881 and completed two years later.⁴

The contract for a platform and goods shed at Bright was awarded on 20 September 1890 to Mr J Bryan.⁵ Lightweight, temporary station buildings had been erected by the time of its opening in mid-October 1890, which stood for a decade until the extant brick station building was erected.

Whilst his Excellency, the Seventh Earl of Hopetoun was to be present at the opening of the station on Friday 17 October 1890, he was taken ill, and so the official duties were undertaken by the Hon. Duncan Gillies, Premier and Minister of Railways. The day was a major event for the township with flags and bunting installed along the streets, a large banquet arranged, and a large brass band played to 'the biggest crowd ever seen in Bright.'⁶



The station during the 1890s (Source: Wal Larsen, *The Ovens Valley Railway*, Bright 1983, p48)

³ Township Plan of Bright B573(5)

⁴ Wal Larsen, *The Ovens Valley Railway*, Bright 1983, pp4-7

⁵ 'Railway Contract', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 20 September 1890, p2. The contract was also for the platform and goods shed at Porepunkah

⁶ Larsen, *The Ovens Valley Railway*, pp45, 47; Brian Lloyd and Kathy Nunn, *Bright Gold: the story of the people and the gold of Bright and Wandiligong*, Histec [Brighton] 1987, pp131-132

In September 1898, plans were afoot for the replacement station building:

Mr John A. Isaacs, M.L.A., for the Ovens informs the Alpine Observer that it is the intention of the Railway Department to erect entirely new station buildings at Bright, with special provision for tourists, and it is hoped to have the work completed by Christmas.⁷

In early 1899, two councillors sought reasons for the delay with the project from the Railway Commissioner, Mr. J Mathieson, whilst in Melbourne. At the time, the materiality and specific requirements at the station were being reviewed as follows:

alternative designs had been prepared and drawings made by architectural draughtsmen of buildings, in both brick and wood, supposed to be suitable for Bright and these had been sent on to the traffic branch officers for an expression of opinion from them as to whether the designs met the requirements of the officers engaged at the station and the accommodation of the travelling public.⁸

In early November 1899, Cr Kaighin provided an update that:

when in Melbourne a few weeks previously Mr. Sachse, M.L.C., and himself were informed at the construction branch of the Railway Department that the plans were ready for the building at Bright, and that tenders would be shortly invited for their erection.⁹

Tenders were sought a month later in early December by the Victorian Railways for a brick station building at Bright with particulars available at Benalla, Wangaratta and Bright (stations).¹⁰

On 21 December 1899, the contract for the brick building was awarded to James & Charles Corley of Rathdowne Street, Carlton for £4516 14s.¹¹ The chief draughtsman was G Ampt and the engineer for existing lines at the time was C E Norman.¹² The building specification provides details of the design and materials employed such as cavity wall construction, Mintaro slate for some of the door thresholds, blue Welsh slate for the roof, cast iron gutters, and galvanised iron for the roof ridging.¹³

A detailed description of the new building was provided in the local newspaper in late December 1899:

The new railway station buildings at Bright, tenders for the erection of which have been received by the department, have been designed to furnish ample accommodation for the travelling public and the officials in the discharge of their duties. The buildings cover a floor space of 87ft. 4½ in. by 15ft. 10m., excepting the booking hall, where the width of the building is extended to 20ft. Walls are to be of brick, built hollow, relieved with blue stone plinth, and door steps, door jambs and reveals of windows of same material. The rooms will measure 13ft. 2in. in the clear between floor and ceiling, and the roof is to be covered with slate. All external walls are to be carried out with specially selected machine-pressed bricks. Provision is made for a booking-office, 23ft. x 18ft., having doors opening on to both the platform and to the approach from Gavan-street; a booking hall, 10ft. x 14ft.; a waiting room, 16ft. x 14ft., with seats; a porters' room, 11ft. x 14ft.; ladies' waiting room, 14ft. x 12ft., lavatory and retiring rooms in connection therewith, and a room for the accommodation of the cleaners and other employees when requiring shelter. The cleaners' room, booking-hall, waiting-room and the street verandah are to be tar paved; while the lavatory and closets will be paved with black and buff tiles, and the ladies' waiting room, porters' room and mam office are to be floored with red deal. There will be a verandah the whole length of the building over passenger platform, carried by the new iron bracket system, thus doing away with posts, and having the platform free of obstructions. The whole of the platform from end of building at each end is to be enclosed with a picket fence, so that in busy times there will be a means of checking the traffic.¹⁴

Construction was reported as being well underway in mid-April 1900:

Good progress is being made by the contractors with the erection of the Bright railway station, which is rapidly assuming shape. The new building will be an ornament to the town when completed.¹⁵

Also at this time, additional staff were required due to the growing traffic at the station:

⁷ 'General News', *Yackandandah Times*, 23 September 1898, p3

⁸ 'Bright Railway Station', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 4 February 1899, p11

⁹ 'Bright Shire Council', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 4 November 1899, p1

¹⁰ 'Government Notices', *Age*, 2 December 1899, p12

¹¹ 'Railway Department', *Herald*, 21 December 1899, p4;

¹² Andrew Ward & Assoc., 'Study of Historic Railway Buildings and Structures for V/Line', vol. 4, 1988, p478

¹³ PROV, VPRS17077, P1, U72, Contract 9086/1694

¹⁴ 'Bright', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 23 December 1899, p11

¹⁵ 'Bright District', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 14 April 1900, p3

Owing to the increase of business at the Bright railway station, a junior clerk, son of Mr. J. Dunphy, of Wandiligong, has been appointed, and he entered on his duties last week. It is quite probable that before the end of the year two trains will be run daily, as the traffic is steadily increasing.¹⁶

Soon after, beautification works were undertaken in the vicinity, reported as follows:

A row of trees has been put in on each side of the carriage way from the Ireland-street gates to the station building, and in time will form quite a picturesque approach. On the northern side of the road the planting has been carried around to the Gavan-street entrance to the station. A plantation of shrubs is also being put in by the same officers in the block of land between the station-masters's residence and the Gavan-street gates. To protect the young plantation, arboration, or whatever may be the proper designation, the department has erected a post and wire fence, Mr. Peterson adding the netting himself to make the enclosure secure.¹⁷

A circa 1910 image (but likely later given the size of the tree) of the platform shows the original shed to the west of the main building with a gable roof rather than a skillion roof as the extant building in that location has. Another photograph from about this time captures a turntable.¹⁸



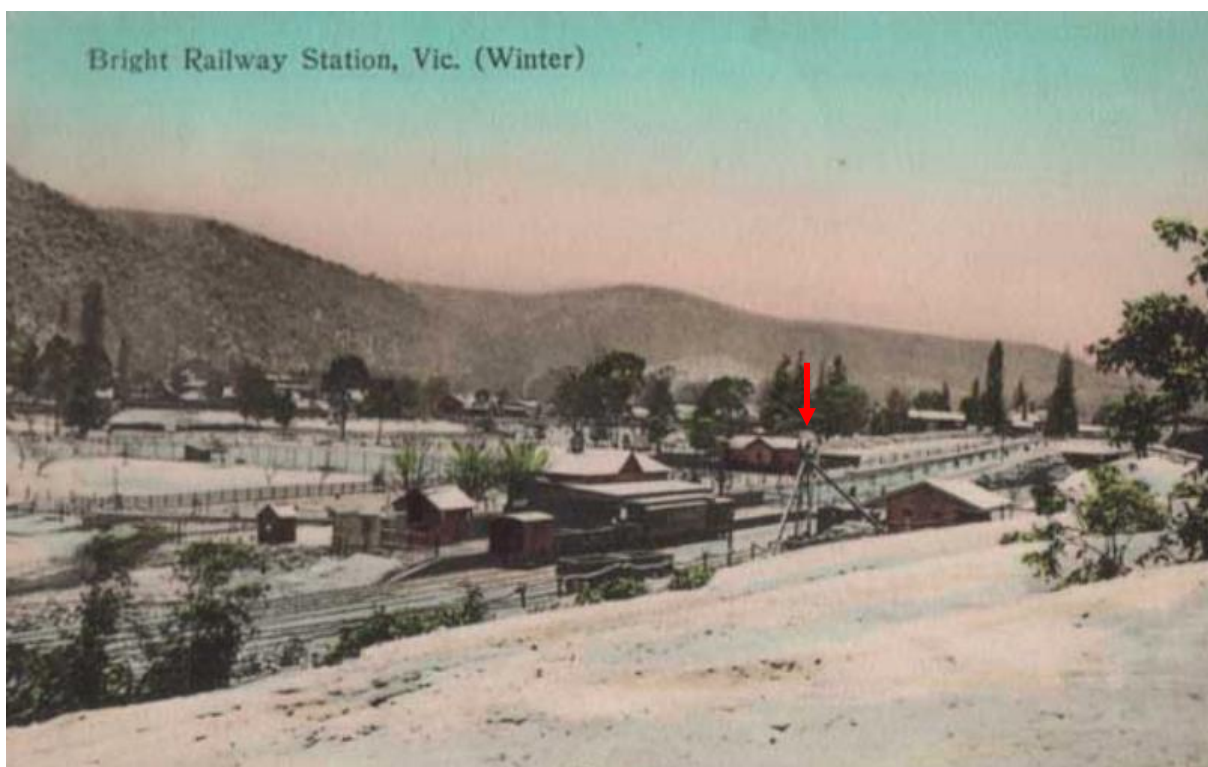
Circa 1910 (or later) view of the platform (H D Bulmer, MM 42736, Museums Victoria). Note the gable roof shed in foreground has been replaced with a skillion roof type

A circa 1930s postcard (but possibly earlier) captures the whole complex from the high ground to the south including the goods shed.

¹⁶ 'Bright District', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 14 April 1900, p1

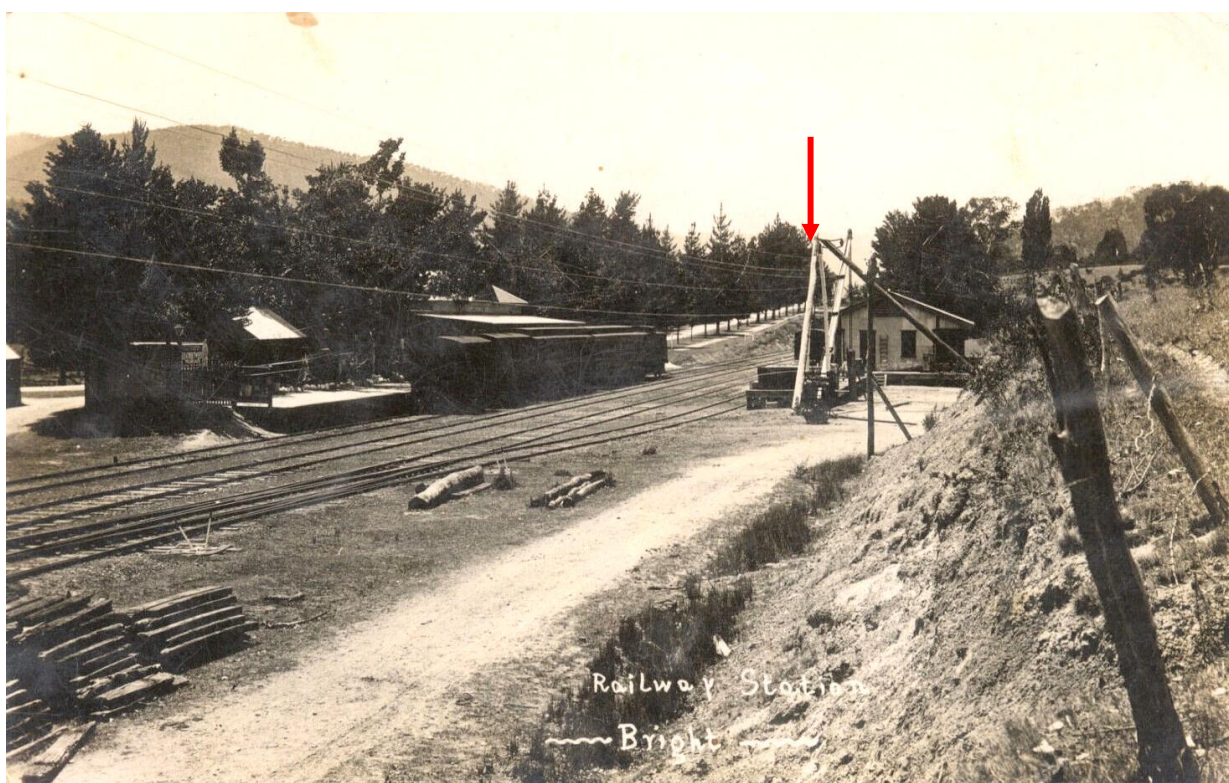
¹⁷ 'Bright', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 11 August 1900, p10

¹⁸ The photograph is held at PROV, VPRS 12800/P0001, 'RY Class Steam Locomotive No.467 at Bright turntable'



Circa 1930s (or earlier) postcard with goods shed highlighted. The crane is visible to the left (ID:8851, V S M Series, Picture Victoria)

The following photograph from the early 20th century shows the established trees along Railway Avenue. The west elevation of the Goods Shed included a window, and the crane is evident in the foreground.



Early 1900s, Station from west with the crane in front of goods shed (Flickr, Aussie mobs)

Undated photograph of front of the station also shows the same shed to the west of the main building with a gable roof. A timber picket fence is visible on the left/east side, leading to the platform. The carriageway at that time was unsealed.



Undated, circa mid-20th century (VPRS 12800/P1, H2269, PROV). Note the original gable roof shed in the background

The station is evident on the following 1952 aerial with many well-established trees nearby, likely those planted in 1890.



Aerial from March 1952 with station buildings (dashed) and water tank (arrow)
(Source: Pine Plantations Project (Bright Area), Run 3, Frame 318, Geoscience)

A 1980 image shows the station largely as it is however a presumably original 6-panelled door is evident below the verandah on the side of the projecting bay, which has been sheeted over or replaced with a flush type. The extant large shed immediately to the west of the station had not been installed as yet.



Bright Railway Station in 1980 (J Collins)
(Source: H2020.1/711, SLV)

Services ceased in 1982 and in 1998 the land was reserved for public purposes as part of the rail trail.¹⁹

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

3.3 Linking Victorians by rail

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The single storey brick building was a T-shaped plan with a roof clad in slate - the long arm has a hipped roof, intersected by a central gabled wing. Three chimneys with projecting, rendered caps pierce the ridge and finials (probably timber), sheeted in lead, define the hipped ends. The gable ends feature timber battens and roughcast finish. The soffits are lined with timber slats and the gutter has an ogee profile. A distance semaphore is located at west end of the façade.

The walls have a basalt plinth comprised of ashlar blocks with a draft margin and rock-faced finish. The red bricks are laid in stretcher bond, likely with metal ties, with a rendered frieze (below the roof) and a rendered band to the upper part of the wall. Original vents survive to the frieze and horizontal mortar has a bastard profile (imitating tuck - pointing).

The front verandah/canopy has a skillion roof clad in corrugated sheet metal and is supported on curved steel stanchions, which were manufactured by A Chalingsworth of East Richmond. The valence has a scalloped edge and structural rigidity is provided by a band of diagonal steel bracing.

¹⁹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1998, p2362



Façade, north elevation (Source: RBA, March 2024)



▲ West end with English elms

◀ Front verandah, with steel stanchion
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The windows are double-hung sashes with basalt sills. On the façade/north elevation, the windows to the side bays have segmental brick arched lintels and those to the central bay have squared heads and square highlights above with textured, stained glass, separated from the lower windows by a cornice-like element and framed by flanking pilasters.

There are two doorways to the north street elevation both with quoined basalt to the edge/architrave. The main entry has an arched highlighted and flanking timber three-panels with a single doorway opposite. At the west end is a narrow, lower section whose roof is concealed by a parapet.

Whilst the building was not defined stylistically in Ward and Donnelly's study ('Victoria's Railway Stations: An Architectural Survey', 1982), it has several similarities with the Footscray style which was employed at this time in its material palette and some of its detailing, however is more overtly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement.

Rear Platform

The retaining wall of the platform consists of concrete slabs – four to each unit with a concrete post which is cantilevered to support the deck overhang. This is a standard railway detail employed in much of the 20th century, however the fabric is not historic.

The verandah is full length and has the same detailing as that previously noted to the front (stanchions, scalloped metal fascia). There are several segmental arched original openings – double hung sash windows and 6-panelled doors – with basalt components (sills, quoining) to the south/rear elevation.

Other Elements at the station compound

A few carriages have been retained on the remnant sections of track to the south.

At the west end of the platform are three sheds of varying size, all having skillion roofs and are fully clad in corrugated sheet metal. The early central shed retains an original, wide timber board door. The largest shed is a more recent construction (post-1980). Interspersed among the sheds are three well established English elms, in addition to several other specimens nearby (in front of 13 Railway Avenue, east of the station, and also in the wide reserve opposite), which were likely all planted in 1900 and so are over a century old.



Platform, west end, with an early shed (foreground), large late 20th shed (background), and English elms (Source: RBA, March 2024)

English elm (*Ulmus minor*, '*Atinia*', previously *Ulmus procera*), has more recently been labelled 'Atinian' elm, on the basis that it is now widely believed to have originated in Atina, Lazio (south of Rome) and brought to the British Isles

by the Romans. It is a large deciduous tree, common to the United Kingdom (especially southern England) but also in the north-west part of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), with an upright trunk with spreading branching that forms a wide and dense crown. The bark is dark brown with vertical ridges and the leaves are dark green, in an ovate shape and serrated, that turn a golden yellow in autumn. The genus is hermaphroditic, that is it produces a flower that has both staminate (male, pollen-producing) and carpellate (female, ovule-producing) parts.²⁰

At the east end of the site are some buildings which have been relocated for the Bright Museum. They are all timber clad and include the John Moreton House and a police lockup.

Goods shed

The goods shed, typical of its typology, is a timber-framed, gable roof building which is completely clad in corrugated sheet metal. The sheets are in traditional small sizes. The roof has a considerable overhang to form canopies which are supported on metal braces/stays. To both long elevations, there is a timber dado presumably to limit damage to the metal cladding and two large openings with sliding timber-board doors. There is a large timber, louvred vent to the apex of both gable ends with a raised doorway and associated timber stair to the west elevation. Previously there had been a flanking window to this (west) elevation. A timber deck extends along the full width of the north elevation with concrete stumps/footings and the central part of the south elevation (in front of the doors).



Goods shed, north-west corner (Source: RBA, March 2024)

Crane – remnants

The crane has been dismantled and lies to the west of the goods shed. It has a cast iron mechanical winch that was later powered. The boom and winch are timber and no manufacturers marking is evident.

²⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulmus_minor_%27Atinia%27, accessed 02.05.2024



Dismantled remnants of the crane (Source: Council, April 2025)

Water tank

The water tank is located on higher ground to the south of the station at 1B Blue Wren Close on private property though is visible from the public domain.

It consists of a 20,000-gallon drum raised on six metal poles with flared capitals and bases likely set in concrete pads (as was the standard design). The substructure is braced by a central metal rod and a series of crossed tie rods at both levels. The drum is lined with rivetted plates of varying dimensions and there is a ladder to the east side.



Water tower from south, from Rebecca Drive (Source: Council, June 2025)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no other train stations included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay as no others survive in the municipality.

Among the other notable public buildings constructed about this time, the former Bright Post Office, Ireland Street (HO113) is the key comparator. Built in 1889 to the design of the PWD, though enlarged in 1901, it is an elaborate brick building in Flemish bond with a gable roof (clad in corrugated sheet metal, replacing the original slate), stone plinth, and rendered bands. The façade is distinguished by the central loggia with capitals to the entry porch and the flanking pairs of arched windows, all with arched hood mouldings. Whilst it has a similar level of grandeur, it is more overtly classicising than the subject building.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 216280

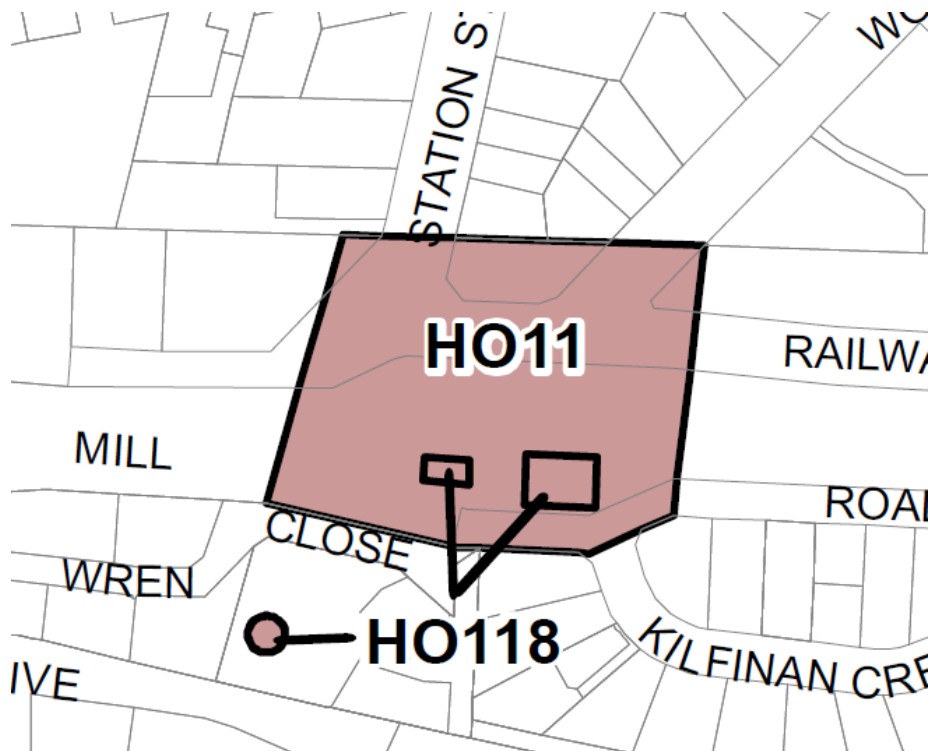
National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register: B3099 – local significance

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	Yes
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes - <i>Ulmus minor</i> 'Atinia'
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	Yes
Prohibited uses permitted	Yes
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Former Bright Railway Station, Railway Ave, Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire Planning Scheme* as HO11. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the original building but an inappropriate curtilage. For instance, it overlaps with HO118 - *Former Bright Railway Goods Shed and Crane Mill Road and Steel Water Tank at 23 Mil Road, Mill Road, Bright* – as shown below.



Overlapping of HO11 and HO118
(Source: Planning Scheme map, alpine09ho)



The current extent of HO11 and HO118 is depicted,
(Source: Vicplan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO11: Yes to incorporate the goods shed, crane and water tower that are included in HO118.

Name change: Change name to *Former Bright Railway Station Complex* to accommodate the various components included in HO118 (goods shed, remnant crane, and water tower).

Remove internal controls. Whilst the interior is understood to retain some original elements - primarily ceilings, skirtings, floorboards and doors - there is nothing distinguishing such as cabinetry or furniture.

Include tree controls for several English elms at the site and in the nearby public realm.

H013: WOOD STREET PLANTINGS

Address	Wood Street, Bright	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Late 19 th century	Period	Victorian



Wood Street, looking west, with a pair of Himalayan cedars in the foreground
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Wood Street Plantings* in Bright are significant.

The fifteen significant trees are:

- 5 x Bunya pines (*Araucaria bidwillii*),
- 7 x Himalayan cedars (*Cedrus deodara*),
- 2 x Corsican pines (*Pinus nigra* var. *corsicana*),
- 1 x Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*).

All other elements are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Wood Street Plantings* are of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Wood Street Plantings* are of historical significance for being one of the oldest avenues in the shire and so a remnant of the early avenue plantings that were instigated in the township of Bright from about the 1860s and for which it has been widely known since about the 1880s. (Criterion A)

The *Wood Street Plantings* are of aesthetic significance as an intact and imposing example of the late Victorian approach – consisting of a mixture of natives (Bunya pines) and exotics (Himalayan cedars, Corsican pines and a Ponderosa pine) - to street planting. It reflects the contemporary interests in botanical and naturalism or wild garden. Rather than the deciduous planting, and the autumnal splendour, for which the town is widely known, Wood Street, along with the similar avenue in the nearby Burke Street, are planted with a variety of evergreen coniferous trees. It remains a verdant enclave in the centre of the township. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reefing at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp66-67

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

History of street trees in Bright³

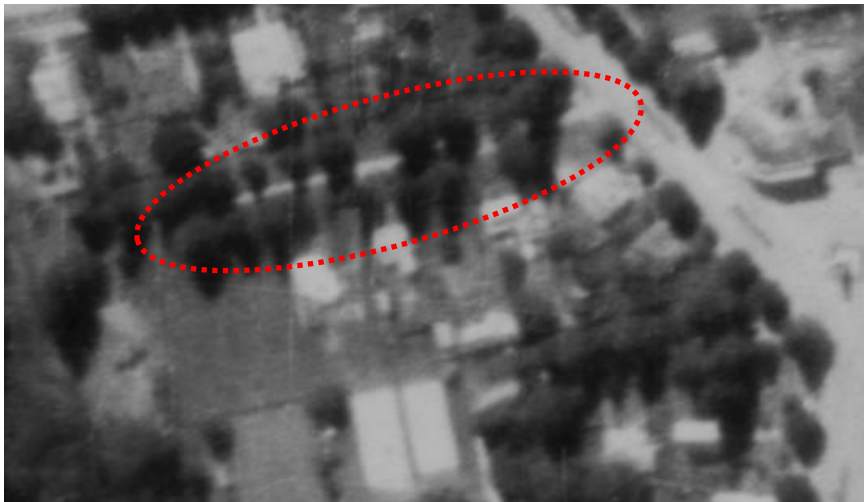
Following the declaration of the Shire of Bright in 1866, improvements recommended for the town included an extensive street tree planting scheme. This was most likely in response to a desire to develop more attractive surroundings and a more pleasant setting for the town in the wake of the gold-mining period of the 1850s. During this period of activity the landscape suffered extensive damage and erosion as a result of mining practices. The local council planted a wide range of exotic deciduous species, including oaks, elms, poplars, maples, dogwoods and chestnuts. It is thought that Ferdinand Mueller, the Government Botanist from 1859, was involved in the provision or suggestion of appropriate tree species. While there is a record of Mueller providing trees for planting at the Bright Cemetery in 1873, no evidence has been found of his direct involvement in selecting or providing the tree stock for the streets of Bright. Mueller carried out a large-scale disbursement of seeds and plants from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens during the period 1859–73.

The street trees of Bright are regularly mentioned in contemporary articles and in publications from the early 1880s. They are frequently referred to as 'English trees'. A description of Bright in 1881 described it as 'a picturesque little town ... with tree-lined streets'. When the Vagabond visited Bright in 1884 he noted the 'poplar lined and English looking streets of Bright'. A photograph dated c1870-1875 shows the presence of mature Poplars in the township, although these appear to be not planted as street trees.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

It is not known precisely when these trees were planted however it is likely during the late 19th century or if not, the early 20th century.

The earliest known aerial recording of the trees dates to 1949, when they are evidently well established.



Aerial, 11 April 1949, with the Woods Street Plantings highlighted
(Source: Military Mapping Photography, Run E.K.S Bright, Film SVY563, Geoscience)

The trees are also evident on the following 1963 aerial, with some specimens noticeably larger than in 1949.

³ GML, 'Great Alpine Road (western gateway), Bright - Landscape and Heritage Preliminary Assessment Report', October 2023, p9



Aerial from 30.12.1963 with Wood Street Plantings highlighted
(Source: Standard Mapping Photography, Frame 63, Run 7, Geoscience)

REFERENCES

LRGM – Services, *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History*, October 2008

2008 Alpine Heritage Study

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

National Trust Heritage Register (T11404)

This street planting of 17 trees is located between Anderson Street and Gully Creek. It is an avenue of mixed conifers, including *Cedrus deodara* (x9), *Araucaria bidwillii* (x6), and *Pinus nigra* var. *maritima* (x2). This planting is one of the few examples of conifers used for street planting in Victoria. Conifers were popularly recommended during the 1860s-1870s but fell out of favour as street plantings in the late 1800s and were replaced by deciduous trees.

The trees were assessed in 1987 and subsequently in 2011 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	012/1987	06/01/2011
Spread (m)	20	E-W 20; N-S 23
Girth (m)	2.94	4
Height (m)	22.7	25
Estimated Age (yrs)	100	123
Condition:	Good-Fair	Good-Fair

Additional Description:

The avenue, which now consists of fourteen trees, is about 150 metres in length and extends along the sides of the asphalted carriageway of Wood Street.

The well-established avenue is comprised of seven Himalayan cedars, five Bunya pines, and two Corsican pines which are generally paired, except for the two Corsican pines.

The Himalayan cedar or deodar (*Cedrus deodora*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree which is native to the sub-continent in East-Afghanistan, South Western Tibet, Western Nepal, Northern Pakistan, and North-Central India but is widely grown as an ornamental tree. Specimens can reach 40-50 metres in height, have a trunk up to 3 metres in diameter, a conic crown, and level branches and drooping branchlets and needle-like leaves. The smaller male cones shed their pollen in autumn and the larger female cones disintegrate when mature (about 12 months) when their winged-seeds are released.⁴

The Bunya pine or bunya-bunya (*Araucaria bidwillii*) is a large evergreen coniferous tree in the family *Araucariaceae* which is endemic to Australia, mainly southeast Queensland. They can reach a height of 50 metres with a single unbranched trunk with dark brown or black flaky bark and their leaves small and rigid with a sharp tip. Part of their distinct appearance is determined by their varying branch configuration with those at the top tending to be ascending and those at the lower parts tending to droop. The cones are located at the apex of the tree (terminal) with the female (or seed) cone being larger than the male (or pollen) cone and maturing after (December to March) the male (October to November).⁵

The Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra* var. *Corsicana*) is another large evergreen coniferous tree, which is native to the island of Corsica (part of France). Typically slender, they can reach a height of 27 metres and are one of several subspecies of black pines which are found across southern Europe. They have horizontal branches and fissured dark greyish-brown bark.⁶



Bunya pine, Wood Street
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Corsican pine



Ponderosa pine

Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), also commonly known as the bull pine, blackjack pine, or western yellow pine, is a large pine trees species native to mountainous regions of western North America, where it is the most widely

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedrus_deodara, accessed 05.03.2024

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Araucaria_bidwillii, accessed 05.03.2024

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_nigra, accessed 22.04.2024; Corsican pine, <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/learn/trees/corsican-pine>, accessed 22.04.2024

distributed pine species. It has distinctive bark which helps to distinguish it from other species - younger trees have blackish-brown bark and mature specimens have yellow to orange-red bark in broad plates with black crevices. It has egg shaped cones.⁷

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

During the late 19th century there were few seminal texts prepared about approaches to gardening in Australia however William Guilfoyle, who was head of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens from 1873 to 1908, was influenced by the idea of the 'wild garden and attempted to give it a distinctively local expression.'⁸ Bunya pines were one of the popular rainforest species, along with Moreton Bay figs, which could be grown across a wide climatic range and imbued gardens with 'a distinctively Australian flavour'.⁹

More broadly, the use of Bunya pines for street planting was not common, as they more typically survive in the gardens of late 19th century homesteads and public gardens. This avenue is also distinguished by the inclusion of two Corsican pines, which are an unusual type of exotic.

The two other key avenues in Bright are:

- HO5: *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke St, Bright. This avenue in the street to the south of Wood Street was planted about the same time as HO13 and also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars, Corsican pines but not a Ponderosa pine.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1946-47 and is comprised of a combination of deciduous and evergreen trees. The profile of deciduous trees is predominated by a range of oaks - mainly Pin oaks, with some Scarlet and English oaks, whereas the evergreens are all Himalayan cedars.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105362

National Trust Heritage Register: T11403, *Cedrus deodara* et alia

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Wood Street Plantings* in Wood Street, Bright is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO13. The extent of the heritage overlay includes the road reserve/public domain of the eastern half of the street between Anderson Street and Bakers Gully Creek.

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinus_ponderosa, accessed 17.06.2024

⁸ Richard Aitken, *The Garden of Ideas – Four Centuries of Australian Style*, Melbourne 2011, p137

⁹ Richard Aitken, *The Garden of Ideas – Four Centuries of Australian Style*, Melbourne 2011, p137



The current extent of HO13 is depicted in red
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extent of HO: no change required

Name: Change name to *Wood Street Plantings*, rather than *Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17*, Wood St (between Anderson St and Gully Creek), Bright

H023: ITALIAN CYPRESSES X 2

Address	154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang	Date Inspected	October 2024
Construction Date	Circa 1900s	Period	Federation



Italian Cypresses, October 2024

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The two Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang are significant. They were likely planted during the early 20th century on the original Buffalo Heifer pre-emptive right, which at that time had not been subdivided.

How is it Significant?

The two Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang are of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The two Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang are of historical significance for being at least a century old and among the earliest surviving plantings of exotic species in the municipality, which have been favoured in key locations, and associated with the Ablett family who held the property for over 50 years. (Criterion A)

The two Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang are of aesthetic significance for being a pair of fine and prominent specimens and are the only identified mature examples of this exotic species in the Shire. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). The population increased to 3,285 as of 2021.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The trees are located on what had been the Buffalo Heifer squatting run, from which derived the Buffalo Heifer pre-emptive right (Crown Portion A, Parish of Myrtleford), a land holding consisting of nearly 330 acres, obtained by John O'Brien in 1859 at £1/acre.³

The Buffalo Heifer run was first leased by M Johnson in 1845 in the lower parts of the Buffalo and Ovens rivers, and opposite the Merriang homestead. In the following year, George Faithfull took over the run, who had previously been involved with infamous conflicts with First Nations peoples in the Benalla area, resulting in considerable losses on both sides.⁴

By January 1900, when the first Torrens title was issued for the pre-emptive right, it was owned by Thomas Mates, a stock and station agent based in Queen Street, Melbourne but he had held it from 1894 (according to an encumbrance noted on the title).⁵ In 1909, the pre-emptive right holding was combined with several other adjacent parcels of land amounting to 1123 acres.⁶

It has not been confirmed for whom the extant house was constructed but stylistically, it would be for one of the two who held the property during the 1910s. It is presumed that the two cypress trees were planted at about the same time as the house was built.

In April 1912, Frank Ford Whitbourn, a local engineer, acquired about 57 acres of the pre-emptive right, on which the trees stand. He held it for six years before it was transferred to Norman Hillyer Ablett, a local farmer, who owned the property for over 50 years until his death in 1969.⁷

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

³ Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford – Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby [Adelaide] 1973, pp40-41

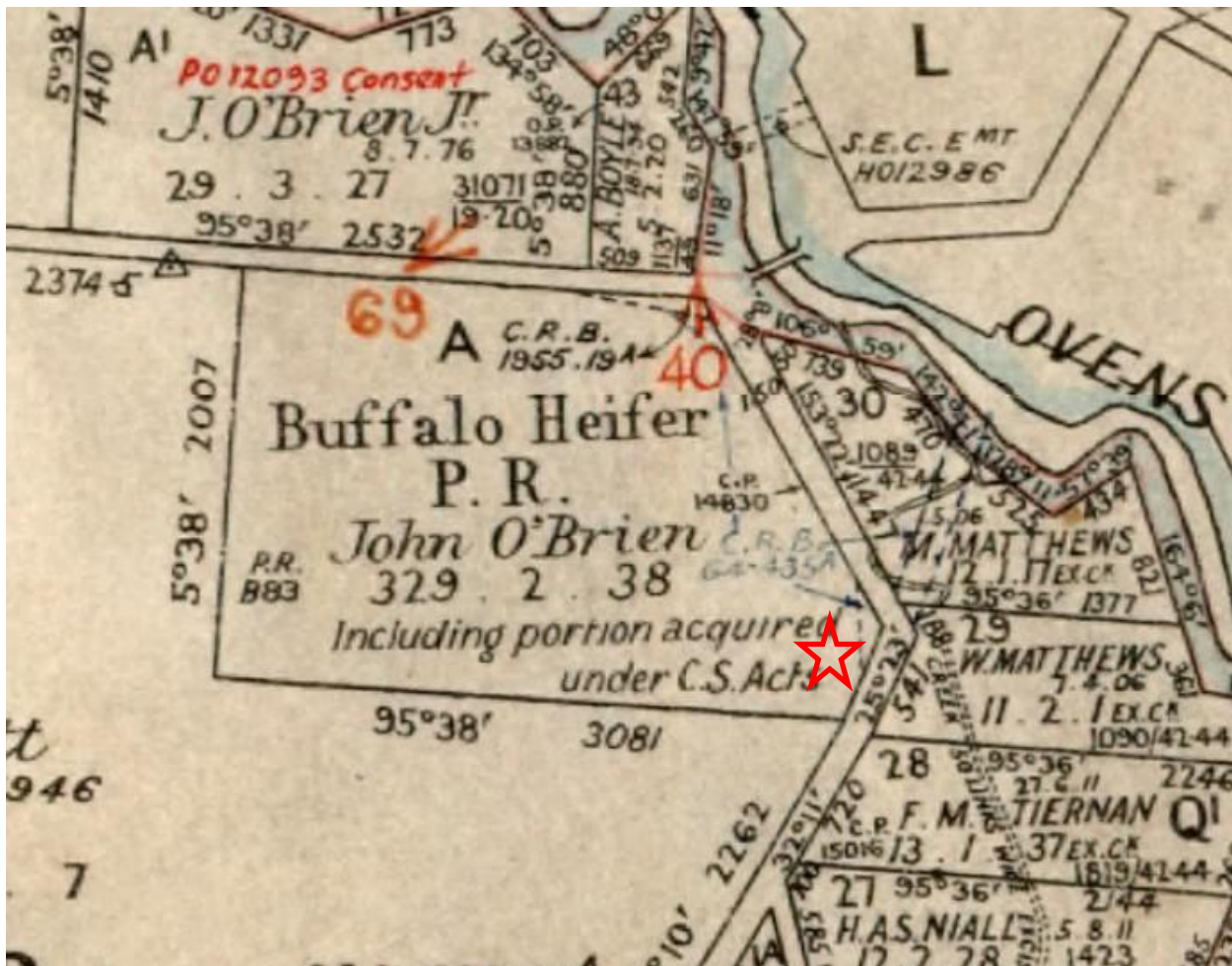
⁴ Robertson, *Myrtleford – Gateway to the Alps*, pp14-15, 40-41

⁵ Certificate of Title, vol. 2737, folio 392

⁶ Certificate of Title, vol. 3346, folio 179

⁷ Certificate of Title, vol. 3591, folio 163

Three years before Norman acquired the site, he had married Miss Emily Maud Onley, third daughter of Mr and Mrs G. Onley, of Myrtleford in August 1915 at St Paul's Church of England, Myrtleford. At the time, it was noted that 'their future home will be in Myrtleford'.⁸



Parish of Myrtleford M295(10), showing approximate location of the subject site
(Source: Landata)

The two trees are evident at being well established on a 1948 aerial located to the rear of the existing Federation period house. At the time, the house remained part of a large holding, with no other houses in the vicinity.

⁸ 'A local Wedding', *Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness*, 12 August 1915, p5



1948 aerial with the cypress trees highlighted
 (Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4 Frame 145, Geoscience)

The following 1963 aerial is less clear however it shows that there may have been an orchard to the south of the house and that the exiting road configuration had not yet been instigated.



Aerial - 19 December 1963, showing the two trees
 (Source: CAD17, Run 5, Frame 52. Geoscience)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The two Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) are located in the north-west corner of the property at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang. The two specimens are likely about 100 years old. They stand in the north-west corner of the site, near some outbuildings which extend along the western boundary. The trees are visible from the public domain, behind the early 20th century, Queen Anne style brick house to the front.



Cypresses from north, in front of 3 Merriang Road (Source: December 2024)

Species⁹

Italian, or Mediterranean, cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) is a species of cypress native to the eastern Mediterranean region and Iran, where it is both a sacred tree and a metaphor for 'the graceful figure of the beloved'. This coniferous evergreen tree can reach a height of 35m, has a conic crown with level branches, and variably loosely hanging branchlets. It can be long-lived, with some trees reported to be over 1,000 years old and survives well in a variety of environmental conditions - in both acidic and alkaline soils and can withstand drought.

Cupressis sempervirens produces lateral shoots, or branches, which often grow upwards towards a light source. The foliage grows in dense, dark green sprays and the leaves are scale-like, 2–5 mm long. The seed cones are ovoid or oblong and 25–40 mm long, initially green though mature to brown about 20–24 months after pollination, and can be sealed for many years.

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cupressus_sempervirens, accessed 05.03.2024. The trees is also known as the Tuscan cypress, Persian cypress, or pencil pine.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are no other identified specimens of Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) in the municipality.

In the Alpine Shire there are other notable exotics, as well as native specimens:

- Two English elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia' or *Ulmus procera*) at the south-east corner of the Memorial Park, Myrtleford, which were planted in 1933 to commemorate the golden wedding anniversary of Thomas Williams and Sarah Kirkham,
- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Coastal (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Porepunkah (HO36),
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95),
- Two River Red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) at Myrtleford (HO29 and HO35).

There are also three significant avenues in Bright, which are mostly planted with exotic species, as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1939 and is comprised of primarily Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with a few Scarlet oaks as well as two English oaks.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and has a similar planting profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105259

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

An Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO23 however there are two specimens and they are located elsewhere.



The current extent of HO23 is depicted in purple, with actual location dashed blue (Source: Vicplan)



Recommended extent of HO23 (Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2022)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: The current location of HO23 is incorrect, which is listed in Ablett's Lane, Myrtleford. The actual location is over one kilometre east at 154 Buffalo River Road, Merriang.

Extent of HO: Generally accommodate a curtilage of 5 metres about the two trees where possible (that is, within the property boundaries).

H025: STATE SCHOOL NO. 955 (FORMER)

Address	29 Elgin Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1870 – 1911/12	Period	Late Victorian & Federation



State School No. 955 (Former), from Elgin Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

State School No. 955 (Former) at 29 Elgin Street, Myrtleford, is significant. The existing building comprises four interlinked gabled brick wings, which were built between 1870 and 1911/12. The first schoolhouse, built in 1870 as a 'Common School', is the smaller of two Albert Street-facing (north wings). In the wake of the 1872 *Education Act* – a ground-breaking legislative event that established a centralised public school system in Victoria based on the principles of free, secular, and compulsory schooling – the site was renamed *Myrtleford State School No. 955*. The original school building was extended to the rear (south) in 1876 by the addition of a one-room infant's school. Another classroom was added in the east in 1886, around when the complex peaked at around 170 pupils. In 1911-12, a large brick wing was attached to the west side of the building. The school closed in 1939, after which the grounds were subdivided and the building variously utilised. It now accommodates the Myrtleford & District Historical Society.

Significant external elements at *State School No. 955 (Former)* are elements original to the three discrete phases that occurred during the late Victorian period and the substantial western wing – a Federation-era development. The latter is particularly intact, while the other sections vary in this regard. Modern doors in the 1870 and 1886 wings are not

significant (excepting the surviving concrete lintel with moulding); neither is the existing brick southern verandah, which is a replacement element.

Internally, there is an array of original/early components associated with the building's use as a public school, including beaded boarded ceilings, fireplaces, joinery, and an honour board and marble plaque, which are significant.

The pre-cast concrete 'Annis & Geroge Bills' horse trough to the Elgin Street frontage of the property is also significant, albeit its historical relationship to the school is not known.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

State School No. 955 (Former) is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The *State School No. 955 (Former)* is of historical significance as having been the site of public education in Myrtleford for nearly 60 years, between its commencement as a 'Common School' in 1870, transition into a public site a few years later, and ultimate closure in 1929. Its establishment and the key built evolution that took place during the late Victorian and Federation periods represents a mixture of local initiative and government aid, underpinned by the township and community's marked growth at the time. (Criterion A)

The *State School No. 955 (Former)* is of aesthetic significance as an evolved assemblage of purpose-designed late Victorian and Federation period educational wings. Although not highly resolved architecturally, its interwoven form – unified by a shared Gothic/Arts & Crafts language – is distinctive and illustrative of the expansion of public education in Myrtleford, as well as the design approach adopted by the state for townships in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Chimneys and decorative gable ends to the western Federation period wing are fine elements, while its timber-framed, multi-pane double-hung sashes and hoppers (toplights and windows) are evocative of the educational/institutional character of period schools. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland roads in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). (pop. 3,285 as of 2021)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The provision of elementary education in Victoria was initially offered by individual-run, for-profit schools, churches, and some government-aided institutions. In Myrtleford, for instance, during the late 1850s/1860s, there were several private schools, including those taught by Langhorn, Anderson and Bell, and Marianne E Cundy, seemingly from their own residences.³

During this period, government involvement in education increased progressively, if haphazardly. Following agitation from local families, the Board of Education (est. 1862) agreed to fund a 'Common School' (in effect, public) at Myrtleford in 1868. The slab-sided, shingled-roofed Wesleyan Chapel in Albert Street served temporarily as the venue for two days a week.⁴

In the meantime, the Committee of the Myrtleford Common School applied for a land grant to set up a permanent, purpose-designed schoolhouse. In January 1869, the Lands Department granted a property on the southeast corner of Elgin and Albert streets. By the following year, a single-room brick building with a shingled gabled roof had been constructed, facing Albert Street.⁵ This 'new schoolhouse' was described in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* in February 1870 as 'the prettiest little building of the kind in the district.'⁶ This article also laid out the difficulties faced by the school's committee in sourcing and raising funds for its construction. The *Victoria Government Gazette* reported the contractors as Sandham and Macauley but gave the building date as 1874.⁷

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp70-71

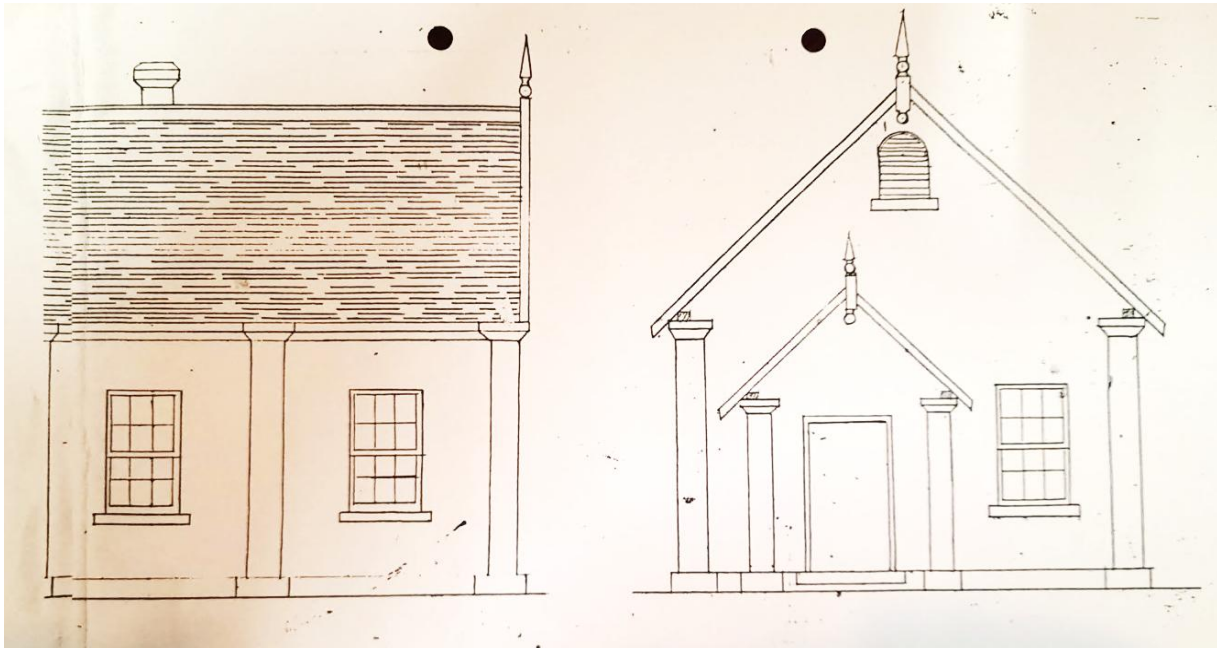
³ *Back to Myrtleford: Souvenir East 1929*, Back to Myrtleford Committee, 1929, np)

⁴ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*, Myrtleford District Historical Society, undated (provided to RBA)

⁵ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*

⁶ 'Myrtleford', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 24 February 1870, p4

⁷ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 24 April 1874, no. 27, p775



Elevational drawing for the original/1870 schoolhouse, showing Albert Street façade with gabled porch and window (replaced in the Federation period, then more recently with the extant opening). Note the lightly classiscised capital to the engaged piers does not appear to have been constructed. The roof is detailed in the manner of slate tiles.
(Source: courtesy of the Myrtleford & District Historical Society)

Soon after the passage of the *1872 Education Act* (VIC), which set up a centralised Education Department with the goal of compulsory, free, and secular primary education, the Albert/Elgin Street site was re-christened *Myrtleford State School No. 955*.

In late 1873, the Education Department issued tenders for the 'erection of a wooden building for a State School at Myrtleford', but it is not clear if any activity resulted.⁸ Tenders for a timber 'Teacher's House' at the property were called in 1879 (it is not known if this residence remains in the vicinity of the school).⁹

A growing enrolment led to the construction of an infant's school (one room) in 1876, which was attached/partly subsumed the rear of the original schoolhouse. Thomas Sandham was the contractor.¹⁰ This two-roomed schoolhouse then accommodated some 105 pupils.¹¹

In 1886, another classroom was built, attached to the east elevation of the 1870/1876 schoolhouse by the contractor Robert Hedge of Wandiligong.¹² *Myrtleford State School No. 955* student population peaked around this time at 170.¹³

⁸ 'Advertising', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 25 December 1873, p3

⁹ 'Advertising', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 29 April 1879, p3

¹⁰ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 3 November 1876, p2017

¹¹ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*

¹² 'Public tenders', *Argus*, 18 June 1886, p10

¹³ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*

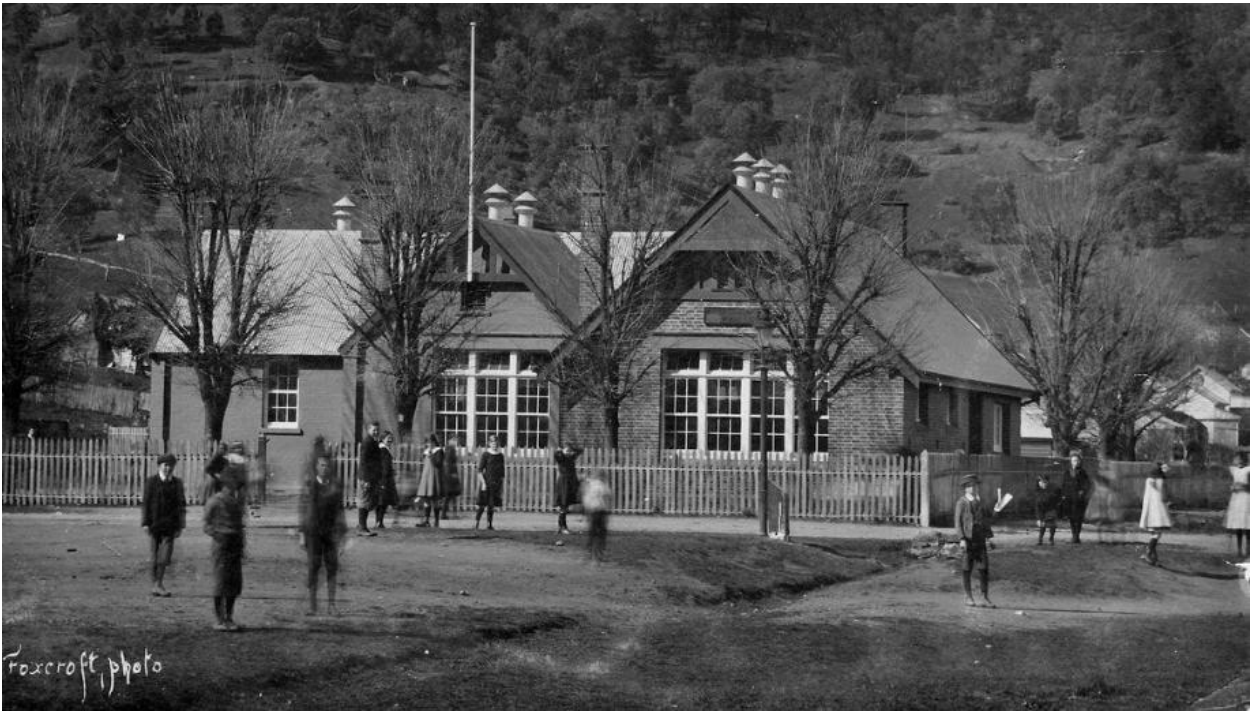


Extract from a photograph, dated 1890, showing the south elevations of the 1870/1878 and 1886 wings of *Myrtleford State School No. 955* (circled). Note boundary plantings. (Source: Henry Van Heems/Vanheems, Myrtleford, RHSV Collection)

Over 1911-12, a sizable gabled brick wing was built adjoining the 1870/1878 wing (west), containing a classroom (north) and head teacher's office and cloakroom (south).¹⁴ The front porch of the 1870 wing was also demolished and replaced with a bank of double-hung sash windows with hopper highlights (since lost). The ventilation system was likely installed at this time throughout the building.¹⁵ Corrugated metal sheeting has been the established roof cladding at the place since at least 1890.

¹⁴ Tender for 'Alterations and Additions (brick)' to the school were advertised in *The Age*, 22 September 1911, p12

¹⁵ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*



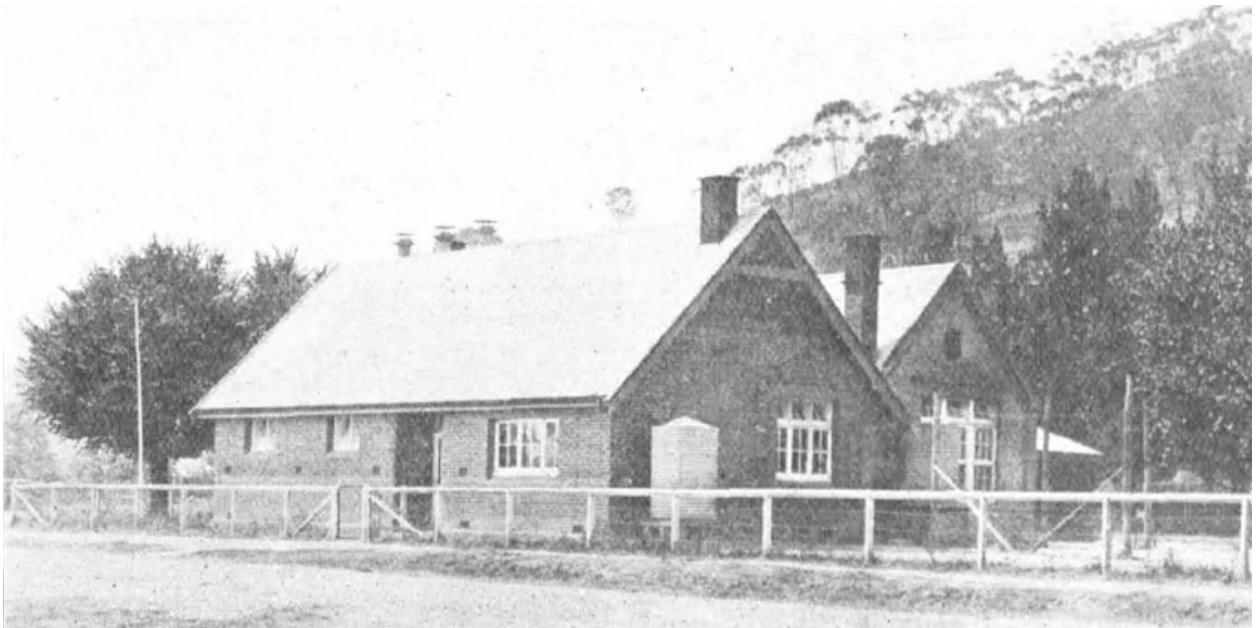
Albert Street/north elevation of *Myrtleford State School No. 955*, showing the 1911/12 wing (right) with Federation period 'improvements' (new windows, roof ventilators). (Source: Myrtleford District Historical Society)

A gabled timber shelter was erected in the playground in 1915 but has since been removed.¹⁶



Extract from an undated but likely late Federation/interwar period postcard photograph of Myrtleford, with the north elevation of *State School No. 955* indicated. (Source: Graham W Gales, *Alpine Shire Historical Photos and Events*, Facebook)

¹⁶ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*



West (left) and south (right) elevations of the *State School No. 955*.
(Source: *Back to Myrtleford: Souvenir East 1929*, Back to Myrtleford Committee, 1929, np)



(Upper/lower) Extract from an interwar/postwar photograph showing the *State School No. 955* from across Robertson Street. (Source: *Panorama at Myrtleford, VIC*, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/438265>)

From the mid-1920s, the school cultivated a pine plantation on Reform Hill, which overlooked the site, seemingly on the basis of beautification and commercial drivers. It was known as the 'Myrtleford Primary School Endowment Plantation' and was replanted multiple times, until the final clearing in 2010, after which it was renewed with native species.¹⁷

Secondary education commenced at *Myrtleford State School No. 955* in 1927; however, numbers had been in decline since the establishment of *St. Mary's Convent School* a few years prior. From the early 1930s, a sustained local campaign for a 'modern' secondary school emerged, with a new Moderne-style complex ultimately opened on O'Donnell Avenue in 1939 (now Myrtleford P12 College).¹⁸ The southern part of the site's grounds was excised and developed residentially in the postwar era.



Aerial photograph of the *State School No. 955 (Former)*, circled, dated 1948.
(Source: *Mapsheets Photography, Bright*, Run 4, Frame 145, Geoscience)

Following its closure, the *Myrtleford State School No. 955* has accommodated varied uses. The grounds were used as a works depot by the Department of Lands until 1985. The building itself was employed during World War II to manufacture defence uniforms and then, for most of the 1960s, by the Shire of Myrtleford as an engineering and works facility. In the early 1980s, it served temporarily as vehicle and equipment storage for the local fire brigade while their new firehouse was under construction. Its existing use as the headquarters and district museum of the Myrtleford & District Historical Society commenced in the mid-1980s.¹⁹

¹⁷ John Taylor, 'History of the school pine plantation', *The Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 39 August 2023

¹⁸ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*

¹⁹ *Myrtleford State School—Elgin Street*



Aerial photograph of the *State School No. 955 (Former)*, circled, dated 1991.
(Source: Run Aus269, Frame 805, Geoscience)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

8.0 Building community life

8.2 Educating people

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

State School No. 955 (Former) occupies a rectangular, generally flat allotment at the southeast corner of Elgin and Albert streets in the southern part of Myrtleford. The block extends through to Robertson Street in the east, with a single-storey residential development abutting in the south on the former school grounds.

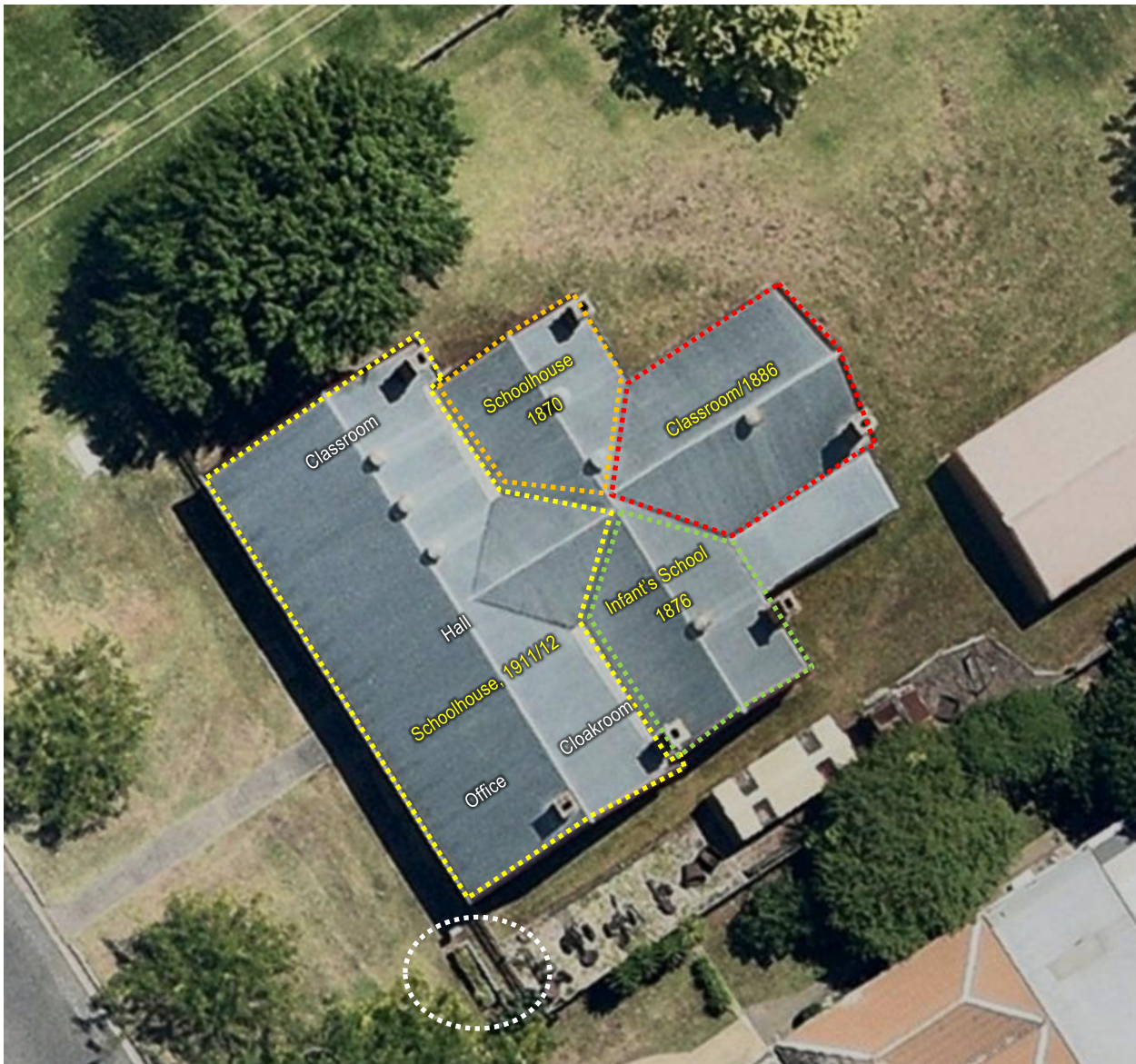
The former school building is situated at the junction of Albert/Elgin streets. To its southeast is a freestanding late 20th-century elongated gabled metal shed (open to the north) and a small metal outbuilding in the south straddling the boundary.

During its use as a school, the grounds were characterised by exotic deciduous boundary plantings, likely Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*). However, an aerial photograph dated 1991 depicts this area as cleared, with trees evident to the southern perimeter (since removed). The existing plantings in the northern part of the site are then only some 30 years in age.

A portion of the grounds are secured with a non-original timber picket fence. Immediately south of the schoolhouse on Elgin Street is a pre-cast concrete 'Annis & George Bills' horse trough, likely dating to the interwar period. Over 700 such troughs were manufactured and distributed across Australia prior to World War II by a trust set up by the will of George Bills to commemorate his wife, an advocate for animal rights.²⁰

The *State School No. 955 (Former)* comprises four interconnected forms – the outcome of different building phases between 1870/late Victorian and 1911-12/Federation periods. These stages are shown visually in the following image.

²⁰ Laura Breen, 'For the relief of horses: a gift from Annis and George Bills', *The People & Environment Blog*, National Museum of Australia, 14 May 2014, available online



Evolution of *State School No. 955* with key development phases approximately mapped:

- Original schoolhouse, remnant portion, 1870 – orange
- Infant's school, 1876 – green
- Third classroom, 1886 – red (NB. attached verandah is highly modified)
- 'New' schoolhouse, 1911/120 – yellow
- Annis & George Bills horse trough, interwar – white

(Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

These wings each have a steeply pitched gable roof clad in non-original corrugated metal sheeting. There are six variously expressed brick/rendered chimneys across the different sections, along with steel flues, which were provided in the Federation period.

All windows are timber framed.

The first classroom (1870) is constructed of brick in a common bond, now overpainted (possibly originally in a lime or brick wash). The decorative timber barge board survives, albeit missing its finial, as does the segmented and louvred ventilator below. In the north elevation, the bank of multi-paned sashes with hopper toplights – itself a Federation period substitution of the classroom's formative entrance (a secondary gabled porch) – has been replaced by the extant double-leafed metal door. The existing concrete lintel and upper moulding derive from the Federation window. An engaged pier remains at the exposed corner and east part of the elevation.



Photograph of *State School No. 955 (Former)* showing north (right) and east (left) elevations. Undated but likely late interwar period. Note the brick for the 1870 and 1886 wings appears to have a thin applied finish, possibly a lime or brick wash. (Source: Public Works Department, VPRS 10516/P0001, PROV)



North elevation, 1870 wing (right) and 1886 addition (left).
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The 1876 wing (infant's school) is attached to the rear of the original schoolhouse. Its walls are of an overpainted (red brick) in stretcher bond (likely cavity walling). The south elevation is highly intact, retaining its timber finial (upper part missing), segmented louvred ventilator, and tripartite bank of double-hung sashes with hopper toplights, all multi-paned. The window also has a rendered lintel with upper moulding and sill. Adjacent to the plinth at ground level is a brick-lined gutter.



View to the State School No. 955 (Former), showing the southern elevation, likely interwar period. The timber verandah has since been replaced. (Source: Public Works Department, VPRS 10516/P0001, PROV)



Close-up of the 1876 wing, facing west. (Source: RBA, March 2024)

The 1886 wing is constructed of brick in a Flemish bond, now overpainted. Similar to the 1870 facade, its original west-facing window has been replaced with a metal roller door, although the rendered concrete lintel with upper

moulding has been preserved. The lower of the gable finial and ventilator beneath also survive. The corners feature restrained, engaged piers. In the north elevation, there is a single-sash multi-paned window, flanked terracotta ventilator grilles (sill height), with another in the west elevation of the 1870 wing. These are probably Federation period alterations.

The skillion-roofed, partly enclosed (brick wall) verandah attached to the south elevation of the 1886 wing is heavily modified or a replacement.



Façade (east elevation) of the 1886 wing.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The intactness of the 1911/12 schoolhouse is high. Its walls are of a red face brick in Flemish bond. Both gable ends are elaborate, with a projecting section of roughcast sheeting supported by shaped timber brackets intersecting with a half-timbered roughcast section beneath. The latter band also displays a central louvred ventilator. The gable end has a timber bargeboard with decorative outer brackets and a boarded soffit. The north elevation has a quadripartite bank of double-hung sashes with hoper toplights, all multi-paned.



North (left) elevation, with the western (right) façade also shown, likely interwar period.
(Source: Public Works Department, VPRS 10516/P0001, PROV)



North elevation.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The 1911/12 facade is asymmetrically balanced, with an offset, deeply recessed entrance (bullnose bricks to the edges). It contains a raised concrete deck and double-leafed timber batten door with sidelights (upper glazed, lower panelled) and toplights (central multi-paned, out set back). The window to the south is a tripartite bank, single sashes/multi-paned with rendered lintel and sill. In contrast, north of the door, are two paired multi-paned hopper windows situated high on the wall, terminating at the eave line. Terracotta grilles at sill height are original.



West elevation (Elgin Street), likely interwar period. The timber building right of frame may be the 1915 shelter shed.
(Source: Public Works Department, VPRS 10516/P0001)



West elevation (Elgin Street).
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

An original window punctures the south elevation.



South elevation, from Elgin Street.
(Source: Public Works Department, VPRS 10516/P0001)



South elevation, 1911/12 schoolhouse.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Pre-cast concrete 'Annis and George Bills' horse trough, Elgin Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

Internally, the 1911/12 and 1870/1876 sections are bisected by an east/west hall, which leads to the 1886 classroom. Floors have largely been replaced with concrete. The walls are of overpainted brick. Beaded boarded ceilings are apparent in most rooms, some with ornamental metal vents. Other elements of note include joinery (architraves/doors/toplights, picture rails), fireplaces (note fine high-backed timber mantle in infant's classroom), internal windows, and a school honour board and commemorative marble plaque (Frank Vale).

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The 1870 schoolhouse and its 1876 addition almost certainly derived from one of the Board of Education's standard designs, many of which were architect prepared. The Public Works Department (PWD) would have been responsible for the later additions (1886 and 1911/12). Unifying these phases was a light Gothic style, chiefly conveyed by high-pitched gabled forms and the employment of a 'natural' Arts & Crafts-influenced material palette. Such attributes were

typical of modest 'Common' and State schools of the late Victorian and Federation periods, whether rural or urban based.

Several late 19th and early 20th century purpose-designed schoolhouses in the Alpine Shire are protected by a heritage overlay (HO). The most substantial and picturesque is *Primary School No. 275* at 119 School Road, Wandiligong (VHR H1638, HO72), constructed in 1877 (additions 1881). It was designed by the chief architect for the Education Department, Henry R. Bastow, in a pronounced Gothic manner, with an unusual geometry featuring jerkinhead-roof forms, a tall 'tower', multiple verandahs, and exposed brick walls (contrasting colours).

Three of the heritage-listed schools are timber-framed gabled hall-like buildings:

- *Former Mongans Bridge School* (No. 3403), 42 Bay Creek Lane, Mongans Bridge (HO130). Small-scale schoolhouse, possibly portable, built 1902.
- *Harrietville Primary School (old building)*, Great Alpine Road, Harrietville (HO151). Built circa 1866, with Federation-era replacement window (double-hung sashes, hopper toplights).
- *Porepunkah Primary School (old section)*, Martley Street, Porepunkah (HO194), erected 1910-15.

Two others are representative brick examples:

- *Old Primary School Building* (No. 776) (Bright P-12 College), 8 Park Street, Bright (HO122). Restrained Gothic-style brick (hand-made) schoolhouse, 1876-82. Earliest listed.
- *St Mary's Catholic School and Convent*, 25 Prince Street, Myrtleford (HO181). Purportedly an Arts & Crafts style denominational schoolhouse, erected 1922 (largely concealed from the public domain).

Other than the State-significant *Primary School No. 275* at Wandiligong, Myrtleford's *State School No. 955 (Former)* is the most sizable of the heritage-listed educational buildings, a reflection of its form having been enlarged over time and the next most adorned, an attestation of its broader setting's status around the turn of the century as an important town.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 216282

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	Yes
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *State School No. 955 (Former)* at 29 Elgin Street, Myrtleford, is included in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay for the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO25. The current curtilage related to HO25 is inadequate and should be enlarged to the extent of its title boundaries.



The current inadequate extent of HO25 (pink polygon) with title approximately outlined in blue. (Source: Vicplan)



The recommended extent of HO25 is depicted in red.
(Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: extend the polygon to title boundaries

Name change: *State School No. 955 (Former)* rather than *State School No. 440*

Additional controls: turn off tree controls (existing trees are more recent plantings) and apply internal controls (significant layout and notable interior elements)

H026: PAIR OF ENGLISH ELMS

Address	51 Prince Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1933	Period	Interwar



Pair of English Elms at the Memorial Park, Myrtleford
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The Pair of English Elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') at the south-east corner of the Memorial Park, 51 Prince Street Myrtleford (though near the corner of Duke and Lawrence streets) - are significant. They were planted on 18 October 1933 to commemorate the golden wedding anniversary of Thomas Williams and Sarah Kirkham, which is recorded in the two plaques installed 50 years later.

The coniferous tree immediately to the east, adjacent on Lawrence Street, is not significant.

How is it Significant?

The Pair of English Elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') at 51 Prince Street, Myrtleford are of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Pair of English Elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') are of historical significance for being an unusual commemoration of a golden wedding to a well-respected local couple - Thomas Williams and Sarah Kirkham. Thomas was one of the key instigators in the establishment of the Memorial Park, where the trees are located. (Criterion A)

The Pair of English Elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') are of aesthetic significance for being a pair of splendid specimens – substantial and with broad canopies that are partly intertwined (an appropriate metaphor for the couple they commemorated) - at a prominent corner in the Memorial Park, Myrtleford. Along with the older specimen at Merriang Homestead, they are the only identified mature examples of this species in the Shire which is well suited to the local climate. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and ongoing presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001).

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The two English elms are located on Lot 6, Section B, in the Township of Myrtleford. This parcel of land initially was comprised of 5 acres and was acquired by J Haxton on 20 January 1863.³ From the late 19th century, the Haxtons' allowed this land to be used for a variety of recreational activities including horse racing, footraces, cricket, football, gymnastics, wood chops, tennis and festivals.⁴

In 1920, with Mrs Chambers, nee Haxton, about to leave the district after marrying the Rev. Chambers, a committee of prominent local businessmen, including Thomas W Williams, approached her about purchasing the land, which she agreed to on the basis it was retained for public use. As such, a deposit was paid with the balance being raised by public subscription. Work on fencing the park was undertaken during 1921-23.⁵

By 1930, it was known as the Soldiers Memorial Park, and money was continuing to be being raised at a sports meeting that was held in October of that year.⁶

The two trees were planted on 18 October 1933 to commemorate the golden wedding anniversary of Thomas Williams and Sarah Kirkham. The event was noted in the local paper as follows:

Mr and Mrs. Thomas Williams two highly respected residents of Myrtleford, celebrated their golden wedding on Wednesday, October 18. They were married at Beechworth by the Rev. K. Q. Robin on October 18, 1883. The whole of the living members of the family, which represents four generations, were present at a breakfast. Mr. and Mrs. Williams were also honored at two public functions during the day.⁷

Both Thomas and Sarah died during the late 1930s with the detailed obituary of Thomas (from 1937) highlighting his contribution to the local community. Of particular relevance was the fact that he was instrumental in the establishment of the Memorial Park and was one of its trustees:

In public and business life, the late Mr. Williams was ever keen and alert to grasp opportunities, and it is through his foresight that Myrtleford enjoys many of its present facilities. He was a director of the Myrtleford Butter Factory for upwards of a quarter of a century; a foundation director of the Co-operative Society, and trustee to the racecourse and the Memorial Park. He was one of the prime movers in forming the Co-operative Store, and securing the area for the park, as well as being one of the workers behind the present Memorial Hall.⁸

Sarah's passing two years later was also noted in the local paper:

The deceased lady, who was 74 years of age, was a former well-known and highly respected resident of Myrtleford, and on the death of her late husband, Mr Thos. Williams, last year, Mrs Williams went to Melbourne to live.⁹

Historic aerials are available of the area and record the trees as small specimens in 1948 and large specimens in 1991.

³ Myrtleford Township Plan, T294(4)

⁴ John Taylor, 'Memorial Park: Venue for sport and community activities', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 21 June 2023, p14

⁵ Taylor, 'Memorial Park: Venue for sport and community activities', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 21 June 2023, p14

⁶ 'Sports Meeting at Myrtleford', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 1 October 1930, p4

⁷ 'Personal', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 28 October 1933, p3

⁸ 'Obituary', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 10 November 1937, p5

⁹ 'Personal', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 28 June 1939, p2



Aerial from 1948 with location of trees highlighted
 (Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4 Frame 145, Geoscience)



Aerial from 13.02.1991 with the two trees highlighted
 (Source: AUS269, frame 805, Geoscience)

Half a century later, the two plaques were installed at the base of the trees by their descendants.¹⁰

¹⁰ Taylor, 'Memorial Park: Venue for sport and community activities', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 21 June 2023, p14

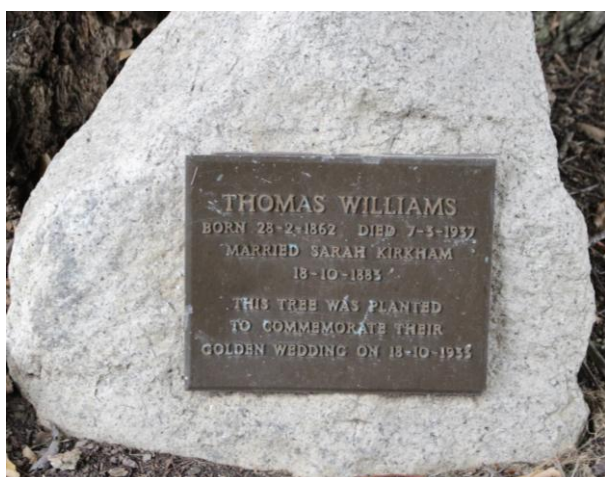
VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

8.5 Remembering significant events and people

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The pair of mature English elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia') are located in Duke Street, near the intersection with Lawrence Street, at the south-east corner of Memorial Park.

A commemorative brass plaque, mounted on a rough-cut piece of grey granite, are located opposite each other at the base of the two trees. The plaques commemorate the golden wedding anniversary – 18 October 1933 – of Thomas Williams (1862-1937) and Sarah Kirkham (1867-1939). It is not confirmed when the plaques were installed.



Plaque for Thomas Williams



Plaque for Sarah Kirkham

Species¹¹

English elm (*Ulmus minor* cultivar 'Atinia', previously *Ulmus procera*), is more recently labelled 'Atinian' elm, on the basis that it is now widely believed to have originated in Atinia, Lazio (south of Rome) and brought over by the Romans. It is a large deciduous tree, common to the United Kingdom (especially southern England) but also in the north-west part of the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal), with an upright trunk with spreading branching that forms a wide and dense crown. The bark is dark brown with vertical ridges and the leaves are dark green, in an ovate shape and serrated, that turn a golden yellow in autumn. The genus is hermaphroditic, that is it produces a flower that has both staminate (male, pollen-producing) and carpellate (female, ovule-producing) parts.

¹¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulmus_minor_%27Atinia%27, accessed 02.05.2024



Subject elms, from the north
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

English elm was a popular species for park and avenue planting during the 19th century. Various species of elms, including the natural hybrid, Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), grow well in the south-eastern parts, especially Victoria. Due to the demise of many elms in the northern hemisphere as result of Dutch elm disease (a microfungus dispersed by bark beetles), the mature trees in Australia's parks and gardens are now regarded as amongst the most significant in the world.¹²

The only other identified English elm (T11058) in the municipality is located at the Merriang Homestead (HO20/VHR: H566) is much older and is thought to have been planted circa 1850s.

In the Alpine Shire there are other notable exotics, as well as native specimens:

- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Coast/al (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Porepunkah (HO36),
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95),
- Two River Red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) at Myrtleford (HO29 and HO35).

There are also three significant avenues in Bright, which are mostly planted with exotic species, as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1946-47 and is comprised of primarily of Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with a few Scarlet oaks as well as two English oaks.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and has a similar planting profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elms_in_Australia and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elm>, accessed 02.05.2024

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 216376

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes - <i>Ulmus minor</i> 'Atinia' x 2
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The Pair of English elms in Myrtleford is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO26. The mapped location of HO26 is immediately to the east of the two trees.



The current extent of HO26 is depicted in purple, with the proposed in red
(Source: Vicplan)



Recommended extent of HO26
(Source: Nearmap, 19.12.2022)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: the current mapped location of HO26 is incorrect as it is to the east of the two English elms. The address is 51 Prince Street, Myrtleford (Memorial Park).

Extent of HO: enlarge to generally accommodate a curtilage of 10 metres from the outer edge of their canopies.

Name: Change from Elms Road Reserve, Lawrence St (Corner Duke St), Myrtleford to Pair of English Elms

H027: MATHIESON/ROTHERY RESIDENCE, STORE AND COMMON LIME TREE

Address	82-84 and 86 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1870s/80s	Period	Late Victorian



Rothery Home with the Rothery Tree in the backdrop, from Myrtle Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree* at 82-84 and 86 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford, is significant. The corner site accommodated a commercial use from at least the late 1850s, with the existing cojoined dwelling and shop constructed in the 1870s and 1880s on behalf of Thomas Mathieson. In the early 1890s, Joseph Rothery took over its operations, then ownership (from 1907), and is responsible for the shopfront and likely the verandah. Henry Forest Lowerson then acquired the property in 1922, with his family operating it as a store until 1966, after which it closed. These three owners – Mathieson, Rothery, and Lowerson – are well-known fixtures of Myrtleford's late 19th and early 20th-century history. The *Common Lime Tree* is believed to be a late Victorian period planting and likely connected to Mathieson. The rear outbuilding also likely dates to this phase.

The ensemble of the connected forms of the *Residence and Store* and close by *Common Lime Tree* (*Tilia x europaea*) with rear outbuilding is significant.

Elements of particular note at the *Residence* are its hipped roof with short-sheeted corrugated metal, two rendered chimneys, brick walls (Flemish bond), wrap-around skillion verandah including turned and stop-chamfered timber posts, external doors (front and rear, pair of French doors/north elevation), and timber-framed two-paned double-hung sashes with stone sills.

Building fabric of significance at the *Store* is its original form/footprint, including gabled roof, red brick chimney, rendered and decorative parapet with a central 'broken' pediment, and side walls of brick. The early 20th century (Federation/Interwar period) timber-framed shopfront is also of significance, namely its central recessed and splayed entrance with door, hexagonal mosaic tiling and marble edge at the entry, and rendered stallboards and piers. The verandah is not original.

The outbuilding's form, walls and chimney of handmade bricks, and original openings/windows are significant. The corrugated sheeting wall cladding in the southern part of the facade would likely be significant if confirmed as original or early fabric.

Non-significant elements at the property are contemporary additions/alterations to the built forms, including the residence's weatherboard addition (southeast), and the timber picket fence.

How is it Significant?

The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree* are of local historical, rarity, and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree are of historical significance as an outstanding demonstration of late Victorian period residential and retail development in Myrtleford, a key phase of consolidation for the township. The corner site is popularly considered one of, if not the earliest, locations of commerce in the town, with such activity predating the existing structures. The first three owner-operators of the extant shop/residence – Thomas Mathieson, Joseph Rothery, and Henry F Lowerson – were all important figures in the lifeblood of late 19th and early 20th century Myrtleford, with their profession as storekeepers key to their local prominence. (Criterion A)

The *Common Lime* or linden tree (*Tilia x europaea*), as a late 19th century exotic, is a rare specimen in the municipality, with an impressive canopy and substantial trunk. (Criterion B and E)

The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence* and *Store* are of aesthetic significance as a generally intact and distinctive instance of a coupled late 19th-century house/shop. The handsome dwelling is distinguished amongst the municipality's surviving late Victorian period housing stock as a perpetuation of the Georgian style aesthetic. An expression conveyed by its low-slung, gentle hipped-roofed form, wrap-around verandah, and 'tasteful' symmetry. Other elements are more typical of its era, such as its brickwork and door/window treatment, but nonetheless, fine examples. The verandah posts are likely Federation period replacements and – in the absence of certainty about the original supports - uncommon, visually interesting components of the place. The *Store* features a lively Free style parapeted pediment and an intact early 20th century (Federation/interwar period) shopfront that are highly evocative of traditional shop presentation. (Criteria E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with

neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland roads in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). (pop. 3,285 as of 2021)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The subject land derives from Crown Allotments 16 and 17, Section 5 of the Town of Myrtleford, Parish of Myrtleford, which were acquired by 'J[ohn] Woodburne & Co' (generally spelt Woodburn) in 1859.³ Woodburn (d. 1909) was a Scottish immigrant,⁴ who operated a store at the corner property that he had either established a few years prior or purchased from another (possibly Edwin Mitchell).⁵ It was one of the first places of business in the nascent town.

Woodburn's store, which also served as Myrtleford's post office initially, was described as a 'rough wooden building':

before the advent of newspapers in the village, [there was] ... a small blackboard [outside Woodburn's store] on which it was written the news of the district. This store-cum-post office shared its popularity as a meeting place with the Prince

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp70-71

³ *Township of Myrtleford, Parish of Myrtleford*, M294(4), 1963, PROV

⁴ 'The late Mr Woodburn', *Penshurst Free Press*, 8 October 1909, p3

⁵ A letter in *The Myrtleford Times* noted that Woodburn had established a store in 1855 (4 March 1953, p1). Mitchell is mentioned as having established Woodburn's store in another source (Kate Robinson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby, 1973, p179)

of Wales Hotel (since demolished), as both were near the entrance of the Reform Mine tunnel, and opposite the first bridge erected over the Happy Valley Creek—an easy means of entry to the town for the Buffalo River pioneers.⁶

In the late 1860s, Woodburn returned to Scotland and transferred the operations of the store to Robert Thompson.⁷ Within a few years it had been sold to J. Blacketer and Co., who ran it as a general store.⁸ The partners – John Blacketer and Thomas Mathieson – dissolved in 1873, with Mathieson carrying on the business 'on his own account', advertising as a 'Draper, Grocer, Ironmonger, General Merchant, Post Office.'⁹

Mathieson is purported to have demolished Woodburn's timber structure, replacing it with the existing brick house (86 Myrtle Street) and attached store (no. 84). The exact date of construction is unclear but occurred during Mathieson's ownership of the property (1870-1893), probably the 1870s and 1880s when his enterprise flourished.

Mathieson (1833-1896), also a Scottish immigrant, was well-known locally, performing amongst other key roles as Myrtleford's Justice of the Peace (more akin to a magistrate at the time). His obituary described him as a 'leading storekeeper in the early digging days' of the town:

whose memory is cherished by the few oldest residents left for his kindness and assistance to gold miners and others when they were struggling.¹⁰

Mathieson's willingness to trade on credit was reported as leading to Mathieson's insolvency and, in 1893 (possibly 1892), 'his creditors empowered Joseph Rothery of Beechworth to wind up the affairs of the store'.¹¹ The Third Beechworth Building Society had been the owner of the property, which then included what is now 6 and 8-10 Albert Street, since 1888. On the same day in March 1892, it was transferred back into the hands of Mathieson, then returned to the Society.¹²

Rothery (1858-1945) then took over the operation of the store himself. A recent arrival in Myrtleford (since 1891) from England, Rothery also emerged as a notable citizen:

[when he] finally left [Myrtleford] in 1918, and during the 27 years' residence made his mark on the town and district with an indelibility rarely exceeded. While in business as a general storekeeper ... he was the means of bringing the National Bank to Myrtleford. He was a foundation member of the Myrtleford Masonic Lodge, and gave the piece of ground on which the Soldiers' Memorial Hall now stands ... The Progress Association was a very live organisation during his stay in Myrtleford, and everything for the development of the town and district whether mining, farming, dairying or municipal matters—had his enthusiastic support. As an honorary magistrate he sat on the Myrtleford bench for many years.¹³

Rothery replaced the shopfront (see below).¹⁴ This update may have occurred around 1907 when he acquired the title to the property from the Third Beechworth Building Society.¹⁵

In 1922, the-then large corner holding was broken up, seemingly as Rothery moved to New South Wales. Land containing the residence and store (and what is now 80 Myrtle Street) was sold to H.F. Lowerson Pty Ltd, who continued to operate it as a general store. While the property at 8-10 Albert Street and 80 Myrtle Street was excised.¹⁶

Henry Forest Lowerson (1883-1952), born in Myrtleford, proved to be another acclaimed towns person who ran a business at the corner site. The *Myrtleford Times* ran a detailed obituary, noting his commercial success at the site and numerous other roles, including Justice of the Peace and Deputy Coroner and commissioner of the local Waterworks Trust.¹⁷ The property remained in his family's ownership until 1966 (with 6 Albert Street excised in 1936).¹⁸

⁶ Kate Robinson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby, 1973, p179

⁷ 'Notice', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 31 March 1868, p1

⁸ *Back to Myrtleford: Souvenir East 1929*, Back to Myrtleford Committee, 1929, np

⁹ 'Advertising', *Ovens and Murry Advertiser*, 7 November 1873, p3; and 'Advertising', *Ovens and Murry Advertiser*, 17 October 1878, p2

¹⁰ 'Myrtleford', *The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, 24 July 1931, p43

¹¹ Robinson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, p179

¹² Certificate of Title, vol. 1998, folio 402

¹³ 'The Late Mr. J. Rothery', *Myrtleford Times*, 7 November 1945, p1

¹⁴ *Back to Myrtleford: Souvenir East 1929*

¹⁵ Certificate of Title, vol. 1998, folio 402

¹⁶ Certificate of Title, vol. 1998, folio 402

¹⁷ 'Death of Mr. H.F. Lowerson, J.P.', *Myrtleford Times*, 3 September 1952, p6

¹⁸ Certificate of Title, vol. 4632, folio 273

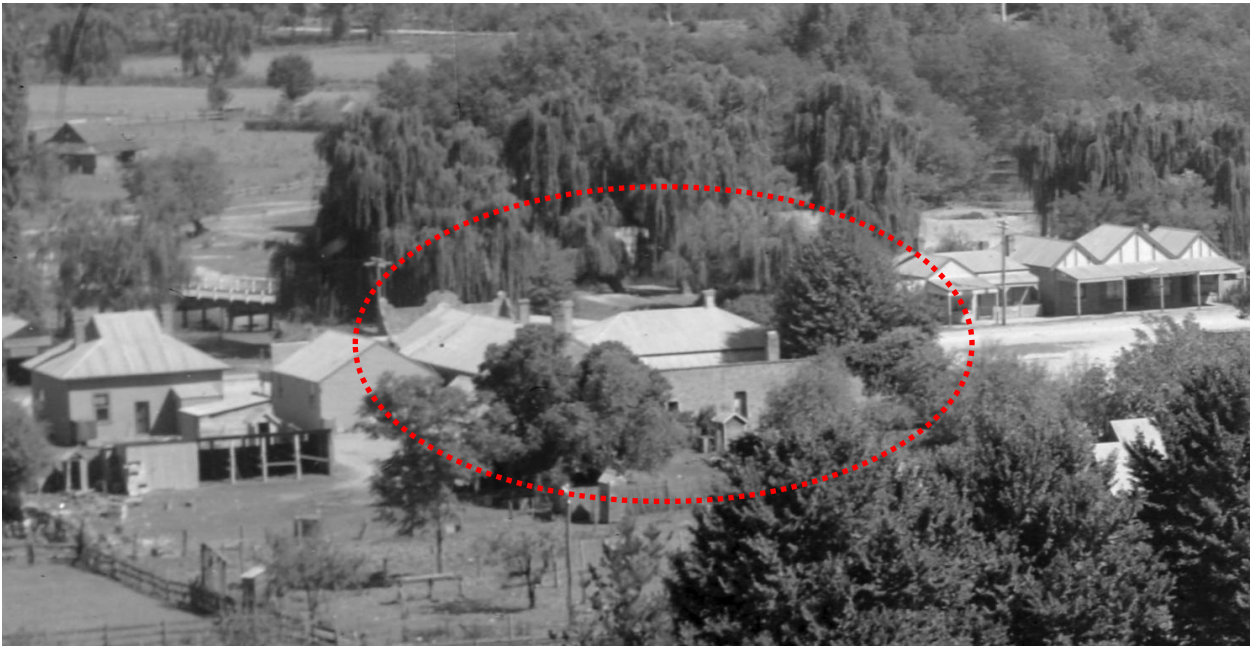
The Lowerson phase of the building is captured in a photograph of the Myrtle Street frontage included in the 1929 *Back to Myrtleford* publication, reproduced below. It records Rothery's Federation-period shopfront and (likely) verandah (the latter since replaced). The photograph's accompanying text reads:

LOWERSON'S The Original Store of Myrtleford.

The Store was well known in the old mining days as Mathieson's. The late Mr. Thomas Mathieson was then the owner, he was a J.P. Registrar of Births and Deaths, and did a lot of gold buying. After Mr. Mathieson's death, Mr. J. Rothery became the owner and carried on the business for a number of years. He remodelled the shop, put in a new front, with plate glass windows and made other improvements. It is now the property of H.F. LOWERSON, Pty Ltd., who show a large stock of Drapery, Groceries, Hardware and General Lines.



Photograph of the *Mathieson/Rothery Residence* (left) and *Store*— then owned by Lowerson (probably pictured) – on the right, from Myrtle Street. Note the detailing of the verandah, including the finials above the fascia. The *Common Lime Tree* is not visible but is believed to have been well-established by this point (the photograph has possibly been altered to create a 'cleaner' backdrop). (Source: *Back to Myrtleford*, 1929, SLV, np)



Extract from an interwar/postwar photograph showing the *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime tree* from the rear (east). Note the presence of the rear existing outbuilding.
 (Source: *Panorama at Myrtleford, VIC*, Rose Stereograph Co., circa 1920-1954, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/438265>)



Aerial photograph of the *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime* (arrow), dated 1948.

Note the original extent of the Store's footprint relative to the outbuilding.
(Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4, Frame 145, Geoscience)

Following his death, Lowerson's son-in-law, F. Rayner, ran the store until 1966, after which it ceased operation.¹⁹

In recent years, a commercial use has been recommenced at the store.

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

5.3 Marketing and retailing

6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree* occupy a generally level site at the southeast corner of Myrtle and Albert streets.

The 19th century, Georgian style residence is substantial and set back from the corner, abutting the *Store* to the south, in a garden setting. It has a low-slung hipped roof clad in short-sheeting corrugated metal (early fabric). A truncated chimney (with cap removed) punctures the northern ridgeline though an intact chimney with a rendered moulded cap survives at the southern end. Both chimneys had been rendered, but this finish has largely failed, exposing the underlying brickwork.

The walls are constructed of a red face brick in a Flemish bond (alternating headers and stretchers) with white mortar to the joints.

A skillion verandah wraps around the exposed elevations. It is supported by turned timber posts with heavy bases and unadorned upper shafts. These unusual elements are probably Federation-era replacements. A circa 2012 photograph of the façade shows an ornamental frieze and bracket, which has since been removed.²⁰ Whether this element was original or a faux addition is unknown. Posts to the rear have a plainer stop-chamfered profile. The verandah deck is of non-original boards.

The dwelling's composition is symmetrical. Its broad frontage includes a central four-panelled timber door with sidelights (etched glass) and toplights (ripple glass/side parts coloured). Situated on either side are paired timber-framed and two-paned, double-hung sashes with stone sills (probably granite). All these openings have segmental arches with voussoirs. This arrangement is repeated to the rear, albeit with a simplified door. The southernmost window has been internalised by a small weatherboard addition.

A pair of openings (both timber, one four-paned/upper glazed, the other a French door) characterises the north elevation (Albert Street).

The timber picket fence is contemporary but in keeping with the original (which had an undulating profile; see the late 1920s image).

¹⁹ Robinson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, p181

²⁰ Real estate photography, May 2012, <https://www.realestate.com.au/property/86-myrtle-st-myrtleford-vic-3737/>, accessed May 2024



Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Myrtle Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Albert Street/north elevation.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The significant section of the store is built to Myrtleford Street (nos 82-84). It has a gabled form clad in corrugated metal sheeting, which has been extended to the rear during the second half of the 20th century. There is a red brick chimney with a moulded cap (unpainted) to the north elevation, behind the side parapet wall.

Concealing the expressed roof from direct public realm views is a rendered parapet with a central 'broken' pediment. At either end of the parapet are engaged piers that terminate well above the verandah in a corbel that mirrors their surmounting cap. A recessed ogee panel runs the face of the frieze.

Such a 'Free' and eclectic employment of classicised and Baroque elements was routinely employed in commercial contexts over the late 19th and early 20th century by architects and builder-designers alike to attract the eye of consumers.

The store is of red brick construction (a variant of common bond) but overpainted to the front.

The shopfront composition is believed to be the result of Rothery's remodelling or rebuilding during early 20th century – either the Federation or early interwar period – as recorded in the late 1920s photograph (when operating as Lowerson's). The depicted central recessed and splayed entrance with double-leafed timber-framed glazed doors (a replacement element) and display windows on either side, themselves flanked by rendered piers, remain. However, the band of highlight windows shown in the late 1920s photograph, which appear to return to the entry recess, have been concealed/replaced by the extant sheeting. The shopfront framing sits above a low rendered stallboard and may be original. The hexagonal mosaic tiling in a muted palette (ivory, cream, browns) with the marble edge to the threshold is typical of the interwar period.

The existing verandah with turned timber posts is a replacement, with the original known to have slender supports (possibly cast iron and fluted) with classicised capitals and decorative brackets, as well as finials surmounting the corners of the fascia.

Adjoining the store to the south is a late 20th-century shop, which is excluded from the extent of the heritage overlay.



View to the *Store's* form from the north.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Pedimented parapet.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



Store's shopfront.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

Parallel to the rear of the house is an elongated single-storey outbuilding. It has a low-pitched skillion roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting, which extends between a taller brick wall (Albert Street/north) and the side elevation of the shop's rear addition. A brick chimney (cap removed) punctures the centre of the roof. The building is of red brick construction (English bond), although the southern half of its front (west) is clad in corrugated metal sheeting.

The front timber verandah is of recent construction. The west elevation includes an entrance with a window on either side – fixed/contemporary to the north and a tripartite bank of timber-framed casements with leadlighting to the square

toplights in the south. The latter, along with the door, appear to be Federation-period elements but may be recycled fabric. To the rear elevation (east), there are three openings with segmented arches (a pair of timber-framed double-hung sashes, one door/concealed). These elements appear to be original.

While the exact age and original use of the outbuilding are not known, it is certainly an early feature of the site and, given its construction, likely dates from the late 19th century.



Close-up of the rear outbuilding, showing west elevation from Albert Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The common lime or linden (*Tilia x europaea*), also referred to as a European lime, is located close to the property's Albert Street boundary, immediately to the rear of the residence. This deciduous tree is estimated to be over 150-years-old.²¹ It is approximately 16 metres in height with a crown spread of about 10 metres and a trunk girth of 3 metres. Signs of historic pollarding/running to the upper branches are discernible. At the base of the tree is an aged metal plaque.

²¹ National Trust of Australia (VIC) Heritage Register: T11971



(Above) Information sign, adjacent to trunk. The 1860s photograph noted on the panel has not been sourced. (Source: RBA, March 2024)

(Left) Significant *Common Lime* tree from Albert Street.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Various town-based late Victorian-period cottages and, in the parlance of the time, villas are subject to a Heritage Overlay (HO) in the Alpine Shire, with a concentration in the Wandiligong Precinct (HO83). As typical for the era, these timber or brick examples are predominantly vernacular 'Miner's cottage' types (additive, 'zig-zag' roofs) or Italianate-style dwellings. The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence*, during this period (1870s-1880s), differs from these predominant design traditions, illustrating instead the continuation of the Georgian idiom. This aspect of the dwelling is conveyed primarily by its low-slung, gently spreading hipped form and the symmetrical composition of its elevations. Its detailing (doors, windows, chimney) is consistent with the late 19th century.

The ordered and codified (often via pattern-book) Georgian style provided the basis for Australia's emergent architectural expression during the colonial era, transplanted from England as a well-established aesthetic admired for its classicised and decorous symmetrical proportions and expression. It became more refined under the influence of the Regency style from the 1810s. As what would become known as Victoria was colonised at a later date (from the mid-1830s), Georgian examples are far less common; however, despite the introduction and popularisation of other design modes, it lingered in use into the late 19th century, perhaps favoured by more conservative builder-designers.

Only a few late 19th-century commercial buildings are affected by a HO in the municipality. Most of these are rudimentary timber structures in village contexts.²² In the same vein as the subject place, albeit more substantial and likely later, is the brick/rendered *Former Buckley's Store* at 2/11 Ireland Street, Bright (HO115). It was built in 1891, with the first storey added soon after (Federation period), which included a lively 'Free Style' pedimented parapet.

While not uncommon beyond the municipality, particularly in regional cities and Melbourne, late Victorian instances of commercial design in brick are uncommon in Alpine. No other example of a conjoined residence/shop is known, especially in a manner as legible as at the *Mathieson/Rothery Residence/Store*.

²² Wandiligong: *Timber Shop and Dwelling*, 517 Morses Creek Road (HO57); *Former General Store*, 521 Morses Creek Road (HO58); and *General Store*, 522 Morses Creek Road (HO69). Harrietville: *Conley's Butcher Shop (Former)*, 74 Mill Road (HO159).

The Common Lime tree is purported to have been planted in the 1860s (assumably by John Woodburn). It is shown as a mature specimen by at least the interwar years, which supports a late 19th century planting, although conceivably by the first occupant of the residence/store, Thomas Mathieson.

Only a small number of individual exotic specimen trees are subject to a HO in the municipality, none of which are believed to have been planted in the 19th century:

- Coastal (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Porepunkah (HO36)
- Two English Elms (*Ulmus procera*), Myrtleford (HO26)
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*), Bright (HO8)
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*), Bright (HO95)

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105359

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Heritage Register: T11971 (*Tilia x europaea*)

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes (<i>Tilia x europaea</i>)
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	Yes (rear outbuilding)
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

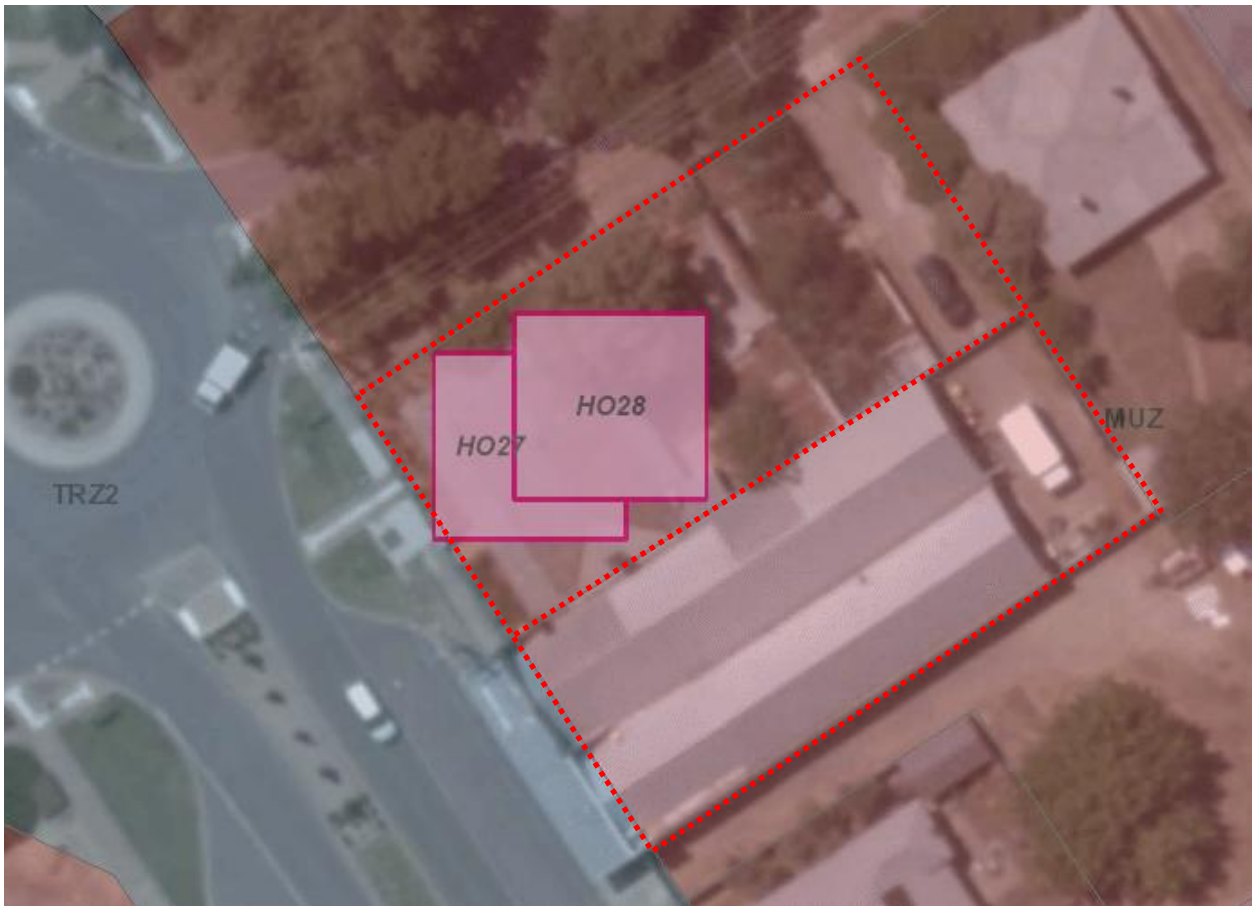
EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree* at 84 and 86 Myrtle Street, Myrtleford, are included in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay for the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO27 (residence/shop) and HO28 (tree).

The current mapping of these two items is nominal and furthermore overlapping.

It is not necessary to retain two separate HO numbers.

As the property contains a non-significant building (the shop at 82 Myrtle Street), a varying extent of the heritage overlay is recommended (that is not all of both parcels of land), as set out in the map below.



The current, nominal and overlapping extents of HO27 and HO28 are depicted as squares, with the two parcels of land relating to 82-84 (south) and 86 (north) Myrtle Street dashed
 (Source: Vicplan)



The recommended extent of HO27 is depicted in red.
 The significant (original) extent of the Store is approximately outlined in dashed yellow.
 (Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: Combine HO27 and HO28 (that is remove HO28). Extend the polygon to fully encompass 84 (*Store*) and 86 Myrtle Street (*Mathieson/Rothery* and *Common Lime* tree). Exclude the modern shop at no. 82.

Name change: *Mathieson/Rothery Residence, Store and Common Lime Tree* rather than *Rothery Home* and *Rothery Tree at Rothery Home*.

Additional controls: Turn off paint controls (a permit is required to externally paint an unpainted surface) and apply outbuilding controls.

H029: RIVER RED GUM (*EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS*)

Address	Myrtle Street, corner Prince Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Pre-1800s	Period	Pre-colonisation



River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Myrtle Street, Myrtleford
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), or Biyal for the Taungurung, in Myrtle Street, Myrtleford at corner Prince Street, is significant. It is thought to be over 200 years old, that is from pre-colonial times.

How is it Significant?

The River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is of historical significance for being a substantial indigenous tree that for many years defined the northern edge of, or entry to, the township along the highway. It has association with the local First Nations people, as elements of these trees were harvested – the bark was removed in sheets and used for canoes and shelters and the gum from the trunk had various medicinal uses. (Criterion A)

The River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is of aesthetic significance for being an outstanding specimen with considerable height and a broad canopy. It remains a notable landmark along the highway. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

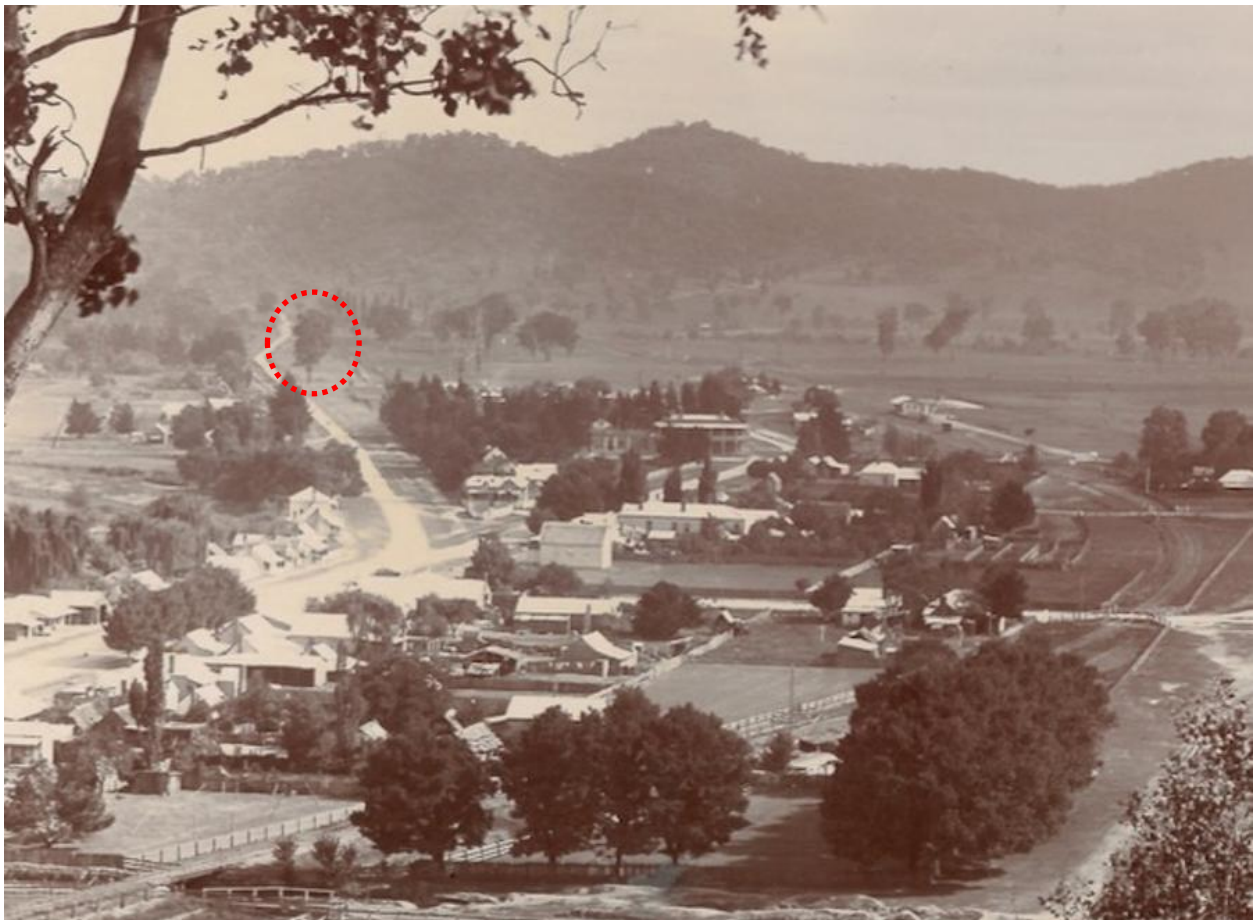
Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). The population was 3,285 as of 2021.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The part of the town where the sculpture is located lies outside the original defined area of township. It formed part of the large holdings (nearly 115 acres) acquired by Thomas Rosborough in January 1863.³ Rosborough, who had been a dairyman at Sebastopol Flat, occupied the Myrtle Creek Run in 1859.⁴

The tree, which has associations with the Minyambuta (Minjambuta) tribe, is thought to be over 200 years old, that is, it predates colonisation of the area by Europeans.

The subject tree is evident as a substantial specimen in a late 19th image of Myrtleford (following) and would have been a landmark feature at the northern edge/entry into township along the main road.



1890 Henry Van Heems, Myrtleford, with the river red gum highlighted
(Source: RHSV Collection, c/o Facebook)

According to the following early to mid-20th century image, taken in the same location, there had been minimal additional development in this part of the township over the ensuing decades. The river red gum remained a beacon at the northern entry to the township.

³ Plan of Parish of Myrtleford, M295(10)

⁴ Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby [Adelaide] 1973, p28



1920-54, 'Panorama at Myrtleford', with the river red gum highlighted
 (Source: SLV, Rose Series P540, H32492/771)

The following 1948 aerial records its relative isolation and confirms the minimal development north of Prince Street.



Aerial from 1948, with the subject tree circled
 (Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4 Frame 145, Geoscience)

The following 1991 aerial shows that the development of the township had extended north of Prince Street and that Phoenix Tree reserve had been established by that time.



Aerial from 13.02.1991 with the subject tree highlighted
(Source: AUS269, frame 805, Geoscience)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010)

- 1.4 Creation stories and defining country
- 6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

National Trust Register (T11970)

Outstanding size

A very large specimen located on the roadside. The tree is very of a very upright form [sic] and would be one of the tallest known specimens. It is under potential threat from future road widening and soil improvement works are required.

The tree was assessed in 1981 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	10/1981
Spread (m)	23
Girth (m)	7
Height (m)	29
Estimated Age (yrs)	200
Condition:	fair

Additional Description

The river red gum is located in Myrtle Street, at the intersection with Jones Street, and at the very southern edge of the Phoenix Tree Reserve such that its trunk defines the edge of the asphalted zone. More than half of its roots system is covered by asphalt and much of its canopy overhangs the carriageway (western and southern parts).

Given its precarious location at the edge of the carriageway, it has been subject to pruning or loss of limbs on the western side.

There are large black burs/burls in lower part of the trunk.



From north-west
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

Species⁵

Eucalyptus camaldulensis, commonly known as the river red gum, is a flowering species which is endemic to Australia. A familiar and iconic tree, it is commonly found along inland watercourses.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_camaldulensis, accessed 0705.2024

The species typically grows to a height of 20 metres and up to 45 metres. Their limbs, sometimes whole trees, often fall without warning. It has smooth white or cream-coloured bark, with patches of yellow, pink or brown, and often has loose, rough slabs of bark near the base. The juvenile leaves are lance-shaped and adult leaves are lance-shaped to curved, with the same dull green or greyish green colour on both sides. Flower buds are arranged in groups of seven or nine (or sometimes eleven), consisting of white flowers and hemispherical fruit with the valves extending beyond the rim.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis has the widest natural distribution of any eucalyptus species. It is commonly found along waterways and there are only a few locations where the species is found away from a watercourse. Seven subspecies of *E. camaldulensis* have been described. Subspecies *camaldulensis* is the dominant eucalypt along the Murray-Darling river system and its tributaries, and is the only subspecies found in coastal Victoria.

The Taungurung name for the species is Biyal. The bark was removed in sheets and used for canoes and shelters. The gum which oozed from the trunk had various medicinal uses.⁶

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The only other identified *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in the municipality is located nearby in Myrtleford in Smith Street, opposite the corner of Jones Street (HO35). It is a similarly large specimen though thought to be considerably older.

The other specimen trees identified in the Alpine Shire are all exotics:

- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Coast/al (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Porepunkah (HO36),
- Two English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) at Myrtleford (HO26),
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95),

There are also three significant avenues in Bright, which are mostly planted with exotic species, however two include natives (Bunya pines) as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1939 and is comprised of primarily Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with a few Scarlet oaks as well as two English oaks.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and has a similar planting profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105319

National Trust Heritage Register T11970

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)
Solar energy system controls	No

⁶ Information provided by Lorraine Padgham, 23.04.2025

Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	Yes

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gum), Southwest of Lot 3 LP33528, Parish of Myrtleford, North west corner of Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd) and Prince St, Myrtleford is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO29. The mapped location does not fully cover the canopy of the tree.



The current extent of HO29 is depicted in purple, with the proposed in red
(Source: Vicplan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: Whilst the location of HO29 is correct broadly, it does not cover the full extent of the tree's canopy or TPZ (tree protection zone).

Extent of HO: Enlarge the extent of HO29 to generally accommodate a curtilage of 5 metres from the outer edge of the canopy.

Name: Truncate name in the Schedule to *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum), North west corner of Myrtle St (Great Alpine Rd) and Prince St, Myrtleford

H030: MEMORIAL SQUARE

Address	Myrtle Street (Great Alpine Road) & Clyde Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1923 onwards	Period	Interwar onwards



Memorial Square, Myrtleford
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

Memorial Square, Myrtleford in Myrtle Street (Great Alpine Road) & Clyde Street is significant. The earliest element – the central memorial – was designed and contracted by Corben & Sons of Clifton Hill and opened on Anzac Day in 1923. Since then, the gates have been added, and other memorials have been installed. Whilst there have been some trees at the site from the outset, none of the extant plantings date to the interwar period.

The significant elements are:

- The original memorial – Italian marble on a tall grey Harcourt granite pedestal (1923),
- Granite piers and ornamental steel gates (1954),
- Flaggpole (1980s),
- Grey granite clocktower (1980s),

- Bronze statue on granite base of Albert (Alby) David Lowerson (2015),
- Bronze busts on granite pedestals of Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery (2021) and Sister Alice Margaret O'Donnell (2023),
- Kurrajong (replacing the original planted circa 1918).

How is it Significant?

Memorial Square, Myrtleford is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Memorial Square, Myrtleford is of historical significance for being a place that has evolved to memorialise locals who either died or participated in various 20th century conflicts, commencing with that erected in 1923 for those who served during WWI, and that to the one recipient of the Victoria Cross in the municipality - Albert David Lowerson - for the valour he exhibited at Mont St Quentin in France during WWI. In recent years, the crucial role played by nurses in the major wars has been formally recognised. (Criterion A)

Memorial Square, Myrtleford is of aesthetic significance for being a fine assembly of memorials to participants and those who have fallen in various 20th century conflicts. Consistently high-quality materials have been employed – grey granite, bronze and Italian marble – which unifies the various memorials from different periods. Whilst located on the main highway, the garden setting of this landmark site provides opportunities for reflection at the epicentre of the township. (Criterion E)

Memorial Square, Myrtleford is of social significance for being the focus of annual commemorative events marking Anzac Day that has been financially supported by the local community across generations. (Criterion G)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001).

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The Memorial Square is located within the road reserve at the junction Myrtle Street (Great Alpine Road) and Clyde Street. A section of 8 perches (202.3m²) was reserved from sale in 1904.³ A photograph from circa 1900 records that this triangular parcel of land had a timber picket fence similar to that in front of the earlier timber post office.⁴

In the early part of WWI, circa 1916, a flagpole was erected on the land by Jack Milne, using timber supplied by Denis Toner snr. A public appeal was launched in 1919 to erect a war memorial as part of an Australia-wide movement, culminating in 1922.⁵ In August 1920, the architect W A Tombs had sought tenders for 'Returned Soldiers Memorial at Myrtleford',⁶ but it is not clear if this early scheme was that which was realised as a different designer is noted later.

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

³ Victoria Government Gazette, 4 May 1904, p1339; Myrtleford Township Plan, T294(4)

⁴ Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford – Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby 1973, p216. The building pictured was constructed in 1886 but was lost to fire in 1910. Subsequently a brick building was erected in 1911 but replaced again with the extant building in 1970.

⁵ John Taylor, 'Remembering Anzac Day from the beginning', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 14 April 2021 [online version]

⁶ 'Tenders', *Argus*, 14 August 1920, p5



Circa 1900, Myrtleford Post Office and Court House (John Henry Harvey), with the later memorial square area on right
(Source: SLV, H86.76/5)

The location in front of the post office was adopted in June 1922 and advertisements were placed in the local and Melbourne newspapers for a design at a cost of £350 to £450, for which the £90 shortfall of funds were actively canvassed. The final statue was designed and contracted by Corben & Sons of Clifton Hill consisting of white Italian marble on Harcourt granite.⁷

The memorial was officially opened on Anzac Day in 1923 and the ceremony was reported as follows:

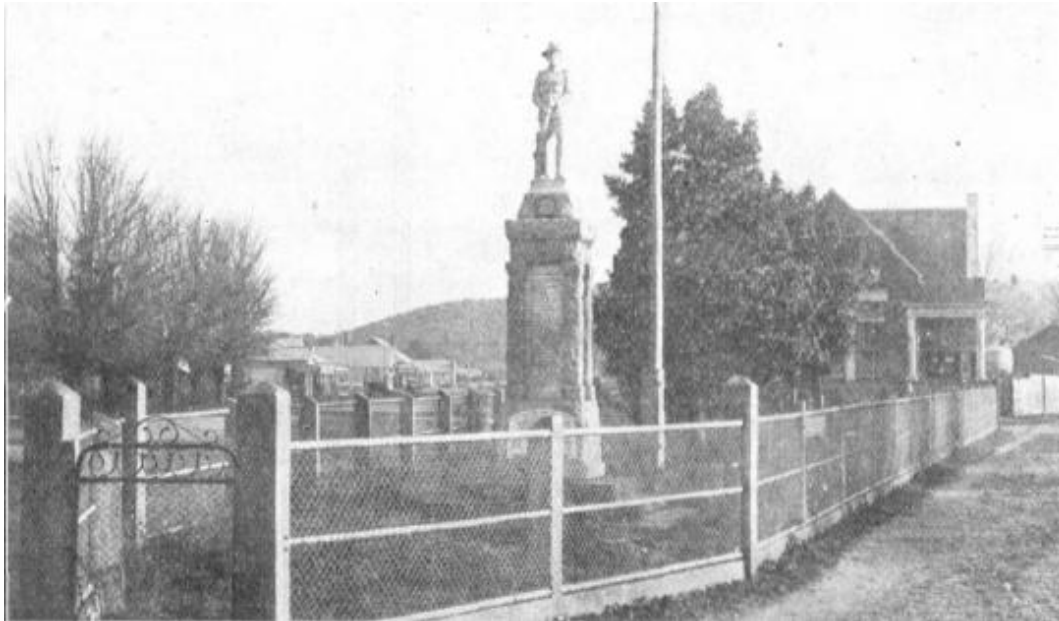
At the unveiling of the soldiers' memorial at Myrtleford, Rev. Father Kennedy, DSO, said: "It was to the undying credit of the people of Myrtleford that they had erected such a memorial to commemorate what the soldiers, who had represented that town and district had nobly done."⁸

In 1923 a Kurrajong tree was planted by Joseph Rothery in memory of his daughter, Elizabeth, a nurse who died in 1918 on her return, and in 1926, a fence was erected to protect it from roaming stock. A new flagpole was installed in 1936.⁹ The following photograph, dating to circa 1929, records the original fence of timber posts and wire mesh with a steel-framed gate at the southern end.

⁷ Taylor, 'Remembering Anzac Day from the beginning', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 14 April 2021 [online version]

⁸ *Corryong Courier*, 31 May 1923, p2

⁹ Taylor, 'Remembering Anzac Day from the beginning', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 14 April 2021 [online version]



The memorial a few years after it was erected, circa 1929
(Source: *Back to Myrtleford Souvenir*, Easter 1929, p7)

Another mid-20th century photograph (following) shows the smaller square with an established tree on the axis at the north end (not the extant specimen) and the wider carriageway along Clyde Street at this time.



Mid 20th century (1920-50s), showing the Memorial Square with only the original statue and flagpole
(Source: SLV, Rose Series, H32492/934)

In August 1950, a public meeting was held to discuss the erection of a memorial to those who had participated in WWII however it was noted in the local paper that the event was 'poorly attended'.

The chairman said it was desired by the League that a form of memorial should be erected at the Memorial Gardens, adjacent to the existing one, as a tribute to those men and women who had served in the 1939-45 war; some of whom had paid the supreme sacrifice.¹⁰

An appeal to raise £500 for the memorial gates was established in early 1951,¹¹ which were officially unveiled in April 1954.¹²

¹⁰ 'Public Meeting Poorly Attended', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 30 August 1950, p5

Subsequent developments have been the introduction of a new flagpole in 1983 and the taller granite pillar with a clock commemorating those who served in subsequent conflicts - Korea, Vietnam, and other wars. In 2015, the sculpture of Sergeant Albert (Alby) David Lowerson (1898-1945) by Lis Johnson was unveiled. Alby is the only recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC) in the Alpine Shire and he was awarded it for his bravery in capturing Mont St Quentin in France on 1 September 1918. He received the VC, the highest military decoration, from King George V at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on 1 March 1919.

Since then, the busts of two nurses – one who served in WWI (Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery) and WWII (Sister Alice Margaret O'Donnell) – were respectively unveiled on Anzac Day in 2021 and 2023.

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

8.5 Remembering significant events and people

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Memorial Square is set on a triangular piece of land at the intersection of Myrtle Street (Great Alpine Road) and Clyde Street in the centre of Myrtleford and in front of the Post Office. The terrain is flat with lawn except for the hard paved areas (basalt lined path and concrete with an aggregate at the east end). There is a screen of four trees, planted about 20 years ago, along the Clyde Street edge however the site is open along the highway with low-planted garden beds at the apex (east end).



Original 1923 statue and 1954 gates



1980s clock

At the east end is the clock tower, a battered pier clad in unpolished light grey granite with contrasting dark grey, polished granite squares, one of which has gold lettering relating to conflicts from WWII onwards. There is clockface on a pair of opposite sides (east and west).

¹¹ 'War Memorial Gates Appeal', Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser, 9 May 1951, p4

¹² Taylor, 'Remembering Anzac Day from the beginning', *Alpine Observer & Myrtleford Times*, 14 April 2021 [online version]

Nearby are the Memorial gates with rough, unpolished light grey granite piers supporting decorative wide metal gates inscribed with 'Lest We Forget'. The names of 10 residents (those who made the supreme sacrifice) are recorded on the north pier.

Behind the gateway is the tallest element – the original memorial - which consists of an elaborate, rough-hewn, light grey granite pedestal surmounted by a white Italian marble statue of a soldier holding his upturned rifle. Below is metal laurel wreath and on the base are polished dark granite panels listing the 28 residents who died during WWI ('In Memoriam') at the front with the side panels listing the 116 enlistments from the Myrtleford District. The panels are framed by columns with defined capitals and base. Immediately to the east of the original are a pair of bronze busts of two nurses, both on granite pedestals, who served in the world wars - Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery (WWI) and Sister Alice Margaret O'Donnell (WWII). Between the busts is a Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), which is a specimen replacing that originally planted in 1918. The species is small to medium-sized tree found naturally in Australia in a diversity of habitats from wetter coastal districts to semi-arid interiors of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.¹³



Bust of Staff Nurse Elizabeth Rothery (2021)



Bust of Sister Alice Margaret O'Donnell (2023)

In the western part of the park is the bronze statue on a granite base of Albert (Alby) David Lowerson, in an active pose gesturing with his right hand and holding a rifle in this left.

Whilst there have been some trees at the site from the outset, none of the extant plantings date to the interwar period. The most established specimen is the cypress at the west end in front of the post office. The trees along Clyde Street were planted during the 2010s. The kurrajong replaces the original planted circa 1918.

¹³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brachychiton_populneus, accessed 06.05.2024



Central axis, from north, with statue of Albert David Lowerson, foreground left, and Kurrajoung on right between the two busts (Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Whilst a few other memorials have been erected within the municipality, there is no clear comparison for the Memorial Square at Myrtleford in terms of the number of elements included within it.

At Myrtleford, the Hume and Hovell monument on Reform Hill (HO183), an obelisk-like stone structure, was erected 17 November 1924 to commemorate the two explorers passing through this area. In the following year, the Soldiers Memorial Hall, Myrtle Street, or Great Alpine Road, (HO177) was opened.

In December 1929, the Bright Memorial Clock Tower & Mafeking Square, Ireland Street (HO117) was installed in a similar central reserve location to commemorate those who served during WWI. Subsequently plaques have been added relating to other conflicts. It was designed by Mr Butler and cost £700.¹⁴

The Bright Memorial Arboretum, Mountbatten Avenue, Bright (HO120), opened in 1984, commemorates the death in a helicopter crash of the pilot and two forest officers carrying out fuel-reduction burning at Wandiligong in 1978.¹⁵

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105358

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	Yes

¹⁴ <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/30497-bright-memorial-clock-tower>, accessed 06.05.2024

¹⁵ <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/disaster/fire/display/114708-memorial-arboretum>, accessed 06.05.2024

Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

RSL Memorial & Memorial Square, Myrtleford is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO30. The current mapping does not cover the whole site.



The current extent of HO30 is depicted in purple, with the proposed in red
(Source: Vicplan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: the current mapping of HO30 is inadequate as it covers only a nominal area in at the north end of the Memorial Square.

Extent of HO: Enlarge the area to include the whole triangle.

Name: Change the name from to RSL Memorial & Memorial Square to Memorial Square to better reflect the range of memorials at the site.

Controls: Remove external paint controls.

H031: PHOENIX TREE

Address	Myrtle Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1986	Period	Late 20 th century



Phoenix Tree, Myrtle Street, Myrtleford
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Phoenix Tree*, a sculptured base, trunk and rood system, of a river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) in median reserve along Myrtle Street, Myrtleford, is significant. The tree, which was retrieved from the nearby Barwidgee Creek in 1983, was sculptured over a three-year period by the German-born Hans Knorr (1915-88) and unveiled on 15 April 1986.

The concrete supports and shading structure, as well as the stone plaque and interpretive signage, are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Phoenix Tree* in Myrtle Street, Myrtleford is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Phoenix Tree* at Myrtleford is of historical significance for being an unusual commission from the Chamber of Commerce in 1983. The ambitious project is notable, for whilst being undertaken by the noted local sculptor Hans Knorr, also involved broad community participation. (Criterion A)

The *Phoenix Tree* is of aesthetic significance for being a distinctive piece of public art hewn from a fallen river red gum found nearby along the Barwidgee Creek that combines interpretation at multiple levels including mythological, cosmological and environmental. It is a notable landmark along the highway at the northern part of the town. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). (pop. 3,285 as of 2021).

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The part of the town where the sculpture is located lies outside the original defined area of township. It formed part of the large holdings (nearly 115 acres) acquired by Thomas Rosborough in January 1863.³ Rosborough, who had been a dairyman at Sebastopol Flat, occupied the Myrtle Creek Run in 1859.⁴

A late 19th century image of Myrtleford (following) shows this area as undeveloped with only the large river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), which survives to its south (HO29), evident along the main road.



1890 Henry Van Heems, Myrtleford, with approximate location of the Phoenix tree indicated
(Source: RHSV Collection, c/o Facebook)

The following 1948 aerial records the minimal development north of Prince Street.

³ Plan of Parish of Myrtleford, M295(10)

⁴ Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby [Adelaide] 1973, p28



Aerial from 1948, showing approximate location of the subject tree
(Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4 Frame 145, Geoscience)

The sculpture of a mythical bird is carved out of the trunk and roots of a river red gum. The project was undertaken over about five years, commencing in 1981 with the search for a suitably large specimen which was found to the north along the Barwidgee Creek, adjacent to the Myrtleford Recreation Reserve. In May 1983, the piece was commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce. Whilst the sculptor Hans Knorr led the work, he was assisted by local schools, service clubs and others with woodworking skills.

The tree was carved at the Recreation Reserve and transported to the site for the unveiling by Chairman of CSIRO, Dr N K Boardman on 15 April 1986, as an event during the Forest Industries Machinery Exposition (FIME).⁵ The exposition was held about every five years and was 'recognised as one of the best such shows in the world.'⁶

The following 1991 aerial shows that the development of the township had extended north of Prince Street and that Phoenix Tree reserve had been established by that time.

⁵ Interpretation signage at the site

⁶ 'Newcomers unveiled at logging exhibition', *Age*, 3 May 1980, p129



Aerial from 13.02.1991 with the phoenix tree highlighted
(Source: AUS269, frame 805, Geoscience)

The shade cloth was introduced by 2007 and the concrete deck has been enlarged since then.⁷

Hans Knorr (1915-1988)

Born during 1915 in Bamberg, Bavaria (southern Germany), where he later trained as a cabinet maker. He moved to South Africa in 1934, where he resided for twelve years, before emigrating to Australia in 1946.⁸ Soon after, in 1948, he married Hilde Alice Dent (1917-2009).⁹

At that time, he was based in Gembrook where he advertised himself as a woodcarver – ‘first class French polishing’ and ‘restoring antiques’.¹⁰ From 1961, he, Hilde and son Michael ran the Emerald Gallery and he and Hilde wrote *Religious Art in Australia* in 1967.¹¹ In 1978, the couple moved to Myrtleford,¹² residing at the historic Merriang Homestead, built in 1863.

⁷ Google Street View

⁸ Alan and Susan McCulloch, *New McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, 4th ed, Miegunyah Press (Melbourne) 2006, p583; ‘More than just a Door’, *The Road*, April 2013 [Damascus college newsletter], pp1-2. Alternately Hans is said to have arrived about 1940 and been interred at Tatura during WWII (Note it was not possible to confirm his arrival in Australia via the immigration online database at the NAA)

⁹ Victoria, Australis, Marriage Index - ref. no. 9056

¹⁰ *Mountain District Free Press*, 26 November 1948, p10

¹¹ McCulloch, *New McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, 4th ed., p583; images of Knorr at Emerald are held at NAA, series A1200 and A12111

¹² <https://www.brightartgallery.org.au/846-2/>, accessed 10.05.2024

As a sculptor, Hans worked in various materials including bronze, wood and stone – and received many religious commissions.

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

9.2 Nurturing a vibrant arts scene

9.3 Achieving design and artistic distinction

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Phoenix sculpture is located in Myrtle Street, towards the southern edge of the median reserve known as Phoenix Tree Reserve, and in front of 11 Geoffrey Street. Protected by a shade cloth, supported on six steel poles, the large sculpture rests on three circular concrete pads and set on a concrete deck, in which the plaque commemorating the unveiling in 1988 has been set.

There is also a plaque set on a rough piece of granite memorialising the life of the sculptor, Hans Knorr (1915-1988) to one side and interpretation signage to the other.

The Phoenix sculpture is about 5 metres long and over 2 metres high. The bird is delineated in red within the grey of the remaining timber. It is described as follows:

The sculpture represents a mythical bird, the Phoenix, embracing new life as it rises out of ashes at the apex of the sculpture. It causes us to reflect upon deforestation, humanity's dependence on trees for survival and the need for renewal of forests across the world.

Mankind's interference with the natural order is highlighted by the bulldozer blade on the trunk; nearby, Halley's Comet represents our role in the cosmic system. Rings of time at the end of the trunk tell of our movement through the universe.¹³



From west
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

¹³ Interpretation signage at the site

The story of the Phoenix is that this unique bird of great beauty, fabled to live 500 to 600 years in the Arabian wilderness, would burn itself on a funeral pyre and rise from its ashes renewed to live another cycle.

The origin of the Phoenix story likely derives from ancient Egyptian mythology. It is thought to be inspired by Benu, an African heron that Egyptians associated with Ra, the sun god, and Osiris, the god of the underworld. Benu was associated with the seasonal flooding of the Nile valley.



East side, note the blade imprints along the side
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



East side, note the rings 'of time' at the narrow end
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

Species¹⁴

Eucalyptus camaldulensis, commonly known as the river red gum, is a flowering species which is endemic to Australia. A familiar and iconic tree, it is commonly found along inland watercourses.

The species typically grows to a height of 20 metres and up to 45 metres. Their limbs, sometimes whole trees, often fall without warning. It has smooth white or cream-coloured bark, with patches of yellow, pink or brown, and often has loose, rough slabs of bark near the base.

Eucalyptus camaldulensis has the widest natural distribution of any eucalyptus species. It is commonly found along waterways and there are only a few locations where the species is found away from a watercourse. Seven subspecies of *E. camaldulensis* have been described. Subspecies *camaldulensis* is the dominant eucalypt along the Murray-Darling river system and its tributaries, and is the only subspecies found in coastal Victoria.

The Taungurung name for the species is Biyal. The bark was removed in sheets and used for canoes and shelters. The gum which oozed from the trunk had various medicinal uses.¹⁵

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The Phoenix tree is a unique item in the municipality as there is no other large public sculptures of this ilk included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

More broadly, few smaller sculptures or memorials have been also commissioned with the various sculptures – marble or bronze - which constitute the RSL Memorial Square in Myrtleford (HO30) being the main other comparators. An obelisk-like stone memorial was erected in 1924 to commemorate Hume and Hovell's passage through the area. It is located on Reform Hill, Myrtleford (HO183).

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105360

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_camaldulensis, accessed 0705.2024

¹⁵ Information provided by Lorraine Padgham, 23.04.2025

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Phoenix Tree, Median Reserve, South of Lot 17 LP 16933, Parish of Myrtleford. Myrtle Street (Great Alpine Road), west of Prince Street, Myrtleford is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO31.

Currently, the mapped location does not relate to the subject tree but rather another nearby to the south-east along the median reserve.



The current extent of HO31 is depicted in purple, with the proposed in red
(Source: Vicplan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: The current location of HO31 is incorrect as it does not cover the subject item but rather a tree to its south.

Extent of HO: Enlarge to generally accommodate a curtilage of 5 metres from its outer edges.

Name: No change

H032: MYRTLEFORD CIVIC CENTRE

Address	14 O'Donnell Avenue, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1965-67	Period	Late 20 th century



Site from the west/O'Donnell Avenue
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* is significant. This civic development, now used as a public library, was constructed at the behest of Myrtleford Shire (1960-94) – the predecessor to the Alpine Shire – in 1966-67 to plans prepared by Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall, with Barry R Marshall as the lead designer.

The building's significance is attributed to its distinctive flat-roofed plan form and all original fabric, unless wholly altered (noting that most external modifications are reversible), inclusive of:

- Southern circular/cylindrical volume (the former council chambers):
 - Rendered walls, lightly textured (overpainted),
 - Full-height windows and all textured glass,
 - Exposed timber roof rafters (internal and external), noting that any encasing sheeting is non-original, as well as fascia detailing and the supporting paired steel I-beams,

- The crescent-shaped porch/foyer attached in the north, including brown brick walls, the timber-framed entrance vestibule with flanking alcoves (planted with Pencil pines), and side windows, and
- Interior of the chamber, including its existing/original layout, Vermiculite spray finish to the ceiling, expressed circular hanging ceiling with oval light fittings, exposed brick walls (overpainted), grooved concrete lintel, remaining timber veneer built-in furniture, and bronze memorial plaque.
- Northern curved block (the former municipal offices):
 - Dark brown brick walls with raked joints,
 - Timber-framed south-facing "Windowall" with vestibule (excluding overpainted 'spandrels') and awning/verandah (square metal posts, overpainted battened soffit), and
 - North-facing elevation with dividing blade walls and timber-framed window bands, including operable tinted glass louvres and rendered plinth, and central concrete breeze-block screens.
- Bisecting drive, connecting to O'Donnell Avenue and Standish Street, with surmounting walkway/porte-cochere roof (soffit of overpainted battens).
- The immediate landscape setting, primarily three Liquidambers, topography, and some extant hard elements (front and rear retaining walls and concrete paving).

All non-original elements are not significant, including the access ramp, landscaping and paths between the northern and southern volumes, and colour scheme.

How is it Significant?

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* is of local historical, aesthetic, and social significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* is of historical and social significance as the erstwhile democratic and administrative nucleus of the Shire of Myrtleford. In its unusual but carefully considered architectural expression and prime position within the townscape, the building sought to consciously project a 'progressive' and confident image, a built symbol of the young shire's self-identification as a prosperous, up-and-coming post-WWII community. The design proved a defining one for Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall, cementing their state-wide reputation as adroit modernists and specialists in civic development. The former uses of the place remain readily interpretable, and the building and grounds publicly accessible, which appears to sustain a sense of attachment and civic pride within the community of Myrtleford. (Criteria A & G)

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* is of aesthetic significance as a particularly innovative and distinguished example of its type in Victoria: the modernist civic centre. The design is meticulous, a highly resolved dialogue of site, function, and expression. Its overall crescent/wedge-shaped form, the outcome of discrete but linked circular/cylindrical and curved volumes, is unique for municipal design in the state. In combination with its 'natural' material palette, emphasising dark brick, render, and timber, and severe but composed detailing, the former chambers and municipal offices exemplifies the manner in which innovative post-WWII architects sought to 'humanise' and acclimatise the International Style, drawing from organic variants of modernism and other local sources. While generally intact, some of the finer design aspects have been diminished by recent modifications, although the building's personification of transparency, competency, and representative government remains pronounced. The park-like setting of the building formed part of the designer's initial vision and remains complementary. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland roads in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). (pop. 3,285 as of 2021)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

On the back of 'hops and tobacco' Myrtleford underwent a rural 'boom' during the post-World War II period, supporting its severance from Bright Shire and the establishment of the Shire of Myrtleford in May 1960.³ Its local government area encompassed its namesake in the north, the Happy Valley Creek watershed, and south between the Buffalo River and the Mount Buffalo summit, terminating near Mount Selwyn.⁴

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp70-71

³ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, Shire of Myrtleford, 1967, p1

⁴ 'Myrtleford and Myrtleford Shire', *Victorian Places*, 2014, available online

Meetings of the Council were initially accommodated in the C.W.A. Hall, Myrtleford. These premises were apparently ill-suited: 'with the lowliest of facilities hardly befitting the seat of Local Government of the District and [not] setting an example for others to follow or particularly an example befitting the prosperity and progressive nature of the District.'⁵

Over the early 1960s, various sites across the town were considered as potential seats of local governance. Ultimately, the existing location was decided upon and – after much wrangling – eventually purchased from its owner, the Cundy family. A souvenir booklet prepared for the opening of the civic building provided insight into this process:

The Council of the Shire of Myrtleford after deep consideration of possible sites for a Civic Development site in the Myrtleford area returned time after time to the site of the Cundy home. After many approaches Mr. W. Cundy eventually reluctantly agreed to negotiate with the Council.

This reluctance can be appreciated when it is realised that the original Crown Grant of 3 acres, 3 roods, 33 perches, was made to E. Cundy on 6th May, 1873, and the property had remained in the Cundy family until purchased by this Council.

Council in obtaining in excess of 3 acres, just adjacent to the heart of Myrtleford business area looked with confidence to the future. Well into the future it is envisaged that a full Civic Centre might develop; in the meantime a pleasant open parkland is proposed with the very live question of the siting of Council's works depot yet to be resolved, on this site or elsewhere.⁶



Aerial photograph, dated 1948, with the future location of the *Myrtleford Council Chambers & Municipal Offices (Former)* approximately indicated, then owned by the Cundy family. All depicted structures have been removed. Note that at least some of the trees shown appear to equate with existing plantings. (Source: *Mapsheet Photography, Bright*, Run 4, Frame 145, Geoscience)

⁵ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, p6

⁶ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, p7

In November 1965, *The Myrtleford Times* reported that the Council's Administrative Committee, after interviewing several candidates, had recommended Lines, McFarlane & Marshall (see below) be appointed to complete a design for a civic centre at the former Cundy property: noting, 'It was pointed out that Mr [Barry] Marshall would personally supervise the work. This firm specialises in municipal buildings.'⁷

The following month, *The Myrtleford Times*, announced:

Melbourne Architect, Mr. B. Marshall ... told last week's Council meeting that the site chosen by Council bounded by O'Donnell Avenue and Standish Street, was the most outstanding municipal site he had ever seen. This will no doubt be kept in mind when Councillors are deliberating and they will have to decide whether to accept a cheaper type of plan that will be just "another" building, or to adopt a plan that will be in keeping with the site, and, although more expensive, will be one that all present ratepayers will be able to look upon with great pride...⁸

Marshall clearly spoke to concepts drawings at the meeting, which was described in the press as comprising a civic centre 'constructed in two segments, linked by a covered way', with a 'colonnaded, circular Council Chambers' and a slightly curved office block, 'the whole set-up fitting admirably into the contour of the site'. Marshall noted that the design provided scope for future extensions. The Council arranged for drawings of the development to be publicly displayed at Long's Newsagency.⁹

After protected debates about costs – which were substantial for a relatively new rural shire – the Council voted to proceed with the Lines, McFarlane & Marshall's 'progressive' design in January 1966.¹⁰ The tender was subsequently advertised and in August that year and the submission of local contractors, Leita Bros, accepted:

Leita Bros. are well-known builders in the district and have completed several large contracts in Myrtleford. They are at present building the new police station and residence ... The new Shire buildings will be a real showpiece, as well as being a real necessity. The architects claim that the site chosen by Council ... is the best civic centre site in Victoria, and the new buildings have been designed to fit in with the surroundings.¹¹

The first sod was turned at the site by the Shire President, C J Rootsey, on 30 August 1966.¹² The total cost (met by long-term loans) was given as \$142,000 (land \$22K, construction \$107K, site works \$5, and furnishing \$8K).¹³

On 8 June 1967, a crowd of over 1,000 gathered to witness Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, the Governor of Victoria, surrounded by an array of local and metropolitan politicians and officials, officially open the civic centre to much fanfare. The newspaper proclaimed it a 'Red Letter Day' in Myrtleford. The shire president, H D Price, made special mention of Bruce Marshall as the supervising architect and congratulated Leita Bros on the quality of the build, remarking they had 'displayed a great deal of courage in taking on a job of this size.' The Minister for Local Government, R H Hamer, was reported as stating that he:

often finds Mr. Bruce Marshall alongside him on these occasions. Mr Hamer said he had seen many Council chambers, but none like this one. "It reminds me of Globe Theatre in Shakespeares [sic] days," he said. "It is unusual and attractive, and in a very beautiful setting" ...¹⁴

The souvenir booklet produced for the occasion provided additional details about the development, including envisioned future works, not all of which would occur:

Appropriately located in a commanding position in the town of Myrtleford at the corner of Standish Street and O'Donnell Avenue the segmental like shape of the Site and nature of its contours strongly influenced the Architects in determining the overall planning for the Development—in Stages—of the Civic Centre of the Shire.

At the centre of the major imaginary circle of which the segment-like site is part, and located close to the intersection of the two streets, the War Memorial will rise and immediately behind and adjacent to it suitable ceremonial areas and facilities will be developed.¹⁵

⁷ 'Architect Appointed for Civic Centre', *The Myrtleford Times*, 2 November 1965, p1

⁸ 'Councilors Face Big Decision', *The Myrtleford Times*, 21 December 1965, p1

⁹ 'Councilors Face Big Decision', *The Myrtleford Times*, 21 December 1965, p1

¹⁰ 'Council to Proceed with Civic Centre', *The Myrtleford Times*, 18 January 1966, p1

¹¹ 'Tenders let for Civic Centre', *The Myrtleford Times*, 2 August 1966, p1

¹² 'Works to Commence on Civic Centre', *The Myrtleford Times*, 30 August 1966, p1

¹³ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, p7

¹⁴ 'Governor Opens Myrtleford's Municipal Buildings', *The Myrtleford Times*, 13 June 1967, p1

On a line bisecting the segment or triangle, and at a distance from the Memorial adequate to allow for complementary landscaping, the Centre of the Council Chamber is located. From this centre radiating lines and arcs combine to form the perimeter of this building and in sympathy with this planning the Administrative offices derive from the same centre—but in a separate building connected by a covered way. In effect the Council Chamber is the “hub” of the wheel from which springs the “spokes” defining and strengthening the Administrative structure.

The Driveway connecting both streets passes between the Council Chamber and the Administrative Offices and provides direct access to each of these buildings.

Car parking areas are provided at each end of the Administrative Offices and, by means of the Covered Way attached to these Offices on the South and the Covered Way connecting the two main buildings, access protected from the weather is provided.

The public open space in the Administrative Building [*the northern block*] is centrally located with all inquiries by the public being directed to the various sections through the reception and inquiry counter adjacent to the main entry ...

The west sector provides to accommodate Secretary, Assistant Secretary and General Office and related services; and the eastern sector houses the Engineer, Health Inspector, and Assistant Engineer and the staff under control of the Engineer.

A centrally located Staff Entry is provided and leads through the Staff amenities from the Staff Parking area. As a composite whole it is felt that the office buildings provided self-contained flexibility capable of accommodating the obvious various services in an efficient and convenient manner ...

The selection of the materials used throughout has been largely influenced by the desire of the Council to achieve “minimum maintenance” finishes.

The external walls of the Council Chambers being principally circular in plan, have been very suitably dealt with by using coffee colour clay bricks on the inside left exposed and by using an applied finish externally composed of white quartz and mother of pearl which presents an unusual and very attractive appearance.

Throughout the whole of the building Suspended Ceilings have been used and sprayed with vermiculite to provide appropriate acoustical treatment. Concrete floors are provided throughout and in the case of the Council Chamber Suite have been carpeted whilst in the office administration area welded sheet vinyl has been used as a hard-wearing finish laid over the concrete.

Timber window frames have been used throughout whilst for the fascias and soffit linings, Western Cedar timber has been used because of its durable qualities for outside use.

Generally the finish internally on Perimeter walls is in exposed brickwork. Most other internal walling is of factory made fully demountable modular panel units.

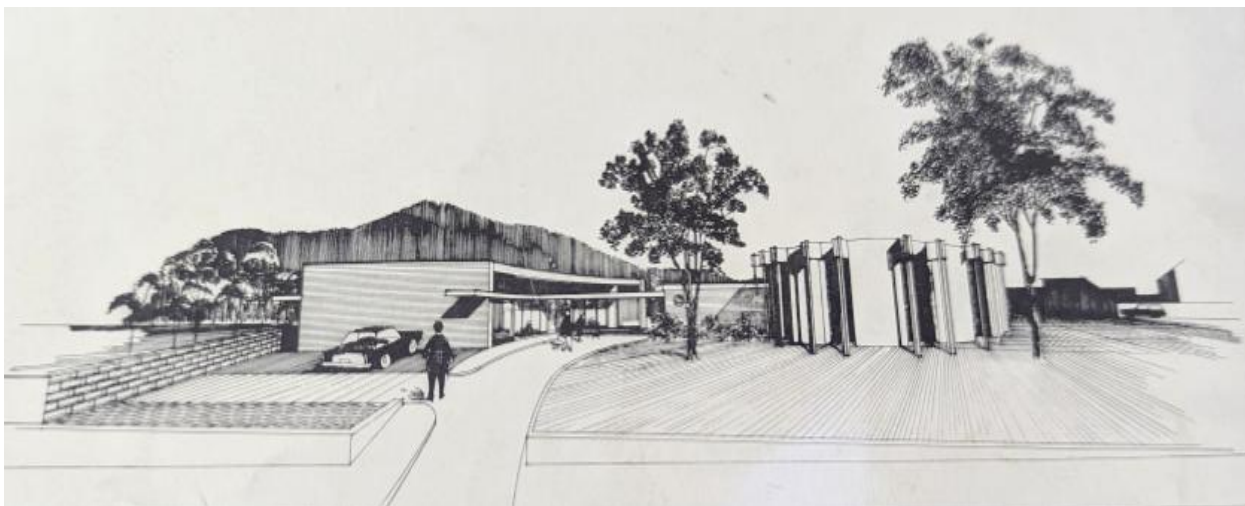
Both Council Chambers and Administrative Office buildings have been fully air conditioned and the installation is such as to permit independent use of either building.

In order to appropriately emphasize what is in effect the head and heart of the Shire’s Administration, the Council Chamber will be floodlit.¹⁶

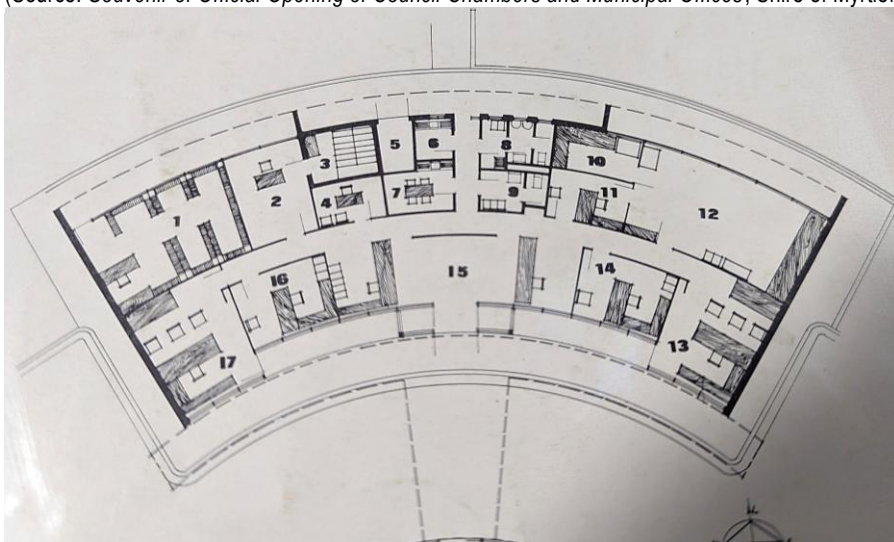
It was also noted in the souvenir booklet that part of the northern block was designed to accommodate a small and temporary library.

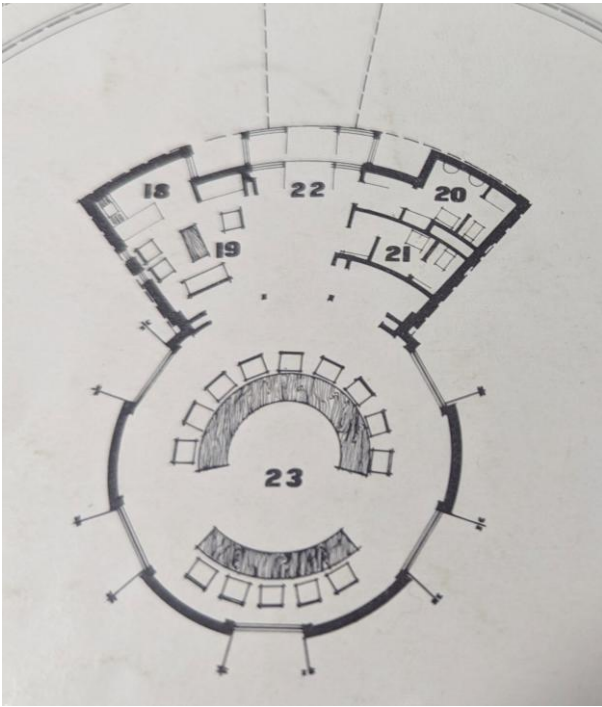
¹⁵ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, pp7-8

¹⁶ *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, pp8-9



Lines, McFarlane & Marshall perspective of the *Myrtleford Council Chambers & Council Offices* from O'Donnell Avenue. Note that the section of depicted retaining wall forward of the northern block (left of frame) was not constructed. (Source: *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, Shire of Myrtleford, 1967)





(Above) Floor plan for the *Myrtleford Council Chambers & Municipal Offices*, with the accompany legend reproduced below:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Library | 6. Survey equipment | 11. Assit. Engineer | 16. Assit. Secretary | 21. Female |
| 2. Office – rates | 7. Kitchen | 12. Drawing Office | 17. Secretary | 22. Foyer |
| 3. Strong Room | 8. Males | 13. Engineer | 18. Kitchen | 23. Council Chamber |
| 4. Interview | 9. Females | 14. Health Insp. | 19. President | |
| 5. Plant | 10. Plan Printing | 15. Public Space | 20. Males | |

(Source: *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, Shire of Myrtleford, 1967)

The *Myrtleford Council Chambers & Municipal Offices* operated as such until the restructuring of local government in Victoria led by the Kennett government in the early 1990s, at which the Shire of Myrtleford was amalgamated, chiefly with the Shire of Bright, creating the Alpine Shire. The building was subsequently repurposed as a municipal library, its current use, although until relatively recently, the council chambers were retained for ad hoc ceremonial use, with their original furniture and finishes untouched. Circa 2018 works are understood to have seen this space fully absorbed into the library.¹⁷

¹⁷ Built Heritage, *Stage Two: Assessment of Community & Administrative Facilities*, Heritage Victoria, 31 May 2010, p104



Aerial photograph, dated 1991, with the *Myrtleford Council Chambers & Municipal Offices (Former)* depicted (red arrow). (Source: AUS269, Frame 805, Geoscience)



Mid-1990s, west side. Note what appears to be exposed timber beams to the circular form (since clad) and the colouration of its render, which is probably original. The 'Windowall' of the northern block, prior to the overpainting of its lower glazed section, is also apparent, as is the uninterrupted bisecting drive. (Source: National Trust [VIC] Database, B6769)



Interior of the council chambers, prior to recent works, with original furniture, including a circular central table, shown. Mostly removed. (Source: Built Heritage, *Survey of Post-War Built Heritage in Victoria: Stage Two: Assessments of Community & Administrative Facilities*, Heritage Victoria, 31 May 2010, p103)

Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall

Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall were synonymous with civic and municipal developments in post-WWII Victoria.¹⁸

Albert Keith Lines (1897-1981), an experienced architect in his early fifties, established the practice in 1923, with an initial focus on middle-class residences and commercial/industrial work. An eighteen-year-old Jessica MacFarlane (m. Langhorne) (1910-1995) commenced as an articled pupil in 1928.¹⁹

Following a WWII-induced hiatus, MacFarlane – by then a senior designer – was elevated as a partner, a rarity in the highly gendered nature of the Australian architectural field at that point. Bruce Robson Marshall (1923-1999) also joined and was made a partner in 1952. MacFarlane ceased practising in the late 1950s following her marriage and relocation to South Australia, but the firm retained her surname. Lines retired in 1967, but the firm continued into the 1990s.²⁰

From the late 1950s, Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall increasingly focused on industrial and civic designs, perhaps encouraged by Line's election to Eltham Council in 1940 and close involvement in the Municipal Association of Victoria. Although, it is believed that Marshall was the principal designer. The firm becomes widely considered a specialist in the design and delivery of Council offices and chambers during the 1960s and 1970s, shifting during this time from variations of the International Style to embracing Brutalism. Their best-known municipal and institutional designs of the 1950s/60s are discussed below in the comparative section. Later examples include the Kew Civic Centre (1972) and offices for Diamond Valley Shire (1972, 1976) and the City of Doncaster and Templestowe (1979, 1980).

¹⁸ Julie Willis, 'Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall', in Philip Goad and Willis, eds, *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp411-12

¹⁹ Built Heritage, *Survey of Post-War Built Heritage in Victoria: Stage Two: Assessments of Community & Administrative Facilities*, Heritage Victoria, 31 May 2010, p135

²⁰ ASIC Published notices, 'Note of Proposed Deregistration: Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall Architects Pty Ltd', 10 January 2014, available online

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

7.0 Governing Victorians

7.1 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* is located close to the point of a large triangular holding that includes Cundy Park. While the bulk of this parkscape is excluded from the extent of HO32, the backdrop of mature trees to the civic building, now occupied by the Myrtleford Library, is an important aspect of its setting. The subject building is positioned on a flat platform cut into the natural southern slope of the land, giving it an elevated siting that overlooks a key junction in the town.

The building is relatively modest in scale with a single-storey, flat-roofed geometry. A small circular 'drum' in the south (the former council chambers) anchors the plan, from which emanates a crescent form that carries through from an attached quadrant porch/lobby to a larger freestanding wing in the north (the former municipal offices). Overall, a wedge radiating from a circle – a built metaphor for the democratic centre ('heart') of Myrtleford.

These two forms are connected by a walkway that spans a bisecting curved drive that runs between O'Donnell Avenue and Standish Street. The section of the drive between the two wings is now non-trafficable, having been adapted as a landscaped courtyard with a 'crazy stone' path. Another driveway arches to the rear of the former municipal offices, separated by a retaining wall.



Close-up aerial photograph of the *Myrtleford Civic Centre* depicting the building's unusual, highly resolved site plan and geometry. (Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

Roof cladding is a corrugated and tray deck sheeting.

In the north is the former municipal offices, a long crescent-shaped block constructed of dark brown brick in stretcher bond with deeply raked joints. The fascia was originally timber but has recently been at least concealed (if not replaced) with corrugated metal sheeting.²¹

The side/end walls are blank (no apertures) and extend past the curved (convex) face of the north elevation, supporting wide eaves (lined with overpainted battens). Two other blade walls divide the wall to the middle, breaking it into three equal bays. The central bay has a staff entrance (non-original glazed door) flanked by a full-height concrete breeze-block screen in line with the eaves. The outer bays display largely uninterrupted (discrete door in the west) horizontal timber-framed window bands with operable tinted glass louvres (likely an original shading device) above a rendered plinth.



Former municipal offices, now library, from Standish Street, showing north (rear) and east (side) elevations. (Source: RBA, March 2024)



Central bay of the curved rear elevation of the northern block from the rear. (Source: RBA, March 2024)

²¹ Timber fascia captured by Google Street View, June 2023.



Rear elevation of the northern block, west bay.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The south frontage (concave) is characterised by a narrow brick plinth with full-height painted timber-framed windows (in effect, a 'Windowall'). These include a broad horizontal member at dado height with finer framing to a pair of toplights (above and below the awning/verandah). The lower part of most of the windows has been overpainted, creating non-transparent spandrels. This elevation is broken up into five alternatively projecting and receding bays, with the centre acting as a vestibule. It is accessed by double doors that initially opened outwards (existing are replacements). The timber framing to the internal wall of the vestibule is stained.



'Windowall' of the former municipal office's south elevation (right), from the east/Standish Avenue.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

A curved awning/verandah with a broad timber fascia extends the entirety of the south facade, sailing past the end walls. It sits well below the eaves and is set off the wall plane, being discretely attached to the latter by a pair of I-

beams (either side of the vestibule) and, to its outer edge, regularly placed metal square posts. The soffit is lined with overpainted battens.

The former council chambers in the south have a drum-like cylindrical form. Its walls are of lightly textured rendered walls (composed of 'white quartz' and 'mother of pearl'), which were probably initially coloured a cream/white.²² The cylinder's outer face is punctured by five recessed full-height windows (most with their original textured glass), from which twin of roof beams project, each supported by paired steel I-beams. These beams appear to have been encased with sheeting and are believed to have originally been timber. A fascia detail connects the beams, further reinforcing the impression of the openings as a bay.



Former council chambers/'drum', viewed from the landscaped area at the southern tip of the triangular holding. (Source: RBA, March 2024)

Attached to the north of the circular chamber is a crescent-shaped porch/foyer (quadrant wing), which echoes the geometry and materiality (brown brick) of the former municipal office block it faces. Its original timber fascia has also been reclad and/or replaced with corrugated metal sheeting. The central entry (original glazed doors/sidelights) is bordered by two alcoves, each with a Pencil pine (*Cupressus sempervirens Glauca*). There are two full height 'slit' windows in the west elevation. These slits are repeated in the east as 'blind' recesses with two smaller louvred windows (internally, to bathrooms).

A perpendicular, tapering cantilevered canopy/walkway at the same height as the curved northern verandah, with which it intersects, connects the crescent porch/lobby with the former office block in the north. It continues into the interior of both the north wing (vestibule) and the southern porch/lobby. Prior to the removal of the bisecting driveway, it acted as a porte-cochère. A curved accessibility ramp (east) with stairs (west), finished in slate pavers, has been added to provide access to the former council chambers.

²² *Souvenir of Official Opening of Council Chambers and Municipal Offices*, p.8



Entrance to the crescent-shaped porch/foyer (quadrant wing), former council chambers. The ramp is an addition.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

The concrete paths below the awning/verandah and to the rear of the former office block are original, as is the concrete block pathway in front of the circular chamber.

Other original landscape elements are the retaining walls to the front and rear of the *Myrtleford Civic Centre*, which both echo their respective curves of the nearest elevation. That to the rear is a landscaped embankment with stairs to the drive above, utilising the same brick as the building in parts (albeit with flush mortar joints), while the retaining wall to the front is shorter and constructed of textured concrete blocks.

At least some of the mature trees present in the foreground of the building appear to predate it and may have been consciously retained as part of the development. Others were presumably planted as part of the civic development.

The interior of the northern former office block has not been examined closely but was substantially revised during circa 2018 works for the library, including the removal of the majority, if not all, of its original aluminium-framed lateral walls and timber-panelled partitions.

The former council chamber and its lobby are relatively intact, including its layout. Internal elements of note include the Vermiculite (heavily textured) spray ceiling (fire protection), the expressed circular hanging ceiling above the former chamber with exposed timber beams to the edge and oval light fittings, grooved concrete lintel, some polished timber veneer built-in furniture, and a large bronze plaque memorialising the opening of the building. It is not clear if the original concertina door to the chambers has been retained. Bricks in both wings have been overpainted.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Myrtleford Civic Centre is a distinctive design that defies ready stylistic classification. It can be considered an excellent example of the Late Twentieth-Century International Style, which often expressed a greater sculptural quality than the more rectilinear examples that characterised its early postwar output. Furthermore, the highlighting of natural forms, the cylindrical drum and crescent wings – collectively, suggestive of a shell or wing-like formation radiating from a central circle – draws upon the ethos of organic modernism. The skillful use of interstitial ('between') space in both extending and uniting the plan, as well as responding to its immediate and broader context, is also an important aspect of the design. The underlying public spirit of the design is also pronounced, with its siting and plan form referential of concepts of democracy, transparency, and community.

There are relatively few known distinguished examples of architectural modernism in the Alpine Shire; however, the district's considerable post-WWII and late 20th-century building stock has not been studied closely from a heritage

perspective. The only modernist building affected by a heritage overlay is *Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church* at 2 Coronation Avenue, Bright (HO99), which is a soaring steel and concrete A-frame structure ('Alpinesque') constructed in 1965 to the design of Morrish, Knott and Vaughan Pty Ltd.

The Myrtleford Civic Centre is typologically a town hall. Traditionally, late 19th and early 20th-century examples of this class were grand and imposing, mostly classically inspired designs. After the WWII-forced construction lull, a veritable 'boom' of municipal offices/chamber developments, often with integrated community facilities (library, health centre, hall, clubrooms, etc.), occurred between the late 1940s and early 1970s across metropolitan and regional Victoria.²³

This 'early' postwar municipal office/town hall output ranged widely in expression, with one variant effectively continuing a *retardataire*, often severe version of the interwar Moderne idiom (for instance, Echuca in 1952 and Ballarat, 1955) and another a utilitarian, 'lean' interpretation of the International Style. However, from the late 1950s, commencing with Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall's Benalla design (see below), some municipal developments adopted more idiosyncratic modernist expressions, which, although still often anchored in the International Style, drew from other modernist sources in inspired ways. Much of this class of municipal design was undertaken by an array of leading Melbourne architects or firms.²⁴

As discussed, Lines, MacFarlane & Marshall cemented their reputation in municipal work over the 1950s and 1960s. Alongside the *Myrtleford Civic Centre* – their most innovative and finely resolved design from this phase – the other known examples of their civic work are: the *Former Benalla Shire Offices* (SHR H2189, HO76); the *Oakleigh Municipal Offices* (former, now part of the police station – HO92/Monash), and the *Former Ringwood Civic Centre Offices* (unlisted, 22A Mines Road, Ringwood East).

Postwar Victoria witnessed a relative plethora of impressive municipal/civic designs. Of these, a handful are distinguished by more experimental plan forms in the manner of the *Myrtleford Civic Centre*, namely:

- *City of Sunshine Municipal Offices (Former)*, 6-18 Alexandra Avenue, Sunshine (HO109/Brimbank). A two-storey, flat-roofed Y-shaped plan with a wedge-shaped portico (*dalle de verre* coloured glass) surmounted by a hexagonal volume. Designed by G Stuart Warmington, built 1964-67.
- *City of Brighton Municipal Offices (Former)*, 15 Boxshall Street, Brighton (SHR H1292, HO83/Bayside). Wrightian-influenced/organic tall, cylindrical, and tapered 'drum' chamber (reminiscent of the Guggenheim, an interpretation disputed by its architect), built 1959-61 and designed by Kevin Knight of Oakley & Parks.
- *Altona Civic Offices Council Chambers (Former)*, 115 Civic Parade, Altona (HO70/City of Hobsons Bay). Segmented-domed form, clad in copper, with concrete masonry walls, designed by Robert G Warren, built 1963. Redolent of Roy Grounds Academy of Science Shrine shell concrete dome in Canberra (1959). Main portion of the municipal office to its rear has been heavily modified.

There are loose parallels between the *Myrtleford Civic Centre* and that at Altona, with both presenting as effectively freestanding circular plans, although with differing roof forms (cylindrical 'drum' versus a substantial dome). The Altona chambers had a less complex (and now virtually extinguished) interrelationship with its associated municipal offices.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 77215 (DELPW) + 105310 (Council)

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Heritage Register: B6769 (*Myrtleford Civic Centre*)

Built Heritage, *Stage Two: Assessment of Community & Administrative Facilities*, Heritage Victoria, 31 May 2010

²³ Julie Willis, 'Town Halls' in Philip Goad and Willis, eds, *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp712-713

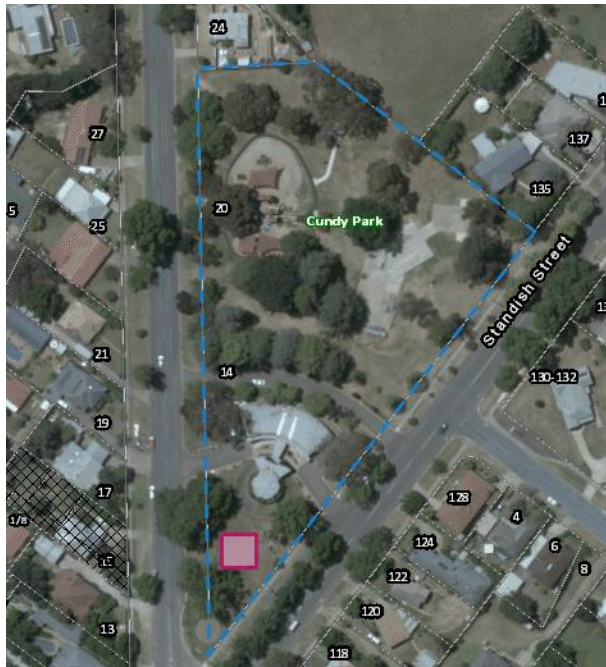
²⁴ For an overview, refer to Built Heritage, *Survey of Post-War Built Heritage in Victoria: Stage Two: Assessment of Community & Administrative Facilities*, Heritage Victoria, 31 May 2010, Section 2.4

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	Yes
Internal alteration controls	Yes (former Council Chambers)
Tree controls	Yes (Liquidambar x 3)
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Myrtleford Civic Centre* at 14 O'Donnell Avenue, Myrtleford, is included in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay for the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO32. The current curtilage related to HO32 is inadequate and should be enlarged to the extent extend from the building line north by 15 metres and south, west, and east to the title boundaries.



The current inadequate extent of HO25 (pink polygon) with title approximately outlined in blue. (Source: Vicplan)



The recommended extent of HO32 is depicted in red. (Source: Nearmap, December 2023). The three liquidambar are circled.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: extend the polygon to fully encompass the former civic complex, rear arching driveway, and triangular 'tip' of Cundy Park with the three liquidambar.

Controls: note internal controls to only apply to the former Council chamber and apply tree controls for three liquidambar. Remove prohibited uses.

H034: FORMER ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Address	32 Smith Street, Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1889	Period	Late Victorian



Facade
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

Former St Andrew's Church at 32 Smith Street, Myrtleford, is significant. It was constructed for the local Presbyterian community in 1889 by the Beechworth builder Thomas Sandham, who was also possibly responsible for the design, modelled on an earlier Presbyterian Church in Bright (H0124). The land and funding for the church's development were donated by Thomas Robertson, seemingly in an act of public spirit and boosterism. The Bright-based Rev. W L Fenton was the inaugural pastor, with Rev. S D Hood appointed full-time in 1916. Services concluded in 1991. During the church's jubilee (1937), the brick fence and some other external/internal elements and additions were made by the congregation.

Significant elements are: the church's gabled form and footprint, including the belfry (bell tower), metal weathervane, brickwork and rendered surfaces, all buttressing, front timber door and granite threshold (likely interwar addition), lancet openings with timber-framed double-hung sashes (moulded glazing bars and coloured glazing) or stained glass; the brick front fence with metal railing (interwar/jubilee addition),

Notable original/early elements to the interior, such as the raised platform/altar, attached choir area, and timber joinery, are likely significant if surviving but have not been inspected for this assessment.

The awning attached to the former Sunday School at the rear of *St Andrew's* is not significant, nor are concrete paths, the driveway, wire mesh fencing and front gate, or other contemporary elements.

How is it Significant?

Former St Andrew's Church is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Former St Andrew's Church is of historical significance as a place of worship dating from the late Victorian period. Its development – enabled by the munificence of notable local Thomas Robertson – occurred during a key phase of consolidation for Myrtleford, as it transitioned from a makeshift gold-dependent centre to a more established township based around the timber and hops/tobacco industries. The church served the Presbyterian (then the Uniting Church of Australia) community of the town and area for over a century. (Criterion A)

Former St Andrew's Church is of aesthetic significance as a modest but fine example of late 19th-century Gothic-influenced ecclesiastical architecture. In its embrace of verticality and light use of pointed/medieval-inspired details, the church draws upon a language that remains emblematic of piety and awe of the divine. Such a design approach is indicative of the Early English Gothic Revival style or a late instance of the Gothick. More distinguishing is *St Andrew's* central street-facing belfry (belltower) and porch with 'giant' buttresses pilasters and 'blind' arch. This decorous, sensitively proportioned element references the earlier Georgian tradition, which is less commonly found in Victorian church architecture. High-quality materials, including the brickwork (Flemish bond to the façade, English bond elsewhere), arrangement of glazing bars and all coloured/stained glass, are evocative of the building's former use. The late interwar period (related to the Jubilee) front brick fence (piers and plinth) with metal balustrade complements the church. (Criteria E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland roads in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001).

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The subject land derives from Section 7, Township of Myrtleford in the Parish of Myrtleford, Country of Bogong. It was privately acquired and, in the late 1880s, donated to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria by its then owner Thomas Robertson (d. 1891), an affluent mine investor (mainly in Bendigo), High Country squatter, and property developer in Myrtleford.³

Land for a Presbyterian Church (Protestant denomination, est. in Scotland, follows the teaching of French reformer John Calvin) had been reserved, as was standard, on Elgin Street during the original survey of the township (1859) but not developed, with the congregation initially using the timber St Paul's Anglican Church (built 1872, since demolished).

The Presbyterian Trustees sold their reserve in 1886 (to make way for the extension of the railway line from Myrtleford to Bright, 1890) and used the funds for the construction of the existing *St Andrew's* on Robertson's gifted land.⁴ He also donated the bricks and an organ.⁵

Robertson is known to have played a similar role in the development of St Mary's Roman Catholic Church (HO182) in 1888.⁶ His motivation appears to have been a desire to enhance the attraction of the township, where he held considerable assets, including the Myrtleford Hotel.

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp70-71

³ Kay Robertson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, Rigby Limited, 1973, p186

⁴ (Pamphlet) *Presbyterian Church of Australia: St Andrew's Church, Myrtleford: Centenary*, 1954, courtesy of Myrtleford & District Historical Society

⁵ 'One Hundred Years of Progress: A Review of the Early History of Myrtleford', *Myrtleford Times*, 24 April 1954, p1

⁶ Robertson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, p186



St Andrew's Church, circa 1905, from the north side of Smith Street. The façade and west elevation are shown. Note the original timber fence. None of the plantings captured survive. (Source: courtesy of the Myrtleford & District Historical Society)

The *Alpine Observer* reported in May 1889 that: 'The Presbyterian Church is all but completed. Tis rather a neat looking structure, like the toy church, and will cost when completed upwards of £600.'⁷

That same month, the Central Board of Health (VIC) confirmed in correspondence that the (unknown) conditions pertaining to doors and ventilation for the church building had been fulfilled.⁸ The contractor and probable designer was Thomas Sandham, a well-known regional builder who had recently finished constructing a hotel on Standish Street owned by Robertson.⁹

Rev. William Lumsden Fenton (1853-1941) – 'one of the most popular and probably the most widely known ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria' – served as the inaugural pastor, concurrent with his primary station in Bright.¹⁰ A full-time minister, Rev. S D Hood was not appointed until 1916.¹¹

During the church's jubilee in 1937, it was reported that the interior had been 'renovated' and that the existing section brick fence erected.¹² An aerial photograph dated 1948 (see below) depicts *St Andrew's* with larger open grounds, including a tennis court to its east. This part of the property was developed during the postwar period (possibly to accommodate a manse, now no. 30).

A gabled and weatherboard/sheeted Sunday School was built at a setback from the rear of *St Andrew's Church* in the early 20th century, to which a southern skillion wing was built circa 1953.¹³ This structure survives but is excluded from the extent of HO34.

Most Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists joined to form the Uniting Church of Australia in 1997. Services concluded at *St Andrew's* in August 1991.¹⁴ The building was deconcentrated and, at the time of this assessment, accommodates government health services.

⁷ 'Myrtleford', *The Alpine Observer*, 3 May 1889, p2

⁸ Correspondence: Central Board of Health, 2 May 1889, PROV, 7882/P0001

⁹ Robertson, *Myrtleford: Gateway to the Alps*, p186

¹⁰ 'Rev. W.L. Fenton', *Myrtleford Times*, 5 February 1941, p2

¹¹ *Back to Myrtleford*, 1929, SLV, np

¹² 'Presbyterian Jubilee', *Myrtleford Times*, 21 April 1937, p3

¹³ General Health Branch, PROV, 7882/P0001

¹⁴ John Taylor, 'The beginnings: Myrtleford and district church history', *North East Media*, 15 March 2023



Aerial photograph of *St Andrew's* (red arrow), dated 1948. The liquidambar trees to the front were not established (or had not been planted) but there was a tennis court (since developed) to the north of the church. (Source: *Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4, Frame 145, Geoscience*)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010)

8.0 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

St Andrew's (Former) is a late Victorian period church in the Early English Gothic Revival style; that is, a 'free' interpretation of the design mode, as opposed to an academic/archaeological rendition.¹⁵ Sometimes the descriptor Gothick is also employed to describe such light interpretations.

The building is set back from the south side of Smith Street on generally flat terrain and is readily visible from the public domain 'in the round'.

St Andrew's has a largely rectangular footprint, comprising a nave and, at least initially, in the southwest corner, a raised altar/platform and attached choir area, although it is not known if these elements remain internally. The building has a high-pitched gabled roof clad in replacement corrugated metal sheeting. Exposed timber rafter ends are evident to the side elevations with timber bargeboard to both ends.

The building is constructed of a variegated red face brick (assumedly locally produced). In the façade, a Flemish bond (alternating stretchers and headers in each course) is employed. In contrast, the side and rear elevations display an English bond (a course of headers alternating with a course of stretchers). In some areas, a traditional soft lime-rich mortar likely remain. Battered (downwards-sloping) surfaces are rendered and painted white.

¹⁵ See Miles Lewis, ed., *Victorian Churches: Their origins, their story & their architecture*, National Trust of Australia (VIC), 1991, pp30-31

The facade (north elevation) is symmetrical and divided into three bays, with the central occupied by the projecting porch/bell tower (belfry). The latter includes a rendered bellcote (roofed structure for bells), which includes pointed arched openings (north/south) and stop-chamfered corners. Surmounting this element is a cupola-like pedestal for a metal wind vane. The bellcote is carried above the composition of a 'giant' order buttress piers with a semi-circular arch above a 'blind' lancet window, itself over the porch entrance, which has a pointed arch. In its restraint and proportions, the belfry bestows a distinguishing Georgian inflection to the architectural character of *St Andrew's*.

The central entrance is deeply recessed, with its inside face rendered. The double-leafed timber batten door is original and retains its elaborate (medievaesque) metal hinges, as is the concrete deck; however, the granite step is likely an interwar (jubilee) addition.

The flanking bays feature lancet windows with outer two-tiered diagonal buttresses, which are repeated at the rear elevation. Buttresses also continue to the side elevations at regular intervals, alternating with windows.

Tall and narrow lancet (two-centred arched head) window openings, mostly with double-hung timber-framed sashes and sloped rendered sills, are used throughout. In the front and side elevations, the windows display fine moulded glazing bars (forming a lancet with a crossed head) that create slender borders of coloured (blue, orange) glazing.

The rear (south) elevation features a tripartite group of lancet windows (backdrop to the original raised platform/altar) with stained glass depicting a religious scene (centre) and Christian symbols (flanking). If not original, the stained glass may have been installed as part of *St Andrew's* jubilee (1937).

Set back from the rear of the church is the modified early 20th-century former timber Sunday School. Other than its attached (north) awning, this building is excluded from the extent of HO34.

The church's facade – from the late 20th century – was framed by a pair of Liquidambar trees, on each side of the front concrete path. In circa 2023, the western tree was removed. The health of the remaining tree is noted as poor.



St Andrew's Church – façade and east elevation, from Smith Street. (Source: RBA, March 2024)



Lancet windows, rear elevation, note stained glass.
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

A low red brick fence with piers and a geometric metal railing extends across most of the front (north) boundary. It replaced an earlier timber fence as part of the church's jubilee in 1937.



Section of the brick front fence, with metal railing, dating to 1937 (Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There is an array of heritage-listed churches in the Alpine Shire, most originating from the late 19th century and illustrative of the influence of the Gothic Revival style, as typical for this period. A small proportion are timber-framed and weatherboard-clad,¹⁶ with the most – in line with *St Andrew's Church* – of masonry (red brick/limited render) construction.

The brick Gothic Revival churches are universally gabled buildings with shared characteristics such as symmetrical arrangements, buttressing, the limited use of contrasting render, and pointed/lancet openings (often with stained glass):

- *All Saints Anglican Church*, 1 Church Street, Bright (HO94). Built in 1870, designed by diocesan architect Leonard Terry.
- *Former St Andrews Church* (Presbyterian), 18 Park Street, Bright (HO124). Designed and built by Thomas Kaighin in 1877. Exceedingly similar to *St Andrews* in Myrtleford, including base façade composition with central belfry (stained glazing instead of the 'blind' arch). The brickwork is overpainted. It could be speculated that HO124 was the inspiration for the Presbyterian community of Myrtleford.
- *Uniting Church* (Methodist), 499 Morses Creek Road, Wandiligong (HO56). Constructed in 1878, the designer is unknown. Broad and austere façade (concealed from public domain, front brickwork may have been rendered).
- *Uniting Church* (formerly Methodist), 17 Ireland Street, Bright (HO111). Built (designed?) by (Thomas) Kaighin & Son, 1884. Most substantial example in the municipality, with a more ornamented Gothic treatment and landmark steeple/spire.
- *St Mary's Catholic Church*, 49 Prince Street, Myrtleford (HO182). Designed by Beechworth architect Donald Fiddes and built in 1888. Façade with a central gabled porch (side entrance), three lancet windows.

St Andrew's, along with its earlier counterpart (and namesake?) in Bright (HO124), are particularly elegant brick versions of the late 19th-century (Early English) Gothic Revival with a light Georgian design influence communicated by their restrained central belfry.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 216283

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Heritage Register: B4580 (*Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Church*)

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	Yes (brick front fence, excluding gate)
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

¹⁶ *St Etheldreda Church*, Great Alpine Road, Harrietville (HO149); *Former Church of England*, 483 Morse Creek Road, Wandiligong (HO50); and *Former Roman Catholic Church (St Peters)*, 155 School Road, Wandiligong (HO75)

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Former St Andrew's Church at 32 Smith Street, Myrtleford, is included in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay for the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO34. As the property contains a non-significant building, a reduced extent of the heritage overlay is recommended, encompassing *St Andrew's Church* and a 'buffer' zone, as set out in the map below.



The recommended extent of HO34 is depicted in red. (Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: extend the polygon to fully encompass the church building, front fence, and the porch attached to the rear former Sunday School (itself excluded).

Name change: *Former St Andrew's Church* rather than *St Andrew's Church*

Planning Controls: remove external paint, internal alteration, and tree controls.

H035: BIG TREE

Address	Smith Street (Yarrah Place), Myrtleford	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Pre-1800s	Period	Pre-colonisation



Big Tree or river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Smith Street, Myrtleford
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Big Tree*, a river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), in Smith Street, Myrtleford at Yarrah Place is significant. It is thought to be well over 200 years old, that is from pre-colonial times, and up to 500 years. For just over a century, from 1883 to 1987, it designated the entry to the Myrtleford Railway station.

How is it Significant?

The *Big Tree*, a river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Big Tree* in Myrtleford, a majestic River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is of historical significance for being an unusually old specimen, estimated to be well over 200 years old and up to 500 years (and thought to be one of the oldest in the state). It stands as a living witness to the journeys of Indigenous peoples through the Ovens Valley to reach the Bogong Mountains for the harvest of the nutritious Bogong moth. Given its age and prominent location, the tree likely stood watch over ancient inter-tribal gatherings and ceremonies held in the area. Today, this enduring sentinel offers a powerful connection to the region's rich cultural heritage and serves as a point of interest for visitors drawn to the stories and landscapes of Victoria's high alpine country. In addition, it also has associations with the earlier railway line as it marked the entrance to the train station and was a key meeting place for the township. (Criterion A)

The *Big Tree*, a river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), is of aesthetic significance for being a massive specimen with a spectacular canopy and as such a local landmark and a commanding element along Smith Street. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality uncaded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

3.4 Building Settlements, Towns & Cities

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71

were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001). (pop. 3,285 as of 2021).

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The *Big Tree* is located on what had originally been Lot 6, Section D in the township of Myrtleford, which had an area of about 1.4 acres.³ It was likely acquired in 1863.⁴

The *Big Tree* is thought to be over 200 years old, and up to 500 years, that is, it predates colonisation of the area by Europeans and is said to be one of the oldest specimens in Victoria.

The tree has associations with the Minyambuta (Minjambuta) tribe. Given its age and prominent location, the tree likely stood watch over ancient inter-tribal gatherings and ceremonies held in the area. The Myrtleford area was traversed by Indigenous peoples as it formed part of the route through the Ovens Valley, which was traditionally used during the warmer months to reach the Bogong Mountains for the harvest of the nutritious Bogong moth.⁵

There was unlikely little, if any, development on this side of Smith Street during the late 19th century before the railway reached Myrtleford, after which time it became a meeting place.

The Myrtleford railway station opened on 17 December 1883 and for a few years it was a terminus before the line was extended to Bright in 1890. A century later in 1983, Myrtleford again became the terminus when the line was truncated between it and Bright. Myrtleford Station was however closed in 1987, along with the rest of the line. The buildings were removed by 1991 and soon after the extant retirement village was constructed.⁶

³ Township of Myrtleford, Putaway Plan M294

⁴ Township of Myrtleford, M294(4). Nearby lots were mostly sold during 1863.

⁵ Information provided by Lorraine Padgham, 23.04.2025

⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myrtleford_railway_station, accessed 08.05.2024



1920-54, 'Panorama at Myrtleford', with the Big tree highlighted
 (Source: SLV, Rose Series P540, H32492/771)

Historic aerals record the tree as a mature specimen in 1948 and that it was located in front of the station on the axis along Jones Street from the highway.



Aerial from 1948, with the tree circled and the earlier station identified (arrow)
 (Source: Mapsheet Photography, Bright, Run 4 Frame 145, Geoscience)

The following 1991 aerial reveals that the station buildings had been removed by that time.



Aerial from 13.02.1991 with the subject tree highlighted
(Source: AUS269, frame 805, Geoscience)

After the railway closure, the subject tree came to be located on Lot 19, Section D, in the Township of Myrtleford. This parcel of land was comprised of 1621m² and was transferred to the Public Transport Corporation on 27 April 1992.⁷

The land parcels nearby have since been reconfigured and the tree is now located on a dedicated reserve (Reserve No.1 PS 345771V).

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010)

- 1.4 Creation stories and defining country
- 6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

National Trust Register (T11969)

Contribution to landscape: Particularly old, Outstanding size, Associated with Aboriginal culture

This tree is one of the oldest and largest in Victoria. Known as 'The Big Tree', it is one of two mature River Red Gums remaining in the township of Myrtleford. The tree was a meeting place for local Aborigines.

The tree was assessed in 1981 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	10/1981
Spread (m)	26
Girth (m)	8.75
Height (m)	22.5

⁷ Myrtleford Township Plan, T294(4)

MEASUREMENTS	10/1981
Estimated Age (yrs)	500
Condition:	fair

Additional Description

The river red gum is located in Smith Street, at the intersection with Jones Street, on the western edge of the reserve which is encircled by Yarrah Place on three sides.

A brass plaque records that in 2004 the measurements of the tree were girth 9.2m, height 23.25m, and spread 28.75m.

Whilst the spread of the canopy is wide on the west side, where it overhangs the carriageway of Smith Street, it has been truncated on the south-east part.



From south-west
(Source: RBA, March 2024)



From north-east
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

Species⁸

Eucalyptus camaldulensis, commonly known as the river red gum, is a flowering species which is endemic to Australia. A familiar and iconic tree, it is commonly found along inland watercourses.

The species typically grows to a height of 20 metres and up to 45 metres. Their limbs, sometimes whole trees, often fall without warning. It has smooth white or cream-coloured bark, with patches of yellow, pink or brown, and often has loose, rough slabs of bark near the base. The juvenile leaves are lance-shaped and adult leaves are lance-shaped to curved, with the same dull green or greyish green colour on both sides. Flower buds are arranged in groups of seven or nine (or sometimes eleven), consisting of white flowers and hemispherical fruit with the valves extending beyond the rim.

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eucalyptus_camaldulensis, accessed 0705.2024

Eucalyptus camaldulensis has the widest natural distribution of any eucalyptus species. It is commonly found along waterways and there are only a few locations where the species is found away from a watercourse. Seven subspecies of *E. camaldulensis* have been described. Subspecies *camaldulensis* is the dominant eucalypt along the Murray-Darling river system and its tributaries, and is the only subspecies found in coastal Victoria.

The Taungurung name for the species is Biyal. The bark was removed in sheets and used for canoes and shelters. The gum which oozed from the trunk had various medicinal uses.⁹

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The only other identified *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in the municipality is located nearby in Myrtleford on the highway (HO29). It is a similarly large specimen ...

The other specimen trees identified in the Alpine Shire are all exotics:

- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Coast/al (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Porepunkah (HO36),
- Two English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) at Myrtleford (HO26),
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95),

There are also three significant avenues in Bright, which are mostly planted with exotic species, however two include natives (Bunya pines) as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1939 and is comprised primarily of Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with a few Scarlet oaks as well as two English oaks.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and has a similar planting profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105320

National Trust Heritage Register T11969

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes (<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>)
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	Yes

⁹ Information provided by Lorraine Padgham, 23.04.2025

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

Eucalyptus camaldulensis (River Red Gum), Reserve No.1 PS 345771V, Parish of Myrtleford, Smith Street (Yarrah Place), Myrtleford is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO35. The mapped location does not fully cover the canopy of the tree.



The current extent of HO35 is depicted in purple, with the recommended extent in red
(Source: Vicplan)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: The current location of HO35 is correct but insufficient (a nominal square) as it does not cover the full extent of the tree's canopy or TPZ (tree protection zone).

Extent of HO: Enlarge to generally accommodate a curtilage of 5 metres from the outer edge of the canopies.

Name: Change name to *Big Tree*, as it is widely referred to as locally.

H036: SEQUOIA SEMPERVIRENS (COAST REDWOOD)

Address	Back Porepukah Road, Porepukah (Bright Country Golf Club)	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	1923	Period	Interwar



Sequoia sempervirens at the Bright Country Golf Club
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) on the Back Porepukah Road, Porepukah in the Bright Country Golf Club (CA's F & P, Section 4, Parish of Porepukah) is significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) is of historical significance for being one key remnant of a plantation that was established at Porepukah in 1923 by the Forest Commission Victoria but that was largely lost to fire some six decades later during the 1980s, before the extant golf course was created. (Criterion A)

The *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) is of aesthetic significance as a landmark specimen of an uncommon species that is about 50 metres high and widely visible at, and near to, the Bright Country Golf Club. (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Porepunkah grew around the crossing place of the Ovens River, on the road to the Buckland River diggings. Never a large town, its survey in 1860 caused much affront to the nearby, large township of Morses Creek (Bright), which had to wait another two years for official recognition. Porepunkah survived on mining and agriculture, as well as passing traffic on the road. As organised tourism began in the area, Porepunkah took advantage of its position in the shadow of Mt Buffalo and formed an Alpine Tourists Association. Local guides such as Albert Weston were available to take visitors to the summit, and several Porepunkah accommodation places were advertising in local newspapers and tourist guides.

Dredging for gold in the early 1900s had a significant influence on the town, with several dredges operating in the vicinity. The Junction No 1 Dredge worked a considerable amount of ground within the township area, and a number of dwellings were removed. In 1908 it was reported that members of dredging crews occupied most of the residences in Porepunkah.

Porepunkah benefited later from sawmilling, when firstly the Porepunkah Pine Mill began operations, and later Selwyn Timber's hardwood mill. Despite cessation of the milling operations, the town has seen considerable residential development in modern times.

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, p71

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

The tree is located on Allotment 14A, Section 4 in the Parish of Porepunkah.

The tree is thought to have been planted about 1923 by the Forest Commission Victoria (FCV).³

The FCV was the main government authority responsible for management and protection of State forests in Victoria from 1918 to 1983. The commission was created by the Forest Act of 1918 with a key principle being the establishment of adequate exotic softwood plantations,⁴ such as sequoias.

Extensive plantations, mostly Radiata pine though some experimental plantings, were established in the Shire from the mid-1910s as a way of compensating for the depredation of dredging on the local native forest. When the Chief Superintendent of Nurseries and Plantations, A G Johnstone, visited the area in 1914 he commented that '... if something is not done to replenish these forests, Bright must die with her mountain streams and what remains of her ancient forests.'⁵

During the 1920s, there were regular newspaper articles extolling the need for Australia to develop its softwood plantations as supply from North America may have been insufficient in the future. For instance, one from 1928 noted that 'the seed supply of exotic conifers warranted close study, and experimental plantations of selected strains should be made.'⁶

Whilst the discussion largely related to pines, an article from 1927, specifically mentions 'redwoods' (sequoias):

In the Legislative Council the Hon. A. M. Zwar, M.L.C., said that in the North-Eastern part of Victoria there were thousands of acres suitable for growing redwoods and other pines that were three or four times more valuable than the timber growing there at present.⁷

A 1929 article, identified the main species being planted at the time:

The aim before the commission is to plant a total area of 200,000 acres of exotic softwood plantations at a rate of 5,000 acres yearly. The main species of softwoods planted were *Pinus radiata* (syn. *P. insignis*), Monterey pine; *Pinus pinaster*, maritime pine; *Pseudotsuga Douglasii*, Oregon; and *P. ponderosa*, western yellow pine.⁸

Historic aerials are available of the area over a twelve-year period – 1963, 1968 and 1975 – which show the earlier plantations on the west side of the Back Porepunkah Road and how they were harvested in a rotating manner over that time frame.

³ National Trust Heritage Register: T11400, *Sequoia sempervirens*

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forests_Commission_Victoria, accessed 01.05.2024

⁵ Robert J Kaufman, 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', 2008, p38

⁶ 'Australian Forestry', *Age*, 4 October 1928, p12

⁷ 'Personal', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 1 October 1927, p2

⁸ 'Forest Commission's Report', *Australasian*, 22 June 1929, p47



Aerial from 19.12.1963 with approximate location of tree highlighted
(Source: CAD17, frame 72, Geoscience)



Aerial from 06.04.1968 with approximate location of tree highlighted
(Source: CAD 7015, frame 244, Geoscience)



Aerial from 22.05.1975 with approximate location of tree highlighted
(Source: CAD48, frame 5046, Geoscience)

The Bright Country Golf Club was incorporated at the current site in February 1990.⁹ The golf club was however formed in 1909 with an earlier course established in 1937. After a devastating fire during 1983 at the plantation, the process of acquiring the current site began.¹⁰ The following aerial from 1991 shows that the course had been laid out by that time.

⁹ Porepunkah Parish Plan P70A8

¹⁰¹⁰ <https://brightgolf.org.au/club-history/>, accessed 01.05.2024



Aerial from 13.02.1991 with approximate location of tree highlighted
(Source: AUS269, frame 896, Geoscience)

REFERENCES

LRGM – Services, *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History*, October 2008

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

4.6 Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

National Trust Register (T11400)

Contribution to landscape: Outstanding size, Outstanding example of species

This specimen tree, located next to the clubhouse, is a remnant of former Forests Commission plantation located on the site and since cleared. It is now a striking feature in the landscape, standing out in open space and visible from quite a distance.

Found in the coastal areas of California, this species includes the tallest trees living now on Earth, reaching up to 115.5 metres and can live as long as 1200-1800 years.

The tree was assessed in 1991 and subsequently in 2011 by the National Trust with the results summarised in the following table.

MEASUREMENTS	22/02/1991	06/01/2011
Spread (m)	11.4	E-W 11; N-S 12
Girth (m)	4	5
Height (m)	43	48
Estimated Age (yrs)	68	88
Condition:	Good	Good

Additional Description:

The tree is located slightly north-west of the clubhouse, and at the west edge of the carpark, of the Bright Country Golf Club. It is a landmark specimen that has wide visibility along the Back Porepunkah Road, from which it is setback about 50 metres.

Species¹¹

Sequoia sempervirens is the sole living species of the genus *Sequoia* in the cypress family Cupressaceae. Common names include coastal redwood and California redwood. It is an evergreen and monoecious tree, that is, the separate male and female cones or flowers exist on the same plant. Famous for being the tallest living trees on the planet, they typically reach a height of 60 to 100m but that can increase to be over 110m and nearly 9m wide (at breast height), as well as being among the longest-living organisms on Earth, known to live up to 1,200–2,200 years or more.

This species has a conical crown, with horizontal to slightly drooping branches. The trunk is remarkably straight and the bark can be very thick though relatively soft and fibrous, with a bright red-brown colour when freshly exposed (hence the name redwood), weathering darker. The leaves, dark green above, are variable, being 15–25 mm long and flat on young trees and shaded lower branches in older trees.

Coast redwoods occupy a narrow strip of land approximately 750 km long and 8–75 km wide along the Pacific coast of North America; extending from Monterey County, California in the south to southwestern Oregon in the north. Before commercial logging and clearing began by the 1850s, this massive tree occurred naturally across an estimated 810,000 ha.

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sequoia_sempervirens, accessed 05.03.2024



Subject tree
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The *Sequoia sempervirens* (Coast Redwood) is the only identified example in the municipality and more broadly is not a common species with other notable specimens being in Beechworth at the former Mayday Hills Hospital and the botanic gardens at Ballarat and Kyneton.

In the municipality there are other notable exotics, as well as native specimens:

- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Two English elms (*Ulmus procera*) at Myrtleford (HO26),
- Two pomelo (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95),
- River Red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) at Myrtleford (HO29 and HO35).

There are some significant avenues in Bright as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. This long avenue was planted in 1939 and is comprised of primarily of Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with a few Scarlet oaks as well as two English oaks.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. This avenue was planted during the late 19th century and has a similar planting profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105314

National Trust Heritage Register: T11400, *Sequoia sempervirens*

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	No
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The Coast Redwood in Back Porepunkah Road, Porepunkah is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Shire* as HO36. The current location of HO36 is north-west of the actual tree and unnecessarily large.



The current extent of HO36 is depicted in purple, with the proposed in red
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)



Recommended extent of HO36
(Source: Nearmap, 10.12.2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Location of HO: the current location of HO36 is incorrect as it is the north-west of the actual tree.

Extent of HO: reduced to a circular extent, with a radius of 20 metres (from the centre of the trunk)

Name: No change required

H094: ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH COMPLEX

Address	1 Church Street, Bright	Date Inspected	December 2024
Construction Date	1867 – 1956	Periods	Victorian to Postwar



All Saints Anglican Church, from Church Street
(Source: RBA, December 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

All Saints Anglican Church Complex at 1 Church Street, Bright is significant. The significant fabric dates from 1867 to 1956 and includes multiple elements: church, parsonage, front fence, and trees (magnolia and English elms). The initial ambition for a stone church on the site was quickly modified to brick – however the east end remained incomplete for close to a century.

Both phases of the church, designed by notable architects, are significant (1871, Leonard Terry and 1956, Louis R Williams). The significant elements are the gable roof form, corrugated metal cladding, red brick walls and white tuckpointing, windows with rendered quoining and decorative glass (lead lighting, some also with stained glass).

The 19th century parsonage is significant (1867-68, possibly Leonard Terry) including its form, gable roof, corrugated metal cladding, remnant chimneys, red brick walls, double hung sash windows with rendered sills including those with vertical glazing bars (two-paned).

The late 1940s masonry front fence is significant including brick piers, stone cladding, metal plaque and decorative metal vehicular gates.

The significant landscape elements are the magnolia tree, north-east of the parsonage, and the row of English elms (*Ulmus minor* cultivar 'Atinia') along the eastern boundary and partly extending into the road reserve of Church Street.

The non-significant elements include the early 1960s hall, the rear skillion addition to the parsonage, and the metal bell tower.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

All Saints Anglican Church Complex at 1 Church Street, Bright is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the Alpine Shire.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

All Saints Anglican Church Complex in Bright is of historical significance as the earliest masonry church and among the first constructed in the municipality and is unusual in that so many elements survive, including the parsonage constructed shortly before the church, and its evolution over time. The site also has associations with two key architects for the Anglican church – Leonard Terry during the Victorian period and Louis R Williams during the postwar period. (Criterion A)

All Saints Anglican Church Complex in Bright is of representative significance for the survival of the largely intact parsonage, an early example of the limited number of this building type surviving. With its steeply pitched gable roof, it is emblematic of its typology and its early date is indicated by its two-paned sashes. The 1950s completion of the church was undertaken in a sympathetic yet identifiable phase that reflects a contemporary complimentary approach to this common issue. In addition, the landscaping elements are evocative of a valued rural church site which has an oasis-like quality, announced by the distinctive masonry front fence and enhanced by the splendid magnolia tree and row of English elms to the east boundary, which are indicators of what has long been a well landscaped site. (Criterion D)

All Saints Anglican Church Complex in Bright is of aesthetic significance as the original section of the Gothic style church – nave and porch – is the most elaborately detailed example in the municipality and is distinguished by windows with lead lighting and some stained glass set in quoined render and the porch with a robust timber screen to the side walls. (Criterion E)

All Saints Anglican Church Complex in Bright is of social significance to the Bright Anglican community, as being at the centre of their religious practices for more than a century and a half and being established, as was common, with extensive efforts to raise the money for the building fund. (Criterion G)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality uncaded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (2008)²

Bright has had a number of significant phases, which have impacted on the built fabric of the town. From 1859 to the early 1860s, the early settlement was revitalised as quartz mining began. Large numbers of new commercial, residential and public buildings were erected. Town was surveyed and renamed, and the first land sales were held. The Pioneer Mine adjacent to the township was worked on large scale, drawing new residential development south-west, close to the mine and along the Wandiligong road. As Wandiligong reefing grew, it took over from Bright as the focus for development in the Upper Ovens, and was the largest township in Shire from the early 1860s to the 1870s.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, Bright was enlarged as some people and businesses moved back due to the decline in reefing at Wandiligong, because of the better situation of Bright in the main valley.

Tourism development on an organised basis began in the 1880s, with the formation of the Alpine Club. Township beautification by the planting of avenues of trees was commenced, and new accommodation premises were constructed. Tourism was assisted by connection of railway to Bright, whereby visitors no longer had to rely on coach connections.

The early 1900s heralded a prosperous era for the town, as bucket dredging for gold began. High employment in dredging and associated service industries, increased population, and a boom in construction followed. Many new businesses were established. The Mt Buffalo road and the chalet were constructed. Combined with Government promotion, this expanded tourism opportunities for the community.

The 1920s to 1930s saw tourism infrastructure developments at Bright, including construction of stone pavilions, swing bridges and walking tracks. As the 1916 pine plantings matured, softwood milling was begun in Bright in the 1930s. Introduced tree plantings continued, further entrenching the character of the town.

From the 1950s onwards, Bright entered into the modern era of tourism. There have been several phases of infrastructure renewal and accommodation development, some related to large-scale commercial development of local ski fields. There has also been considerable modern residential development. Bright is today the administrative headquarters of the Alpine Shire, and its second largest township, with a population of 2099 (2001)

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Alpine Heritage Study (2008)

Earlier services for the Church of England community were held in private residences by Bishop Perry and Archdeacon Tucker. In Oct 1867 a meeting at the Bright Court House planned for a pastor to be stationed here at Bright and Rev F B Holt preached his first service in the Court House on 1 Nov 1867. The Church of England Committee accepted a tender from James Tinsley of Beechworth for 820 pounds for the erection of a church in 1870. The foundation stone for All Saints Church of England was laid on 6 June 1870 by Archdeacon Tucker. The building of Gothic design, by architect Mr Leonard, was opened on Easter Day 9 April 1871, by Bishop Perry, assisted by Mr Holt, before a large congregation. The brick rectory appears to have been built at a later time, probably not long after the church construction. The All Saints Anglican Church has served the Anglican congregation of Bright from 1871 to the present day.

Land

The original extent of the site was comprised of three separate parcels:

- The original section (Allotment 1a [now 20C], Section B) consisted of 1 acre, 1 rood, 9 acres, which was permanently reserved by the Crown for the Church of England in December 1869, having been temporarily reserved in 1863 and 1868.³
- A narrow middle section - Allotment 20A – comprised of 31 perches was permanently reserved in early 1871.⁴

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

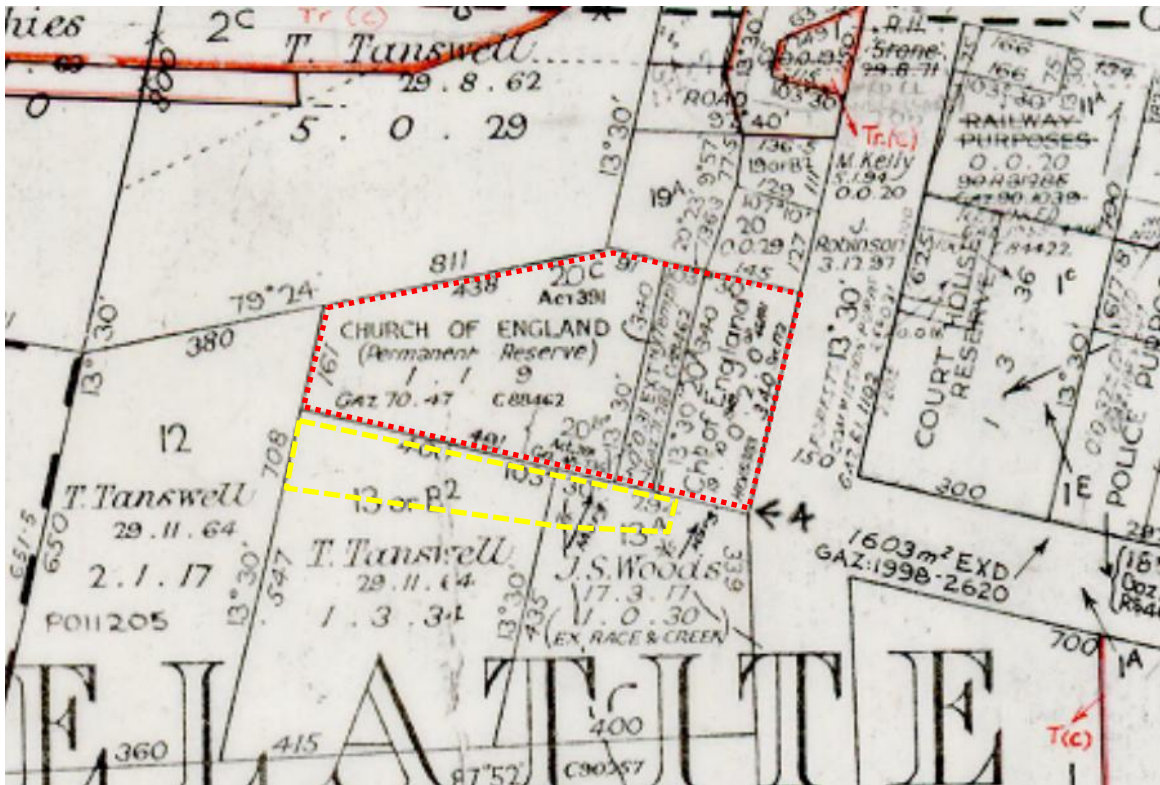
² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), *Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History* October 2008, pp70-71

³ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 14 January 1870, p47

⁴ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 10 February 1871, p283

- The eastern section - Allotment 20B – comprised of 2 roods was acquired in October 1969.

Subsequently, parts of the two adjoining allotments to the south (13A and 13B) have been acquired.



Township of Bright, with original allotments (red) and approximate extent of the subsequent acquisition (yellow) (B573(5), Landata)

Parsonage

By October 1867 a clergyman had been appointed for Bright by the Bishop of Melbourne, who was accommodated in an existing cottage in the township until the parsonage was completed.⁵

In December 1867, tenders were called for the 'completion of the Church of England Parsonage at Bright and for Additions and Outbuildings' and overseen by Bright surveyor R H Stone.⁶ Fundraisers to aid the building funds for the parsonage were held during 1868 and 1869. The parsonage was possibly designed by Leonard Terry or if not, R H Stone.

An image taken soon after its completion (below), shows the parsonage originally had an L-shaped footprint and the western edge of its verandah, which had a concave roof profile. At this time, the roof was clad in timber shingles, as is evident on many nearby buildings in the township at this time. There was also a chimney to the west end of the north/front wing, which does not survive.

The extant rear west wing, which is slightly longer than the original east wing, was likely built within a decade or so of the original part as the bricks are similar.

Church

In November 1869, tenders for the 'erection of a stone church' were called by the Church of England Building Committee and were to be addressed to R.H Stone.⁷ Presumably the submissions received were too expensive and

⁵ 'Bright', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 19 October 1867, p7

⁶ 'To Builders', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 5 December 1867, p1

⁷ 'To Builders', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 20 November 1869, p1

four months later in March 1870, tenders for a 'brick church in accordance with plans to be seen at the office of Leonard Terry, Esq, architect', were called.⁸ The church was opened on Easter Day, 9 April 1871, by Bishop Dr Perry with the assistance of Reverend S. B Holt,⁹ however only the nave and porch were constructed and it was another 80 years before the sanctuary and vestry were added.

The church was described in a contemporary newspaper article as follows:

The church which has been built from designs by Leonard Terry, Esq. Diocesan Architects is of the early Gothic style. The portion now built will seat upwards of 150 persons.¹⁰

Born in Yorkshire, England, Leonard Terry (1825-84) arrived in Melbourne during 1853 and immediately became involved with the Anglican church, and was appointed as Diocesan architect in 1857, after the passing of his earlier employer Charles Laing, who had previously held the title. Terry also designed many banks in a Renaissance Revival mode which he also adopted for the Melbourne Club commission.¹¹

The following contemporary photograph (1870-75) captures the west end of the nave before the sanctuary was added, revealing that there was a temporary doorway at the southern end of the west wall. The roof of the church was also clad in timber shingles.



1870-75, Bright, showing west end of the nave and the parsonage (arrow)
(Source: American and Australasian Photographic Co., SLNSW, FL1251802)

⁸ "To Builders", *Argus*, 3 March 1870, p3

⁹ 'Church of England', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 11 April 1871, p2

¹⁰ 'All Saints Church Bright', *Church of England Messenger*, 16 June 1871, p7

¹¹ B Trethowan, 'Terry, Leonard', in P Goad & J Willis, *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press 2012, pp698-700

In 1926, a proposal was developed to add a chancel, initially to the west end however the project stalled when the donor decided that it should be attached at the east end, which would have been more expensive to facilitate. By 1937, the cladding had changed to metal, being described as an iron.¹²

The following image taken within a decade before the additions at the west end of the church were undertaken reveal that it had greater landmark status as it could be more widely seen on the higher ground above the commercial centre of the township.



1945-54, showing the original extent of the church, left, and the parsonage, right, and possibly the magnolia (arrow)
(Source: Victorian Railways, H91.50/1180, SLV)

The following aerial taken about the same time in 1949 shows the extent of planting at the site. There was established planting where the magnolia tree is located and along the eastern boundary, where the English elms are located.

¹² All Saints Anglican Church (PB 5682), V7882, P1, PROV



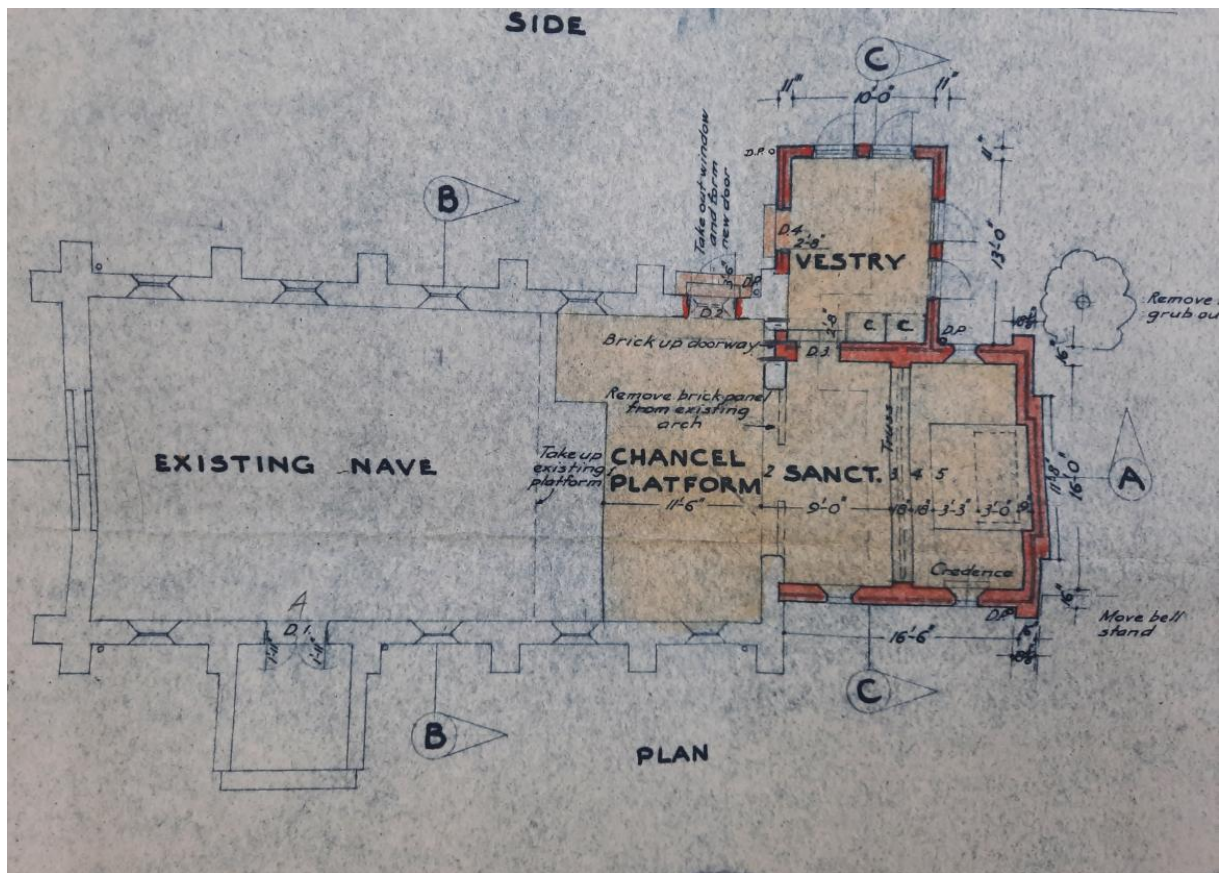
Aerial, 11 April 1949, showing of the church (rectangle) and parsonage (circled) in its contemporary context
 (Source: *Mapsheets Photography, Bright, Run E.K.S, Film SVY563, Geoscience*)

In June 1956, an application for the addition of a brick sanctuary, chancel platform and vestry were submitted to the Public Health Department. The drawings were prepared by Louis R Williams.¹³ Born in Hobart, Williams (1890-1980) and moving to Melbourne in 1913 early in his architectural career, he was responsible for more than 130 churches across Australia, mainly for the Anglican church.¹⁴ Williams had previously been responsible for St Pauls Anglican Church at 12-24 Clyde Street, Myrtleford (HO174) in 1932.¹⁵

¹³ All Saints Anglican Church (PB 5682), V7882, P1, PROV

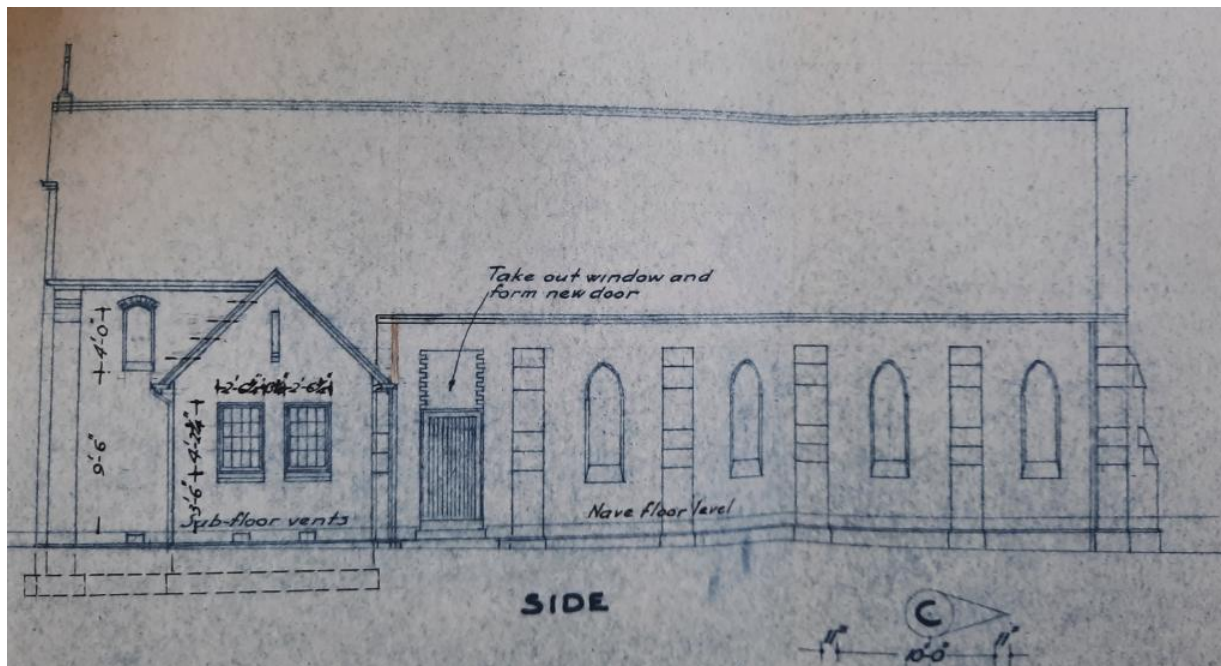
¹⁴ J Maidment, 'Williams, Louis R', in P Goad & J Willis, *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Cambridge University Press 2012, pp765-66

¹⁵ 'New Anglican Church at Myrtleford', *Weekly Times*, 4 June 1932, p6



1956, plan for the addition of a sanctuary, vestry and chancel platform
(Source: Public Building file 5682, V7882, P1, PROV)

The western most window of the nave to the south elevation was to be converted to a door however is currently a window, similar to the others adjacent however is slightly lower in the wall compared to the four windows to its east.



1956, a window was (to be) converted to a door on the south elevation
(Source: Public Building file 5682, V7882, P1, PROV)

A photograph taken circa 1960 shows the church soon after the additions were completed and reveals that the roof cladding had not been painted at that time.

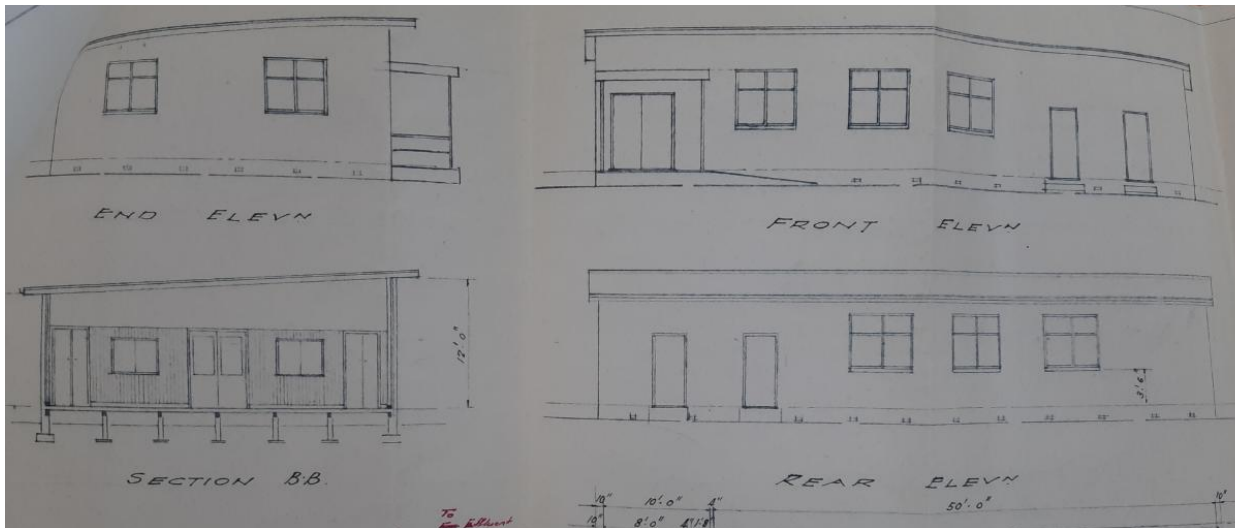


Church, north elevation, circa 1960s

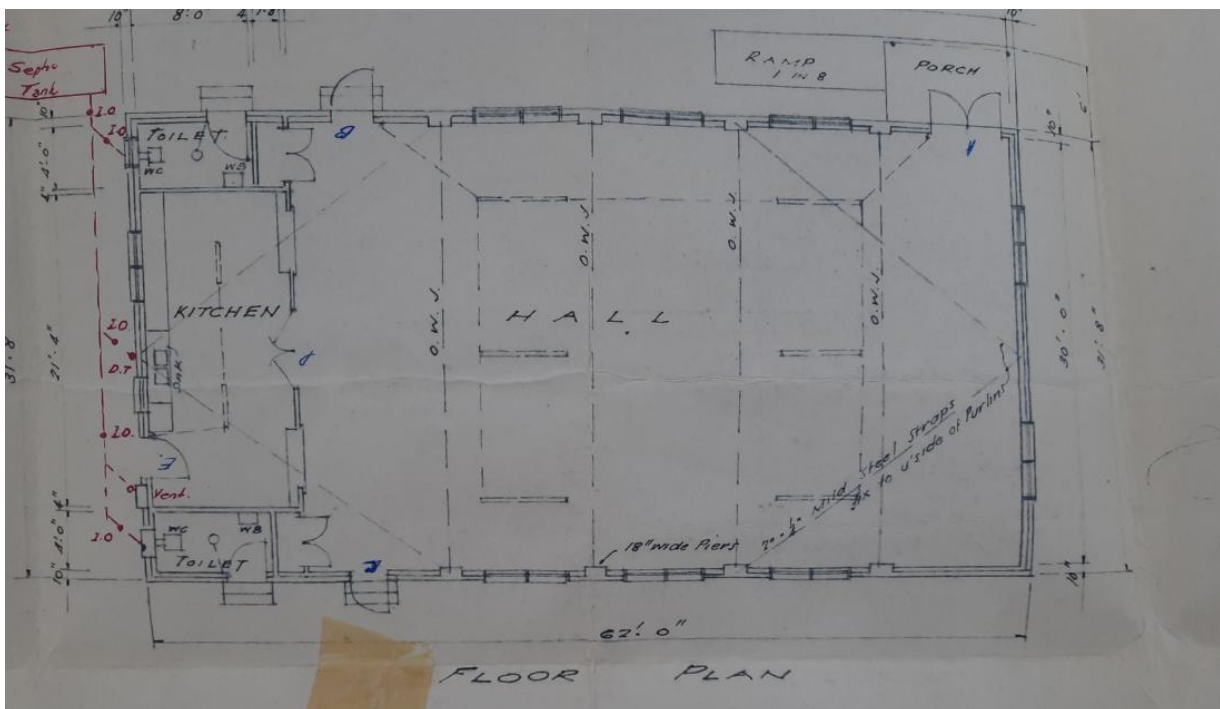
(Source: B Lloyd + K Nunn, *Bright Gold*, Histec Public. 1987, between pp 86+ 87)

Earlier Sunday School and Extant Hall

In 1904, the church committee proposed to re-erect the redundant Moses Creek State School, a weatherboard clad building at the subject site, where it remained until the early 1960s. Drawings were prepared for the extant brick veneer Sunday School building in 1960 by the Essendon-based building contractor, David E Turnbull. The plans were amended and approved in June 1961.¹⁶



1961, approved elevations and sections of the extant Sunday School
(Source: Public Building file 4348, V7882, P1, PROV)



1961, approved floor plan of the extant Sunday School
(Source: Public Building file 4348, V7882, P1, PROV)

¹⁶

Sunday School (PB 4348), V7882, P1, PROV

The following aerial from 1963 documents the site soon after the recent phase of construction – additions to the west side of the church and the new hall.



Aerial, 30 December 1963, the western additions to the church (circled) are evident as is the extant hall immediately to the south (Source: Standard Mapping Photograph, Run 7, Frame 63, Geoscience)

Fence

The fence was presumably built soon after the death of Harry Whitehead in 1947 as there is a plaque memorialising him to the front. At his death, Harry was reported as working for the Country Road Board at Mt Hotham and Porepunkah.¹⁷

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

8.0 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Alpine Heritage Study (2008)

All Saints Anglican Church is a picturesque face red brick building consisting of a nave, porch and sanctuary, with a gable roof clad with corrugated galvanised iron. The plinth is rusticated bluestone. There are cross finials at both gable ends. Contrasting cement rendered dressings to the windows and copings provide a pleasing aesthetic contrast to the face brickwork. The stylised quoining to the pointed windows is distinctive and can be found on other Leonard Terry churches. [St Mary the Virgin, Sunbury, Victoria].

The decoratively detailed porch is an aesthetically pleasing addition to nave of the church. Early photographs show a cross finial to the gable of the porch. This is no longer extant. The use of contrasting materials and the open nature of the porch contributes to the picturesque composition. The asymmetrical placement of the porch to the side of the nave provides a counterpoint to the overall symmetry of the design.

The side elevations are buttressed and contain regular and repetitious fenestration. The windows are with pointed arch timber framed fixed sash windows with coloured glazing/leadlight glazing. The windows are trefoil - three curve to the pointed window.

The distinctive recessed brick relief panel on the western face adds a sophisticated detail to the overall design.

A belltower is located to one side of the church it is a lightweight structure constructed from steel sections. There is a bell at the apex. The fence has been constructed from brick piers with stone panels. A galvanised iron pipe has been used for the top rail. There are double wrought iron gates to the entranceway. Leonard Terry was diocesan architect for the Anglican Church in Victoria and designed most of their churches from 1860 to 1875.

¹⁷ 'Law Notices', *Argus*, 20 May 1947, p14

Church

The roof to the Gothic style church is clad in red painted corrugated sheet metal, mainly in traditional sheet sizes.

The original part relates to the nave and porch (east end of the building). The walls to the nave are laid in Flemish bond and have white tuckpointing. There are five bays to the north and south elevations separated by buttresses with amortizements (sloping rendered copings). The pointed arched windows have quoined rendered settings and feature either diamond quarrels (east end) or iconographic windows with stained glass (west end).

The gable roof porch is attached to the second bay from the east of the north elevation. It has a rendered plinth internally, with red brick evident to the outer walls, surmounted by a screen of sturdy chamfered timber posts (three to each side) and timber bracing. The paired timber board doors have elaborate strap hinges. The soffit is lined with sheeting, not original, and the apex has been infilled.



East elevation with blind niche



Entry porch (Source: RBA, December 2024)

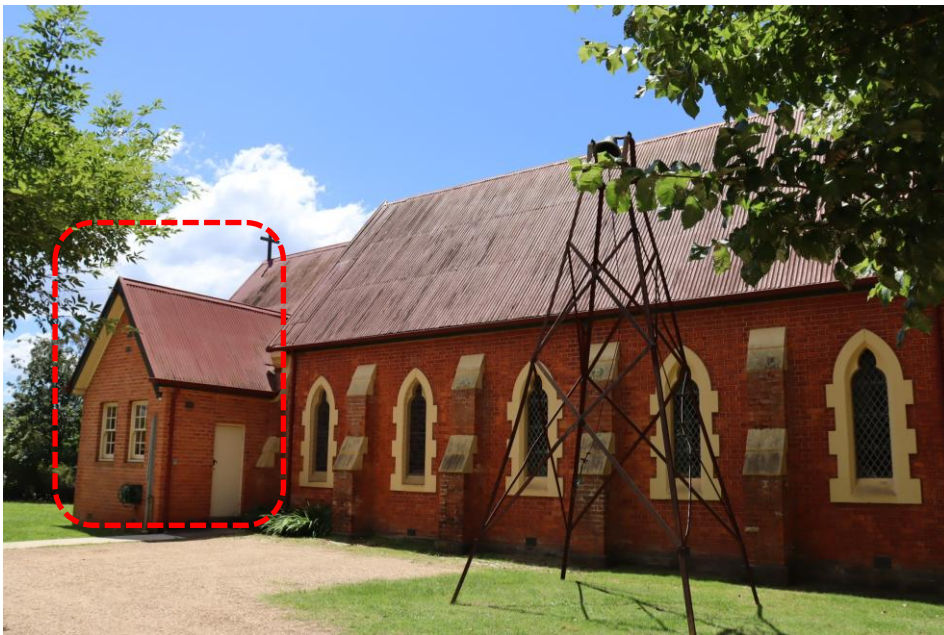
The 1950s completion at the west end are in a similar red brick however in stretcher bond with plain mortar and without a defined plinth. The west wall of the sanctuary incorporates a projecting bay that has a buttress-like profile, thus referencing a characteristic detail of the original section. There is a flush door (south side) and the windows are mostly multi-paned sashes with a flat arch however there are two small, pointed arch windows to the north elevation. A metal cross surmounts the apex of the west end.

Whilst the interior was not inspected, an available photograph from 2017 indicates that there is limited original or early elements as most of the furniture - the pews, the cross in the apse, etc. - would likely date to the late 20th century. Three dark stained timber items with Gothic detailing (lectern, pulpit, and low rail) are possibly of earlier origin.¹⁸

¹⁸ Churches Australia website, All Saints Anglican Church, Bright



West elevation, showing 1950s completion – sanctuary (left) and vestry (right)
(Source: RBA, December 2024)



South elevation, vestry highlighted. Note trefoil windows to the nave with steel bell tower (Source: RBA, December 2024)

Parsonage

The parsonage is partly concealed by planting however has a gable roof clad in unpainted corrugated sheet metal and is punctuated by two chimneys to the rear wings. The west chimney has a dog-toothed cap however the east chimney has likely been truncated.

The building consists of a northern front wing and two rear wings – east and west – with the west wing being a late 19th century addition, both sections with light/variegated handmade red bricks. The façade/north elevation has Flemish bond (alternating headers and stretchers) to match the nearby nave (original section of the church) and was an unusual bond to be employed during the 1860s (being more typical of the late 19th century) whereas the side walls (east and west) are laid in English garden wall bond (a row of headers to three rows of stretchers). Brick voussoirs define the lintels of the windows which have contrasting red bricks to the southern end. The sills are rendered and the

windows are timber-framed, double hung sashes – mostly with two-pane sashes, probably the original type, but some are single pane (presumably replaced). There is a skillion roof addition to the rear or southern end.



Parsonage, north-east part (Source: RBA, December 2024)



Parsonage, west elevation (Source: RBA, December 2024)

Fence

The low, front fence is a composite masonry, postwar structure with decorative steel vehicular gates including the letters 'IHS' (a contraction of the Greek for Jesus) in the upper arched part. The gates are mounted on red brick piers with a flat render cap. The lower, flanking balustrade sections (each about 4m long) are stone clad and surmounted by concrete caps into which a tubular steel rail is inserted.

A metal plaque is attached to the western pier with the following text: To the Glory of God and in the Memory of Harry Whitehead London, England June 1882 - May 1947.



Front fence and plaque (Source: RBA, December 2024)

Sunday School/Hall

The hall has a rectangular footprint and skillion roof clad in metal sheeting and a soffit lined with sheeting. The stretcher bond walls are comprised of a red brick plinth with orange/salmon bricks above. There are several flush timber doors and timber-framed windows with lower fixed and upper openable lights and sills with glazed brown tiles. A pair of mirrored concrete ramps provide access to the north elevation.



Sunday School/hall, north-west corner (Source: RBA, December 2024)

Trees

There is tall, splendid specimen of a Magnolia tree near the north-east corner of the vicarage.

Magnolia is a large, ancient genus of about over 200 flowering plant species. The main centre is eastern and southern parts of Asia but with secondary centres across the Americas and the West Indies. They are typically spreading, can

be evergreen or deciduous trees or shrubs, and are characterised by large fragrant, hermaphroditic flowers.¹⁹ This specimen has a bowl shaped, white flower, but they can be also star shaped and/or in pink, purple, green or yellow.



Magnolia tree and its white flower (Source: RBA, December 2024)

Along the eastern boundary and extending slightly northwards into the road reserve of Church Street is an established row of English elms.

English elm (traditionally *Ulmus minor* cultivar 'Atinia' or *Ulmus procera*) has more recently been labelled 'Atinian' elm, on the basis that it is now widely believed to have originated in Atina, Lazio (south of Rome) and brought over by the Romans. It is a large deciduous tree, common to the United Kingdom (especially southern England) but also in the north-west part of the Iberian peninsula (Spain and Portugal), with an upright trunk with spreading branching that forms a wide and dense crown. The bark is dark brown with vertical ridges and the leaves are dark green, in an ovate shape and serrated, that turn a golden yellow in autumn. The genus is hermaphroditic, that is it produces a flower that has both staminate (male, pollen-producing) and carpellate (female, ovule-producing) parts.²⁰

¹⁹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnolia>, accessed 12.02.2025

²⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulmus_minor_%27Atinia%27, accessed 02.05.2024



English elms, east boundary (Source: RBA, December 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Several churches in the Alpine Shire have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, nearly all of which date to the late 19th century and are illustrative of the pervasive influence of the Gothic Revival mode/style.

The brick Gothic Revival churches in the municipality universally have gable roofs, red brick walls with limited use of render, buttressing, characteristic pointed arch windows (often with stained glass), and are generally symmetrical.

All Saints Church is the earliest of this group and is distinguished by its more elaborate window setting and porch.

- *Former St Andrews Church* (Presbyterian), 18 Park Street, Bright (HO124). Designed and built by Thomas Kaighin in 1877. A central belfry/tower with stained glass, though the brickwork has been overpainted. It has many similarities with *St Andrews* in Myrtleford (HO34).
- *Uniting Church* (Methodist), 499 Moses Creek Road, Wandiligong (HO56). Constructed in 1878, the designer is unknown. Broad and austere façade, rendered with margin lights.
- *Uniting Church* (formerly Methodist), 17 Ireland Street, Bright (HO111). Built (designed?) by (Thomas) Kaighin & Son, 1884. In a prominent position with landmark steeple/spire above the central front entrance and margin lights to the windows.
- *St Mary's Catholic Church*, 49 Prince Street, Myrtleford (HO182). Designed by Beechworth architect Donald Fiddes and built in 1888. Façade with a central gabled porch (side entrance) and windows with diamond quarrels.
- *St Andrew's Church*, 32 Smith Street, Myrtleford (HO34). Designed and constructed in 1889 by Thomas Sandham, who was based in Beechworth. It has a central entry surmounted by a tower and the elegant design is indicative of a Gothick mode, more typical of the early 19th century/Georgian period. The design has many similarities with *St Andrews Church* in 18 Park Street, Bright (HO124).

Three 19th century examples are timber-framed and weatherboard-clad, and generally less elaborate:

- St Etheldreda Church, Great Alpine Road, Harrietville (HO149), built 1891.
- Former Church of England, 483 Morse Creek Road, Wandiligong (HO50), built in 1865.
- Former Roman Catholic Church (St Peters), 155 School Road, Wandiligong (HO75), built circa mid-1860s.

The only parsonage, or the like, included in the Schedule is that related to the Uniting Church, at 497 Moses Creek Road, Wandiligong (HO55). It may have been erected in 1878/about the same time as the adjacent church at no. 499 (HO56). It is a more modest example and consists of two parallel gable roof wings, albeit with lower pitches than the

subject site, – the front in red brick and the rear clad in weatherboards. A full width, timber-framed verandah extends across the façade as had likely been the case initially in Bright.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105174

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes – Magnolia and row of <i>English elms</i> (<i>Ulmus minor</i> cultivar 'Atinia')
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	Yes – front fence
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *All Saints Anglican Church* at 1 Church Street, Bright, is included in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO94.

The current curtilage appropriately relates to the whole parcel of land associated with the site (1/TP836080) however does not include the extension of the row of English elms into Church Street.



The existing extent of HO94 shaded red with additional area recommended to be included in yellow.
(Source: Nearmap, December 2023)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Change extent of HO: extend northwards into Church Street to include the full extent of the row of English elms.

Name change: add 'complex' to name to recognise that several elements are of significance

Additional controls:

- Add trees control relating to the Magnolia and row of English elms,
- Add control for front masonry section of fence,
- Remove external paint controls - not required as unpainted, brick buildings.

H0175: IVAN SWINBURNE RESERVE AND TREES

Address	Great Alpine Road, Myrtleford (intersection with J Brown Road)	Date Inspected	December 2024
Construction Date	c1910s + 1976	Period	Federation (trees) + Late 20 th century (reserve)



Ivan Swinburne Reserve looking west (RBA, December 2024)



The four trees with the two cypresses in front of the two oaks (RBA, December 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The Ivan Swinburne Reserve and the four adjacent exotic trees - two English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and two Mediterranean cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*) - are significant.

The significant elements of the Ivan Swinburne Reserve are the timber pavilion (including form, bush poles, plywood lining, screen to spine, seating and benches), reserve signage, as well as the timber post and rails and chain to the boundary. The planting near the pavilion in the reserve - trees and bushes – are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The *Ivan Swinburne Reserve and Trees* are of local historical, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The four exotic trees (oaks and cypresses) next to the *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* are of historical significance due to their association with early settlement patterns and land use in Myrtleford and the Ovens Valley. The oaks and cypresses pre-date the reserve and signify an earlier residence as they were planted at the entrance of a large pastoral property circa 1910s either during the ownership of the Clemens family or more likely the Duanes, who owned the Happy Valley Hotel during the early 20th century. (Criterion A)

The built fabric of the *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* is of representative significance, primarily the pavilion and edging to the boundary (post and rail, and chain types), as it is largely intact and a distinctive example of a dedicated late 20th century park design. (Criterion D)

The four exotic trees adjacent to the *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* are of aesthetic significance. The two English oaks (*Quercus robur*) are particularly striking specimens in the horizontal spread of their canopies which dramatically contrast with the vertically orientated conical forms of the adjacent two evergreen Mediterranean cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*), reflecting planting approaches of the time. (Criterion E)

The land now within the *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* was originally cleared farming land. In 1976, the *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* was opened to honour the significant impact that Ivan Swinburne had as a local and state politician, and to highlight his connection to rural industry and forestry. (Criterion H)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality uncaded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighbouring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008):²

Myrtleford began as a collection of huts and stores on alluvial diggings along the Happy Valley Creek on the Buckland road in late 1853. The first significant phase in the history of Myrtleford was the development of the rich reef on Reform Hill in the mid-to-late 1850s, which provided significant employment and focused development of the commercial centre of the township in its present area. For much of the remainder of that century, Myrtleford's fortunes were tied to the reef mining industry. However, from the late 1800s, those fortunes began to be more closely related to the development and vicissitudes of agriculture, and the growth of the timber industry.

Even though Myrtleford plunged into gloom in the 1880s with the closure of the Reform Mine and the general decline in reef mining, several key events occurred in the 1880s to early 1900s that had important impacts on the town's survival. The first was the railway connection opened in 1883, which provided access to wider markets. The second was the early growth of the hops and tobacco industries in the Ovens and tributary valleys, industries that were later to have an enormous influence on the town. The third was the construction of a creamery in 1893 and its upgrading to a Butter Factory in 1902, which enabled dairying to expand.

The gold dredging industry gave some temporary relief to the town in the early 1900s, providing additional employment and industry, but the next key event was the planting of pine trees on the hillsides adjacent to the town, beginning in 1927. Tobacco and hops growing expanded between the wars, and around the mid-1900s, softwood milling and large-scale hardwood milling began.

In the post-World War II period, Italian immigration had a huge influence in the rapid growth of the tobacco industry, and added a multicultural layering to the township. The concentration of softwood milling to Myrtleford in the 1970s was a boon to the town.

Myrtleford has grown significantly in the modern era to accommodate the principal support, service and supply infrastructure for agriculture and softwood forestry in the Alpine Shire. It is also the largest township in the Shire, with a population of 2,515 people (2001), increasing to 3,285 as of 2021.

In addition to the broader, Myrtleford thematic environmental history, the report also included the following relevant information regarding the softwood industry – pine plantations.

From 1927, the rate of new Victorian pine plantings increased to 1,000Ha per year (11,000Ha by 1938), driven by government policy to reduce dependence on softwood imports. Because of the failure of the coastal plantings, the government looked next to poorer foothill country at Scarsdale and Myrtleford. A 300 acre block was planted behind the Ovens Railway Station near Myrtleford in 1927, and other plantings followed in the vicinity of the township.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Citation (2007)

Ivan Swinburne came to the Buffalo River area in April 1930 and 10 years later he was elected to the Bright Shire Council. He served as Shire President in 1943-44, continuing as councillor until 1947. In 1946 he was elected to State Parliament as a Member of the Legislative Council. He was Minister of Housing and Materials 1950-52, for a time Leader of the Country Party in the Legislative Council as well as 15 years as Deputy Leader. In 1973 he was awarded the Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for his services to the country. His other involvements included the Rural Fire Brigade, North East Ambulance Service, Bush Nursing Association and the Committee of Management of the Mount Buffalo National Park, where he served as chairman from 1963 to 1984.

Ivan Swinburne officially retired 26th June 1976, after a record term of 30 years as the Member for North-Eastern Province in the Legislative Council. "The Ivan Swinburne Reserve was opened on 24th June 1976 by Minister of Forests, the Hon. F. Granter, MLC to recognize the assistance and co-operation with the Forests Commission during that period."

'The site for the Ivan Swinburne Reserve has been chosen very carefully. Although Ivan strongly supports pine plantations, the main focal point in this Reserve are the oaks, supported by a magnificent backdrop of pines.'³

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

² Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008, pp70-71.

³ *Myrtleford Times*, 1976

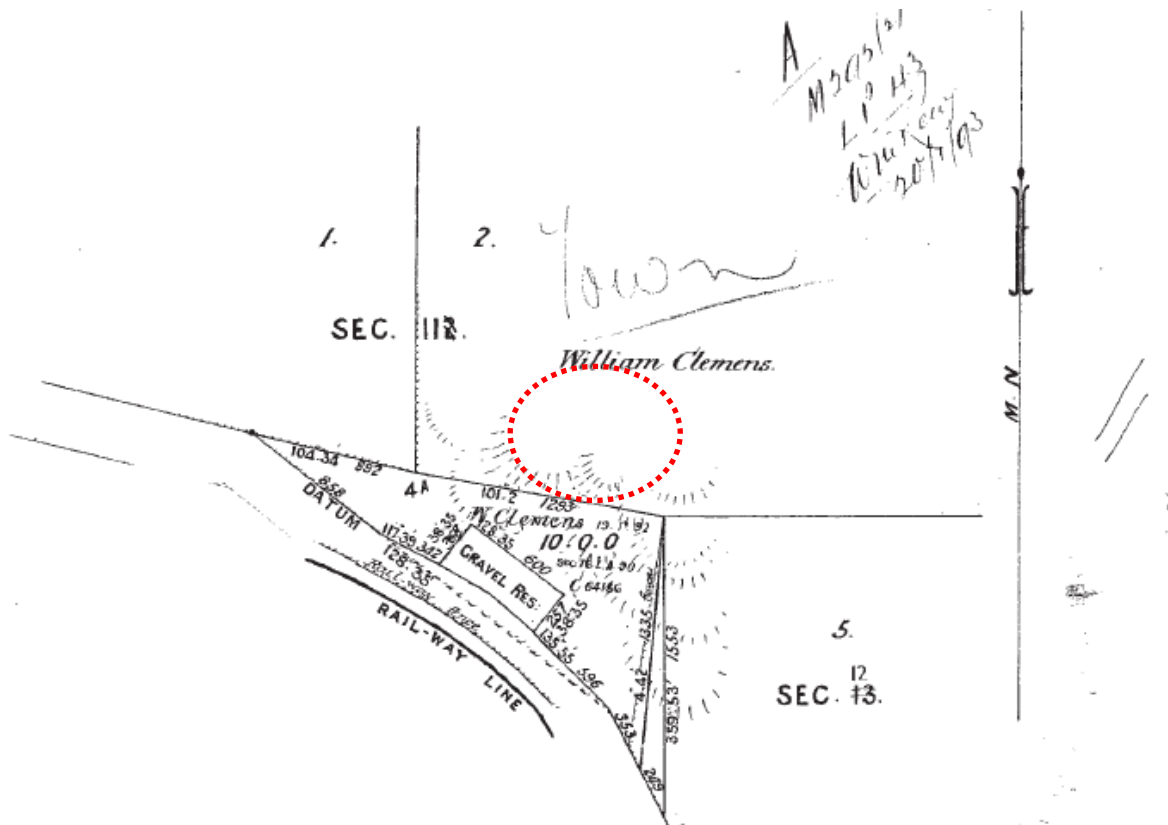
The infrastructure for the reserve was put in by Kevin Rothenberger of Forests Commission, Ovens. Previously a log landing had been installed on the site. During construction of this landing, bricks had been pushed up by the ends of logs, and it is believed that these bricks came from a house which had been situated there. In the gully directly above the reserve, a rectangular well lined with red gum slabs had been found during forestry operations. The Oak tree closest to Myrtleford was recognised over 50 years ago for its extraordinarily wide limb span, then measured at 22 yards from the trunk.⁴

In 1992 Ivan Swinburne was invited back for a re-dedication when work was done to rejuvenate the reserve after neglect and vandalism had taken its toll.⁵

Additional History

The subject place was originally part of Allotment 2, Section 11 in the Parish of Myrtleford granted to William Clemens, who moved to the area in the late 1860s,⁶ likely due to the gold rush. He was the manager of the Nil Desperado and Happy Valley mines before turning to farming where he found great success.⁷ His land holdings included a number of lots around the subject place, totalling 351 acres at his death.⁸

Clemens occupied the property with his wife, Jane, their son, and two daughters from his previous marriage. Clemens was well known at all local stock markets,⁹ achieving consistently good prices for his cattle. When Clemens passed away in 1907, his son, John, managed the property for some time before it was sold in 1915 as 351 acres of freehold land, to their neighbours, P.L and M.C. Duane.¹⁰



Extract from 1892 survey conducted for a title application for William Clemens. The approximate location of the trees is dashed. (Source: LASSI SPEAR).

⁴ pers comm K Rothenberger, Myrtleford, 11/6/2004

⁵ *Myrtleford Times*, 21 January 1992

⁶ 'Obituary John Clemens', *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, 16 June 1922, p27

⁷ 'Obituary Miss N. Clemens', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 27 April 1940, p2

⁸ *Grant of Probate William Clemens*, Public Records Office (PROV), VPRS 28/P0000, 107/034, 1908

⁹ 'Obituary Miss N. Clemens', *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 27 April 1940, p2

¹⁰ 'Auction Report', *Wangaratta Chronicle*, 31 March 1915, p3

Patrick Lavelle Duane and Mary Catherine Duane were siblings and co-owned the Happy Valley Hotel, approximately two kilometres to the east (HO187).¹¹ They were both active in the community and well known throughout the district.¹² Patrick Duane focused on cattle farming and Mary was acknowledged as being the licensee and occupier of the hotel.¹³ Mary Duane held the license for 26 years, from 1905 (when Matthias B Duane, another sibling, purchased it)¹⁴ retiring in 1931.¹⁵

From 1926, government land purchases for the creation of pine plantations commenced in the area. The Duane Estate in Ovens being one of the first lots purchased for the pine plantations in 1926.¹⁶ The subject place was likely acquired in 1926 or 1927 and was the first Myrtleford location for pine plantations.¹⁷

To date, no record has come to light to provide insight into any dwellings or structures at the place, nor the dates that the oak and cypresses were planted. Due to the size of the trees, and the known history of the place, it is likely however that the trees were planted circa 1910s, during the ownership of the Duane siblings.

Ivan Swinburne was a prominent local politician, first as a member of the Bright Shire Council from 1940 until 1947, then as a member of the Victorian Legislative Council from 1946 until 1976. During his political career, and as deputy leader and then leader of the Country Party, he had a strong focus on rural and regional issues such as housing and rural industry. Swinburne showed support for the benefit of using fast growing pine in materials.¹⁸ Swinburne was also a member of the Committee of Management for Mount Buffalo National Park. Following his death in 1994, then Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett made special mention of Swinburne's interest in forest rejuvenation to support the environment.¹⁹

In the following aerials from 1948 onwards, it is typically straightforward to detect the two English oaks but more difficult to confirm the presence of the two Mediterranean cypresses in 1948 and 1991. The cypresses are however evident on the 2007 aerial.

¹¹ 'Licenses Reduction Board', *Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness*, 4 May 1916, cover + p5

¹² 'Obituary Mr. Patrick Duane', *Myrtleford Times and Ovens Valley Advertiser*, 27 October 1937, p5

¹³ 'Licenses Reduction Board', *Myrtleford Mail and Whorouly Witness*, 4 May 1916, cover + p5

¹⁴ *Heritage Citation Report*, Ovens Hotel, Alpine Shire, 2007

¹⁵ 'Licenses', *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, Friday, 15 May 1931, p8

¹⁶ 'Myrtleford', *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express*, Friday, 17 September 1926, p2

¹⁷ Robert J Kaufman (LRGM – Services), 'Alpine Shire Heritage Study: Thematic Environmental History', October 2008

¹⁸ 'To Show Quality of Pine Posts', *Rutherglen Sun and Chiltern Valley Advertiser*, Friday, 27 Jan 1956, p3

¹⁹ *Death of Honourable Ivan Archie Swinburne*, CMG, Speech by Jeff Kennett, Victorian Parliament, 6 September 1994, Hansard



1948 aerial, prior to the creation of the Ivan Swinburne Reserve, with the oaks highlighted (Source: Bright, Run 4, Frame 143, Landata)



1991, 13 February, aerial, after the creation of the reserve, with the trees highlighted (Source: AUS269, Frame 805, Geosciences)



Aerial from 2007 showing the oaks and cypresses highlighted. (Source: Google Earth, 18 March 2007)

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VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

4.4 Farming

4.7 Transforming the land and waterways

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Citation (2007)

The Ivan Swinburne Reserve is situated on the north side of the Great Alpine Road, on the eastern outskirts of Myrtleford. The reserve occupies land between the pine plantations and the road. The most obvious features are the two large old Oak trees and two pencil pines. These once provided an entranceway to an old house, long since demolished or removed.

An area of grass has been marked with pine railings, and a shelter and noticeboard erected. The reserve is signposted with a routed, treated pine sign.

Additional Description

The Ivan Swinburne Reserve is a triangular parcel of land with an area of about 2670m² that is setback from the Great Alpine Road and accessed by a gravel roadway identified, and framed by, four established exotic trees (two oaks and two cypresses). The roadway bifurcates between the oak and cypress on the south side and extends along the northern side of the reserve.

The terrain of the reserve slopes slightly to the east end. In terms of vegetation, it is largely grass with limited planting in the north-west part, comprised of a few native trees and bushes. The boundaries of the reserve are defined by a series of separate, low pine post and railings to the southern part and a large chain along the ground to the western and northern parts. In the north-west corner is a sign denoting the reserve with pine posts and rails.

A small, timber-framed pavilion is located centrally along the south-west boundary. It has diamond-shaped footprint with a concrete deck and faceted roof clad in painted corrugated sheet metal and lined with plywood. The roof is supported on four bush poles, which have a concrete anulus, which has in part deteriorated. A central timber screen clad with pine boards along the spine divides the interior into three compartments. The two larger areas to the north side include a timber bench seat fixed to the screen and a table supported on three bush poles. To the small space to the south side, are five noticeboards in glass cabinets, three of which are currently empty, but it is understood that they previously included some interpretative material about the reserve, behind a metal balustrade. There is an angled concrete plinth in front, where clearly a dedication plaque or similar had been installed.

To the north of the pavilion there is a concrete slab upon which a barbeque had been installed and two short pine posts to the boundary edge with a raised portion of ground leading from the pavilion, suggesting a previous pathway may have existed.



Plantings in reserve (RBA, December 2024)



Interior of the pavilion (RBA, December 2024)



Pavilion and adjacent trees (RBA, December 2024)

Four Exotic Trees

The four exotic trees are located immediately north of the Ivan Swinburne Reserve and paired either side of the gravel roadway that links the Great Alpine Road to J Brown Road. The two English oaks are planted closer to the main road with the two Mediterranean cypresses to their rear.

The English oak (*Quercus robur*), also known as common or European oak, is a large deciduous tree native to most of Europe and western Asia, though is widely cultivated in other temperate regions. It can achieve a height of 40 metres with a single stout trunk. The crown is spreading and unevenly domed, and trees often have massive lower branches. The bark is greyish-brown and closely grooved, with vertical plates. The leaves - dark green above, paler below - are arranged alternately along the twigs and are broadly oblong or ovate with 3 to 6 rounded but shallow lobes (divided no further than halfway to the midrib).²⁰

The lower branches of the English oaks have spread out, touching the ground in places. The specimen to the west side of the roadway is larger and its trunk shows greater signs of distress where limbs have been removed.

²⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quercus_robur, accessed 26.04.2024



Two oaks in the foreground, with the cypresses behind (RBA, December 2024)



The western English oak, with wide spread of its canopy and distress to the trunk (RBA, December 2024)

The Mediterranean cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) is a medium-sized coniferous tree that can reach up to 30 meters in height, with a trunk diameter of 50-60 centimetres. It exhibits two primary growth forms: the horizontalis variety, characterised by spreading branches and a broad, conical crown, and the pyramidalis (or stricta) variety, known for its narrow, columnar shape with erect branches. The bark is typically thin, fibrous, and grey, featuring fine longitudinal ridges.²¹

The two cypresses are the pyramidalis variety, with the eastern tree being taller than the western. Both appear to be in good condition.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There are two other identified specimens of Mediterranean cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), and two English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) located in the municipality. The cypresses are at Merriang (HO23 Italian Cypresses [x2]), with the oaks located in Bright (part of HO7 Pin Oaks).

In the Alpine Shire there are other notable exotics, including:

- Two English elms (*Ulmus minor* 'Atinia' or *Ulmus procera*) at the south-east corner of the Memorial Park, Myrtleford, which were planted in 1933 to commemorate the golden wedding anniversary of Thomas Williams and Sarah Kirkham,
- Lime/Linden tree (*Tilia x euopaea*) at Myrtleford (HO28),
- Coastal (or Californian) redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) at Porepunkah (HO36),
- Two pomelos (*Citrus maxima*) at Bright (HO8),
- Two Sycamores/Oriental planes (*Platanus orientalis*) at Bright (HO95).

There are also three significant avenues in Bright, which are mostly planted with exotic species, as follows:

- HO5: Araucaria bidwillii (Bunya Bunya Pine) x 14, Burke Street, Bright. A late 19th century planting including Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.
- HO7: Pin Oaks, Delany Avenue, Bright. Planted in 1946-47, this long avenue is predominately Himalayan cedars and Pin oaks, with Scarlet oaks as well as the two English oaks mentioned above.
- HO13: Cedrus deodara (Deodara) x 17, Wood Street, Bright. A late 19th century planting with a similar profile as HO5. It also includes Bunya pines, Himalayan cedars and Corsican pines.

There are a few (part) stone pavilions or kiosks from the interwar period in parks at Bright that have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay. These are of a different type to the late 20th century example at the subject site with its distinctive diamond footprint and extensive use of timber, including the screen walls along its central spine to form three compartments within the small structure.

- HO96: Stone Kiosks x 3, in Cherry Lane, Delany Avenue and Mountbatten Avenue, Bright. These three structures, erected during the mid-1920s, are of a similar ilk however are constructed from random stone rubble and have roofs clad in corrugated sheet metal.
- HO98: Delany Pavilion, Cobden Street, Bright. This is a larger and a more open structure built in 1932 with a low random rubble wall, a gable roof supported on timber posts and clad in corrugated sheet metal, and a timber screen to the gable ends.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 105652

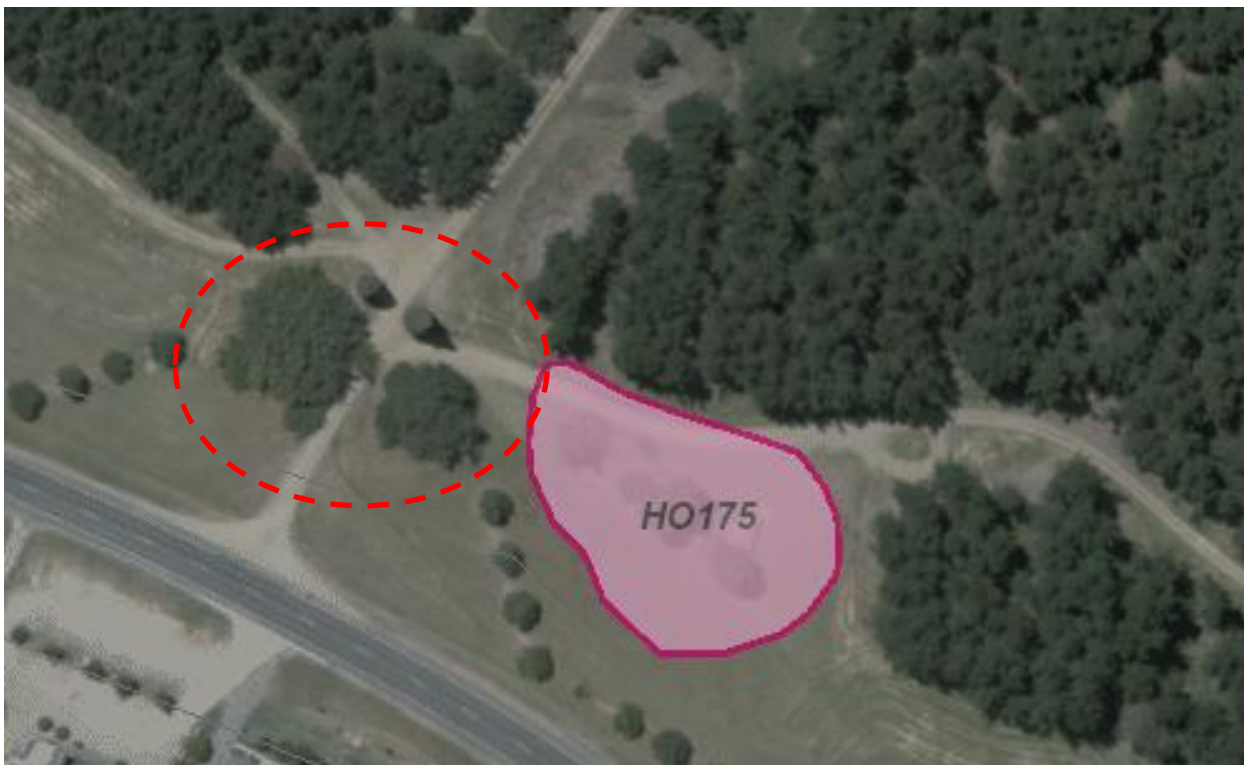
²¹ Rojas-Sandova, J, cabicompndium.17105, CABI Compendium, doi:10.1079/cabicompndium.17105, CABI International, Cupressus sempervirens (Mediterranean cypress), (2022)

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	No
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes – 2 x <i>Quercus robur</i> , 2 x <i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The *Ivan Swinburne Reserve* is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO175. At present, the extent broadly aligns with the reserve but does not include the oak and cypress trees.



Aerial image with the extent of HO175 overlaid. The oaks and cypresses are highlighted in red (source: VicPlan).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Extent of HO: Increase the extent to include the two oaks and two cypresses with a curtilage of 10 metres about them and ensure the full area of the reserve is within the extent.

Name: Change name from 'Ivan Swinburne Reserve' to 'Ivan Swinburne Reserve and Trees' to better reflect the significance of the two oaks and two cypresses.

H083: WANDILIGONG PRECINCT

Address	Wandiligong township	Date Inspected	March 2024
Construction Date	Mid to late 19 th century	Period	Victorian



Morses Creek Road near Smithy Lane, Wandiligong
(Source: RBA, March 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The Wandiligong Precinct is significant primarily for its 19th century fabric, in particular that dating to the 1870s or earlier, when it was a gold mining centre and Alpine Shire's largest township. Agriculture gradually replaced gold mining as the town's economic base and has been able to be further adapted/diversified into the late 20th/early 21st century, in part due to its close proximity to Bright.

The significant buildings – residential, commercial, and public listed in the Schedule – include those which have their origins in the Victorian period, though may have been altered and/or enlarged during the early 20th century. In addition, the established exotic plantings have been a consistent part of the township's character since the late 19th century and are also significant.

The non-significant elements are the buildings and elements from 20th century and early 21st century.

How is it Significant?

The Wandiligong Precinct is of local historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Wandiligong Precinct is of historical significance for its associations with the early development of the Alpine Shire during the 1860s, when it was the centre of the most productive reef mining field in eastern Victoria, before the discoveries in the heyday of the Walhalla-Woods Point belt. The Oriental Mine at Wandiligong was the largest reef gold producer in eastern Victoria in the early to mid-1860s and although large-scale production (and employment) had ceased by the end of the 1860s, Wandiligong remained one of the Shire's larger settlements for a considerable period after the 1870s, experiencing only a gradual decline due to its adaption as an agricultural area (especially nuts, orchards, tobacco, etc.) and a phase of dredging during the early 1900s. (Criterion A)

The Wandiligong Precinct is of representative significance for the retention of such a plethora of modest, vernacular housing types, primarily the archetypical Miners cottage with its gable roof with a parallel roof ridge and front verandah extending across the symmetrical façade (central door and flanking sash windows), and the two-paned sashes (with a vertical glazing bar) which are highly evocative of a township with its origins associated with gold mining. Similarly, the three churches (Former Anglican, Catholic and Uniting [Methodist]) are indicative of modest rural examples. (Criterion D)

In addition, the Wandiligong precinct is of representative significance as a township which has retained an unusual decentralised, informal and semi-rural character which is complemented by its verdant setting comprised of a wide variety of exotic and native trees bordered by diverse agriculture, including some orchards, and set against a backdrop of hillsides covered in natural forest and softwood plantations. The undulating terrain provides extensive opportunities for enjoying the different aspects of the setting. The township and landscape combine to form a varied mosaic of patterns, forms and colours (in autumn) that is a distinct cultural landscape reflecting the adaptation of the natural environment in a series of distinct phases. (Criterion D)

The Wandiligong Precinct is of aesthetic significance for a few notable buildings including some houses and public places, generally brick. Specifically, the following:

- Houses: *Cora Linn*, Brick Cottage at 3 Smithy Lane, Former Parsonage at 497 Morses Creek Road
- Public buildings: Manchester Unity Hall, former Library, former Post Office, Primary School (Criterion E)

CONTEXTUAL HISTORY

The Alpine Shire encompasses high-quality unceded Country of the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up. The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling. Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. During the warmer months, groups journeyed to the cooler high country to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of the bogong moth, a highly nutritious and energy-rich food source. While harvesting the moths, they also gathered with neighboring groups to participate in inter-tribal ceremonies, exchange goods, and strengthen social and cultural ties. These gatherings were not only vital for sustenance but also for maintaining alliances and passing down traditions.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire Council recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples, and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of the Shire.¹

Alpine Shire Thematic Environmental History (October 2008)

Wandiligong was known as Growlers Creek until 1872, and was also sometimes referred to as Morses Creek upper township and Morses Creek. It appears to have had its beginnings in 1854, as an alluvial gold mining camp. In 1858, Growlers Creek was described as a small diggings, inhabited by “a set of as merry fellows as ever threw care to the winds”.

The discovery of rich reefs at the end of the decade saw a rapid and massive transformation of the settlement. From 1860, it became the principal focus of commercial development in the Shire, and for a number of years the largest township in the Shire. Peak mid-1860s population is sometimes quoted as high as 2500. Detailed mining population figures for early 1864 show almost 1000 miners working in the vicinity of Wandiligong, later stabilising to about 600, so a township of some substance is indicated. Stores, hotels and other businesses stretched along Morses Creek Road, and a number of stamp batteries (crushing mills) operated within the town. The Oriental Mine, the largest of dozens of working mines around the town, employed upwards of 200 men at its peak.

The decline of Wandiligong was long and slow. Nevertheless, in the late 1800s the community had become well established and was very active, with social, sporting and horticultural clubs. Fruit orchards and nut groves were grown, as well as tobacco, hops and a variety of other crops. As reef mining ebbed, the population dropped from about 1100 to about 650 people between 1881 and 1891. This decline was arrested somewhat in the dredging era of the early 1900s, which provided considerable employment in the Upper Ovens and stimulated agriculture. Population was around 800 in 1905, but had dropped to 360 by 1921, and gradually decreased to 132 in 1966. Modern development has seen a substantial rise in population, and new housing construction. The modern era has also seen transformation of the character of the place, from a spread out ‘ghost town’ of paddocks and old cottages, to a ‘leafy village’.

PLACE-SPECIFIC HISTORY

Wandiligong Heritage Study (2008) – Summary History

2.2.1 ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

While the Alpine Shire Heritage Study is by definition a post-contact study, the authors acknowledge that indigenous people occupied the Wandiligong Valley and other areas of the Alpine Shire for thousands of years before the arrival of the first Europeans. These people created pathways and camping places, and hunted and foraged in the mountains and valleys of the Shire. While much information has been lost, these people named geographic features and imbued the landscape with special cultural meanings and significance.

2.2.2 THE PASTORALISTS

Pastoral incursion into the Wandiligong Valley probably dates to the late 1840s at the earliest, even though the land formed part of earlier squatting runs. 1845 correspondence and sketch plan indicates that only Eurobin Creek, the lower reaches of the Buckland River, and both sides of the Ovens River at Porepunkah were being grazed. A sketch plan from 1849, supporting William Walker & Co’s application for the Junction Run over the Ovens Valley upstream from the present position of Bright, shows detail of the valley of Morses Creek for only a short distance, and depicts the creek disappearing into “great piles of barren mountains”. The company argued that William Forlonge, owner of the Wandiligong Run, used only the portion of his run in the Porepunkah area. Their application was unsuccessful. Accounts and reports of early gold discoveries on the Ovens and Buckland Rivers, curiously, make no mention of squatters upstream of Mr Hillias’ run at Myrtleford, and some researchers have proposed that the Upper Ovens squatting runs were inactive at the time of gold discovery.

2.2.3 THE GOLD SEEKERS

¹ Alpine Shire website and Lorraine Padgham

Wandiligong was known as Growlers Creek until 1872, and was also sometimes referred to as Morses Creek upper township and Morses Creek. It appears to have had its beginnings in 1854, as an alluvial gold mining camp. In 1858, Growlers Creek was described as a small diggings, inhabited by “a set of as merry fellows as ever threw care to the winds”⁶. We know little of the settlement of the mid-1850s, but given that the population appears to have been small and activity was based on alluvial gold mining, it is easy to imagine that it was more in the form of an extended mining camp, woven along the creek diggings. Alluvial mining generally attracted a transient population, and few buildings of any substance would have existed on the creek. Occupation would be predominantly under canvas. At this time, the Wandiligong diggings were relatively minor in importance within the Alpine Shire goldfields, and although occasionally described as rich, they were well eclipsed by the golden riches of the Buckland Valley, and the growing Ovens River diggings at Myrtleford, Bright, Freeburgh and Harrietville.

2.2.4 RISE AND DECLINE

Quartz mining was to transform the alluvial mining camps in the Ovens River Goldfields. Quartz mining brought with it capital, skills and steady employment, and the first township to experience the transformation was Myrtleford. Here, the opening of the Reform Hill reefs had an immediate impact, drawing township development towards the base of the hill and away from the Myrtle Creek crossing. Machinery was erected, and many diggers obtained employment on wages. In the Buckland, reefs were first opened in 1858, but early promise gave way largely to disappointment, and the industry was insufficient in the longer term to reverse the decline of the Buckland townships.

The Pioneer Reef at Bright and the Oriental Reef at Wandiligong were both discovered in 1858, and each had an impact on the adjacent settlements. A crushing mill was erected on the Pioneer in 1858, but it was rich returns from surface workings on the Oriental in late 1859 that focused attention on Wandiligong. The discovery of further rich reefs saw a rapid and massive transformation of the settlement. From 1860, it became the principal focus of commercial development in the Shire, and for a number of years the largest township in the Shire. Peak mid-1860s population is sometimes quoted as high as 2500. Detailed mining population figures for early 1864 show almost 1000 miners working in the vicinity of Wandiligong, later stabilising to about 600, so a township of some substance is indicated. Stores, hotels and other businesses stretched along Morses Creek Road, and a number of stamp batteries (crushing mills) operated within the town. The Oriental Mine, the largest of dozens of working mines around the town, employed upwards of 200 men at its peak.

The decline of Wandiligong was long and slow. Nevertheless, in the late 1800s the community had become well established and was very active, with social, sporting and horticultural clubs. Fruit orchards and nut groves were grown, as well as tobacco, hops and a variety of other crops. As reef mining ebbed, the population dropped from about 1100 to about 650 people between 1881 and 1891. This decline was arrested somewhat in the dredging era of the early 1900s, which provided considerable employment in the Upper Ovens and stimulated agriculture.

Population was around 800 in 1905, but had dropped to 685 (360?) by 1921, and gradually decreased to 132 in 1966. Modern development has seen a substantial rise in population, and new housing construction. The modern era has also seen transformation of the character of the place, from a spread out ‘ghost town’ of paddocks and old cottages, to a ‘leafy village’.

Wandiligong Heritage Study (2008) – Summary Evolution of the Wandiligong Landscape

Pre-contact

Aboriginal camping grounds (perhaps seasonal) and hunting grounds. Hills and valley covered in mature eucalypt forest, with grassy understorey on river flats. Over thousands of years from the first arrival of man, subtle vegetation changes may have occurred, as indigenous people modified the areas that they used. Geographic features in the Wandiligong landscape would have been imbued with special cultural meanings and significance.

Squatting era

Possible light grazing on river flats from 1849, but no firm evidence has been found that any actual grazing occurred or that structures existed in the vicinity of the present Wandiligong township area prior to the discovery of gold. Contemporary descriptions and reports of early gold discoveries in the Buckland and Ovens do not mention a squatting presence upstream of Myrtleford, and some researchers have proposed that the Upper Ovens runs were effectively abandoned in the early 1850s,

even though the leases continued to be traded. Landscape little altered from pre-contact era, but Aboriginal occupation patterns are likely to have been disrupted as a result of wider squatting settlement.

1854-1858

Gold diggers arrive and begin mining on creek. Landscape undergoes change, with settlement probably developing in the form of an extended mining camp, woven along the creek diggings. Few buildings of any substance would have existed on the creek, with occupation predominantly under canvas. Forest on the river flats is thinned, with some tree removal to facilitate sluicing and supply firewood needs. Well-worn foot and horse tracks appear along the creek, and water races are constructed along the foot of the hills. But the forested hills remain largely unchanged. It is possible that the first intensive agriculture at Wandiligong is undertaken late in this era, with Chinese diggers planting small market gardens to provide for their own and other local needs. Character of the creek changes, now running a maze through spoil heaps, sluicing pits and races.

1858-1860s

Rich gold-bearing quartz reefs are opened in the hills above the alluvial diggings. A substantial township develops, with stores, hotels, churches, schools, houses, and a population with estimates as high as 2500. Hills begin to be stripped of trees, to satisfy the demands of the mines for mine timber and fuel for the steam engines, as well as domestic demand for construction materials and firewood. Alluvial mining on the creeks continues, with Chinese miners dominating this activity. Land in the valley is cleared where close settlement is carried out. Clustering, crowded Chinese camps exist within the town, and to its immediate north. The township has an industrial character, with a number of large crushing mills erected in the town to serve mines high on the hills above. Inclined tramways stream out of the forest to the noisy crushing mills, some of which operate 24 hours a day. Commercial enterprises of all types line the main road. Peak period is the early 1860s, when Wandiligong becomes by far the largest, busiest and richest township within the area of the present Alpine Shire. By 1861, only about one-third of the dwellings are tents or canvas-roofed structures, most occupied by Chinese diggers, and by 1871 virtually all occupation is in slab, weatherboard or (rarely) brick houses. As the settlement becomes more permanent, orchards and vegetable gardens are planted, and grazing of dairy cattle and other stock develops on adjacent land. The origin of the tree line above the township, marking the upper limit of the paddocks, is problematic. Certainly it does roughly mark the limit of useable land of moderate slope before the steep hillsides rise. But is it an artefact of clearing associated with mining and township development that was preserved to serve consequent agriculture, or is it the upper limit of land cleared specifically for agriculture?

1870s-1900

The township experiences decline as the reefing industry goes into doldrums. Population does not decrease at a dramatic rate, but businesses relocate to the better-situated Bright, and many buildings are transported out of the valley. The township gradually develops a patchwork of occupied and vacant blocks, with the latter often used for grazing. Orchards and nut farms thrive, hop growing is introduced, and a variety of crops including tobacco are planted on the valley floor. Scrub begins to cover the old abandoned alluvial diggings, and the forest on the hills regrows, cloaking the mine workings and tracks. Despite the decline, substantial brick buildings including school, MUIOOF Hall and library are built in the 1870s, and a Recreation Reserve is gazetted. A strong sense of community continues, and towards the end of the century the township shows a mature aspect, with the introduced roadside trees growing tall.

Early 1900s

Bucket dredging for gold is introduced to the Upper Ovens in 1900, and it is just a short time before these mechanical giants begin operating in the Wandiligong area. These dredges chew through the old alluvial diggings along the creek, transforming the diggings into large areas of shingle drift. Creek channels are realigned or braided in places. The steam-powered dredges require huge quantities of firewood for fuel, and logging of the surrounding hills and remaining forested farmland begins. The extent of hillside logging in the landscape at Wandiligong is not precisely known, but in some areas of the Upper Ovens whole hillsides are denuded. Large walnut groves are planted, and the first major apple orchard appears around the time of the First World War.

1930s

In 1917, pine trees are planted on dredge tailings south of Dougherty's Bridge, between Wandiligong and Bright. In the late 1920s, the government looks to expanding plantation softwoods in the State, and the Ovens River valley is one of the areas targeted. Large areas of native vegetation are cleared from some surrounding hills at Wandiligong by sustenance ('susso') workers in the Great Depression of the 1930s, and pine trees are planted. This dramatically changes the visual aspects of the valley, with darker green swathes of vegetation on the western side. Some extensions to the plantations are carried out in subsequent decades.

1930s-1970

Decline of the township continues, and the population drops from 360 (685?) in 1921 to just 132 in 1966. Houses disappear, but south of the township more large-scale apple orchards appear, and tobacco growing takes over large areas of the river flats. The landscape within the township is quite open and almost rural, with sheep grazing in empty allotments. Weed growth including Robinia trees covers the old diggings area near the junction of Morses and Growlers Creeks. Native forest on hillsides continues recovery.

1970-present

Period of growth, and radical change in townscape. Development pressure brings new demand for land and housing at Wandiligong. A number of historic cottages are purchased and renovated to modern standards (expectations?). Modern housing begins to infill vacant residential blocks, and tree and garden plantings (formal & informal) are carried out. Modern buildings assume numerical and visual dominance in the township, and some subdivision is carried out. Modern housing comes in a variety of forms, including 2-storey houses, and large-footprint houses begin to be built in prominent positions in the farmland buffer. View lines into and out of township become more limited as new tree and garden plantings grow. Native forest on hillsides continues recovery. Agriculture continues to evolve, consistent with the historic experience in upper Ovens Valley. Apple orchards are extended and large packing sheds built, and more chestnut and walnut groves are planted.

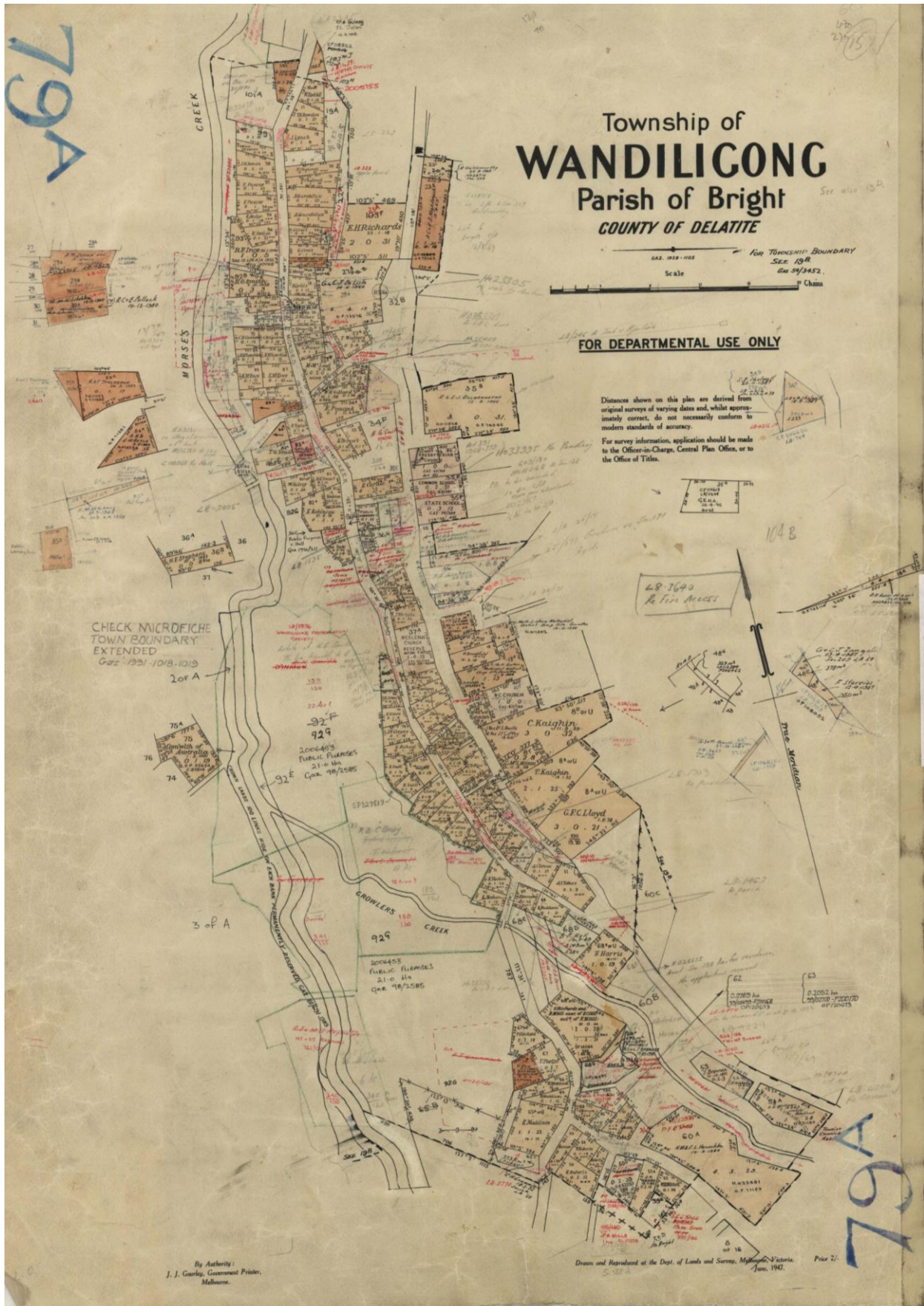
Additional History- 19th century²

It took some 17 years after the initial discovery of gold in the area during 1854 for land in the township of Wandiligong, initially Growlers Creek (or Morses Creek), to be offered for sale. By that time, many houses, mainly timber, had been erected on land associated with a Miners Right. The 1871 census recorded a population of 1153 being accommodated in 292 dwellings (217 wood/iron/plaster; 72 slab/mud/bark; 1 stone/brick; 2 undefined).³ As only a few slab buildings have survived, the extant building stock does not accurately reflect that at the time when the township was at its 19th century peak.

The first land sales, held in October 1871, resulted in many lots being sold - generally with an area of about half acre along Morses Creek Road with a few larger allotments (between 1 and 3 acres) to the east and southern parts (refer to the following township plan). Subsequently, during the mid to late 1870s, more permanent facilities, such as halls, the extant school, etc., some in brick, were erected.

² Note that Wandiligong has been subject to considerable research as outlined in the two publications by the Wandiligong Preservation Society – *Wandiligong: a valley through time*, 1988 and Bet Moore with Dave Deakin *Nothing worth saving' : the history of the Wandiligong Preservation Society 1972-2005*, 2005

³ Wandiligong Preservation Society, *Wandiligong: a valley through time*, 1988, pp35-36



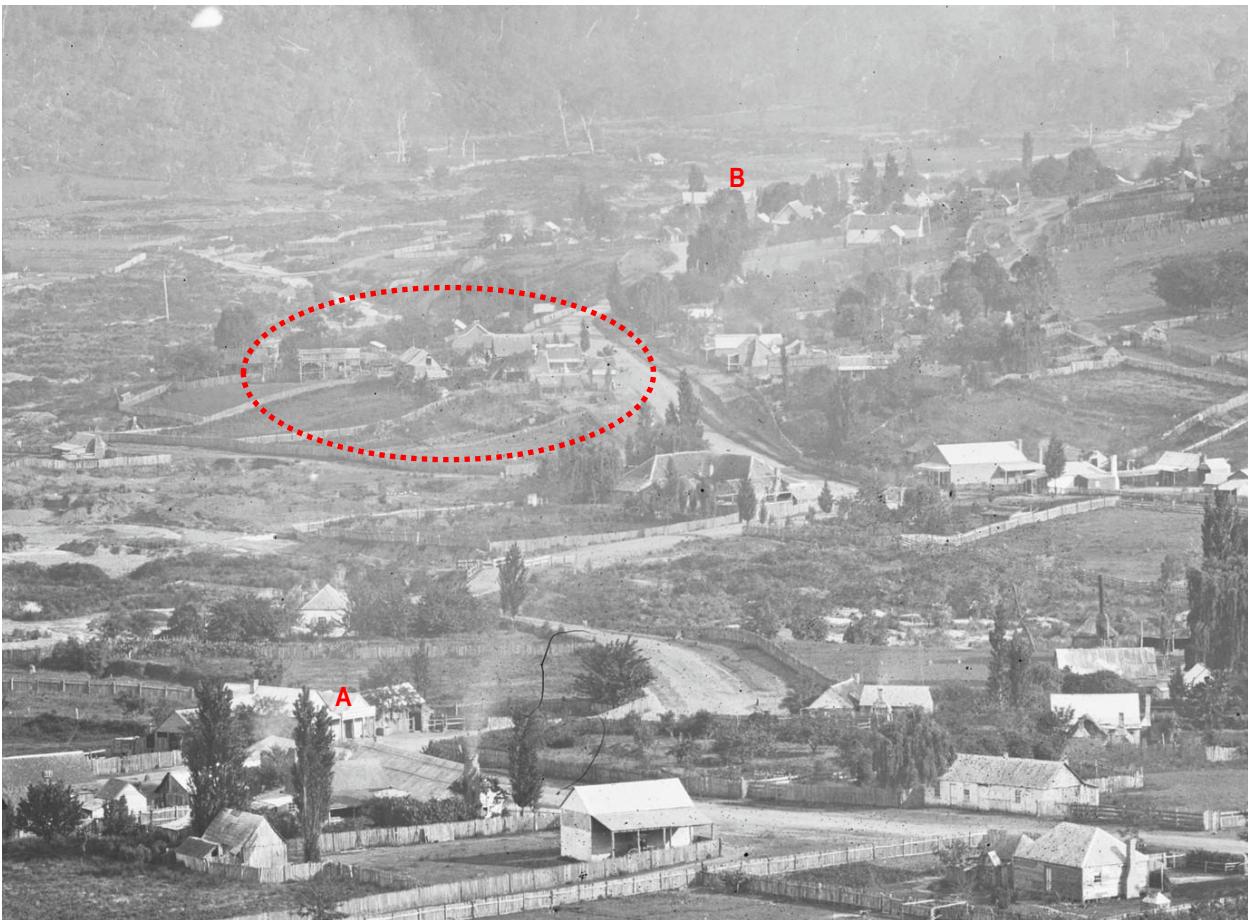
Township of Wandiligong (Source: Landata)

Beyond the public places that survive – three of the original four churches survive (not the Presbyterian, which was sold for removal in 1924) – there was also a Rechabite Lodge, which opened in 1864.⁴ The first post office was opened in 1862 in a different location to the extant building.

During the 19th century, Chinese constituted a considerable proportion of the population, predominantly solo men, however there is limited fabric surviving to reflect that level of occupation. Whilst according to the census of 1861 and 1871, they officially numbered 111 and 126 respectively (about 10% of the population in 1871). They are thought to have largely originated from the Sze Yap (Ng Yap) area of Guangdong Province in southern China and some may have effectively been political refugees brought about by the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864).⁵

Alternately, a population of about 500 Chinese had been suggested in a local history prepared during the early 20th and they are said to have 'congregated on the flat, in front of where the Methodist [now Uniting] Church now stands. The Chinese had their own streets, three large stores, cookshops, barbershops, a circus, and a Joss House.'⁶

The following photograph captures what was probably Wandiligong's China Town during the mid-1870s, which was located on the west side of Morses Creek Road, south of Lardis Lane. This section of town reveals a more clustered configuration than seen elsewhere but is also known to have included some commercial sites.⁷



Wandiligong circa 1874-75 [extract] (American & Australasian Photographic Company)⁸ possible China Town dashed. A - Mountain View/Junction Hotel (now the Wandu Pub) and B – Manchester Unity Hall (Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, FL1253435)

⁴ History Of Wandiligong, pp14, 51

⁵ Wandiligong: a valley through time, p31. At the time of writing, the name of Kwantung Province was used. The current transliteration spelling is Guangdong province.

⁶ T Flower, History of Wandiligong (compiled in connection with the diamond jubilee of State School 275), 1920, p6 (SLV)

⁷ Wandiligong: a valley through time, p31. Locations derived from map on inside rear cover.

⁸ This image is entitled 'Panoramic view of Bright'. The date range is provided as 1870-75 however the Manchester Unity Hall was built in 1874.

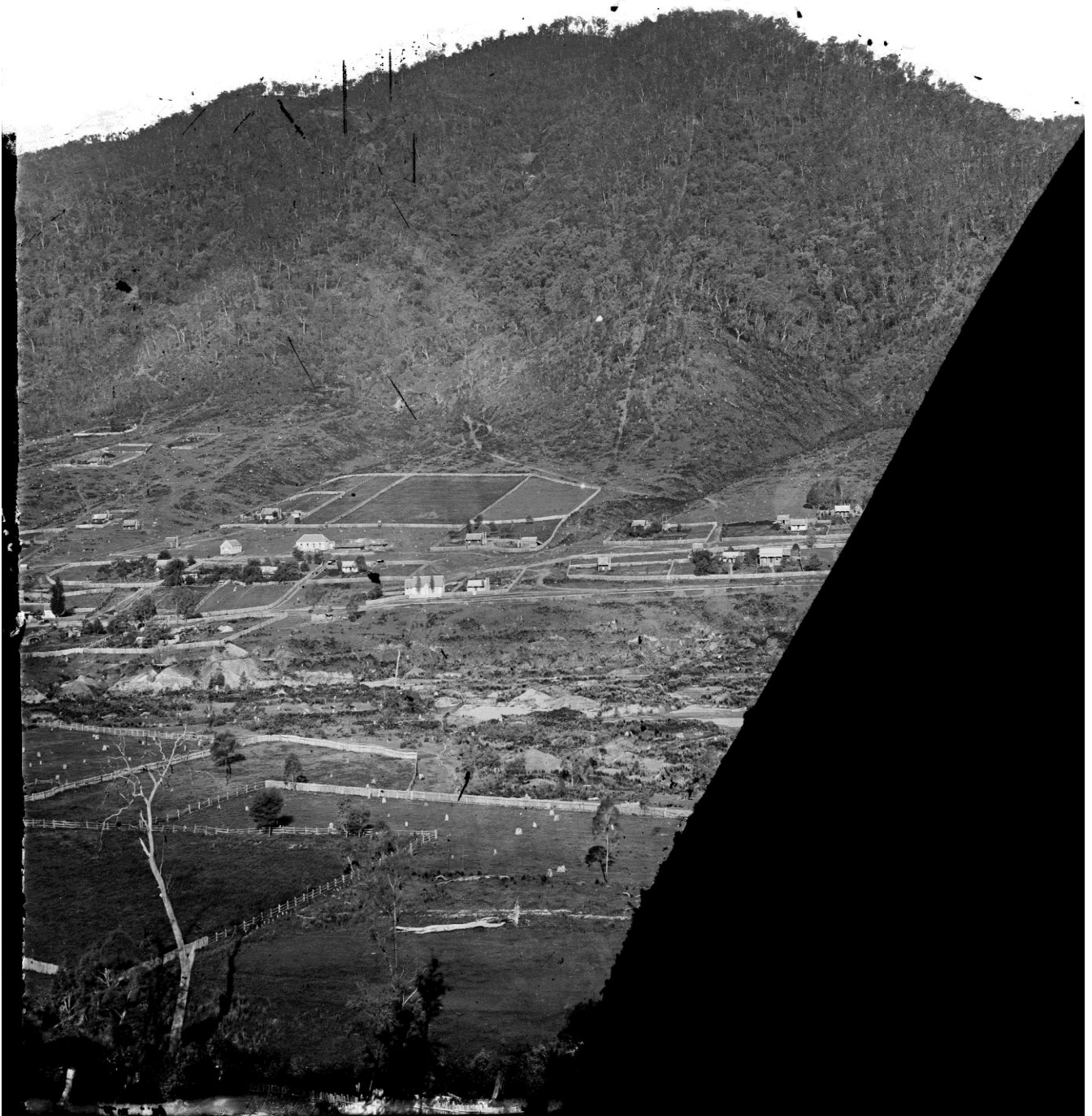
One building type which has largely disappeared from Wandiligong, which had been more prominent, is the hotel. During the 19th century, there had been several hotels, not all operating concurrently (including the Alpine, Lewis', Lynch's, Prince of Wales, Rising Sun, Royal, Wises Golden) with only the Mountain View/Junction Hotel (now the Wandii Pub) surviving however it retains none of its 19th century fabric (refer following image).⁹



'Gow brothers at the Mountain View Hotel' in 1956, Jeff Carter (Source: PIC/12582, NLA)

The following early to mid-1870s photograph captures the devastated landscape along Morses Creek, the lack of trees in the township area, and that the roofs were generally clad in timber shingles.

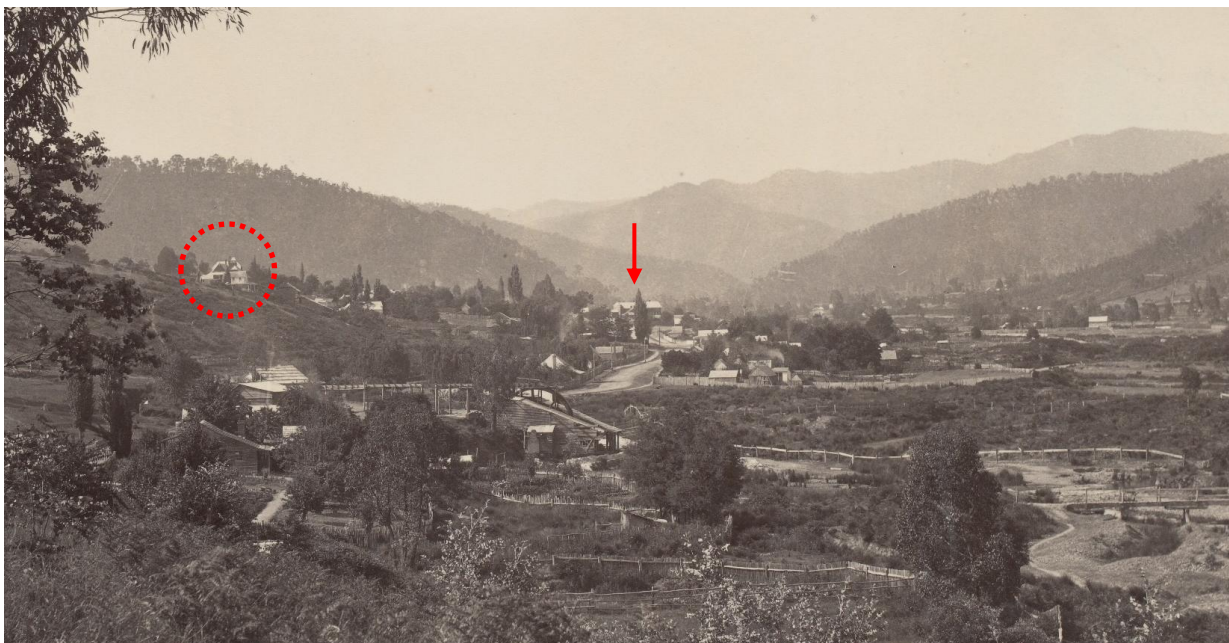
⁹ The current Mountain View Hotel building dates the interwar period onwards.



Wandiligong 1870-75, (American & Australasian Photographic Company)¹⁰ Church of England dashed. Note Morses Creek in foreground (Source: Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW, FL10439071)

The following image from 1886 captures the township nearly a decade after the State School was constructed. A water wheel and race are captured in the foreground, some slab outbuildings are evident, and some planting had been re-established including exotics such as poplars and the like.

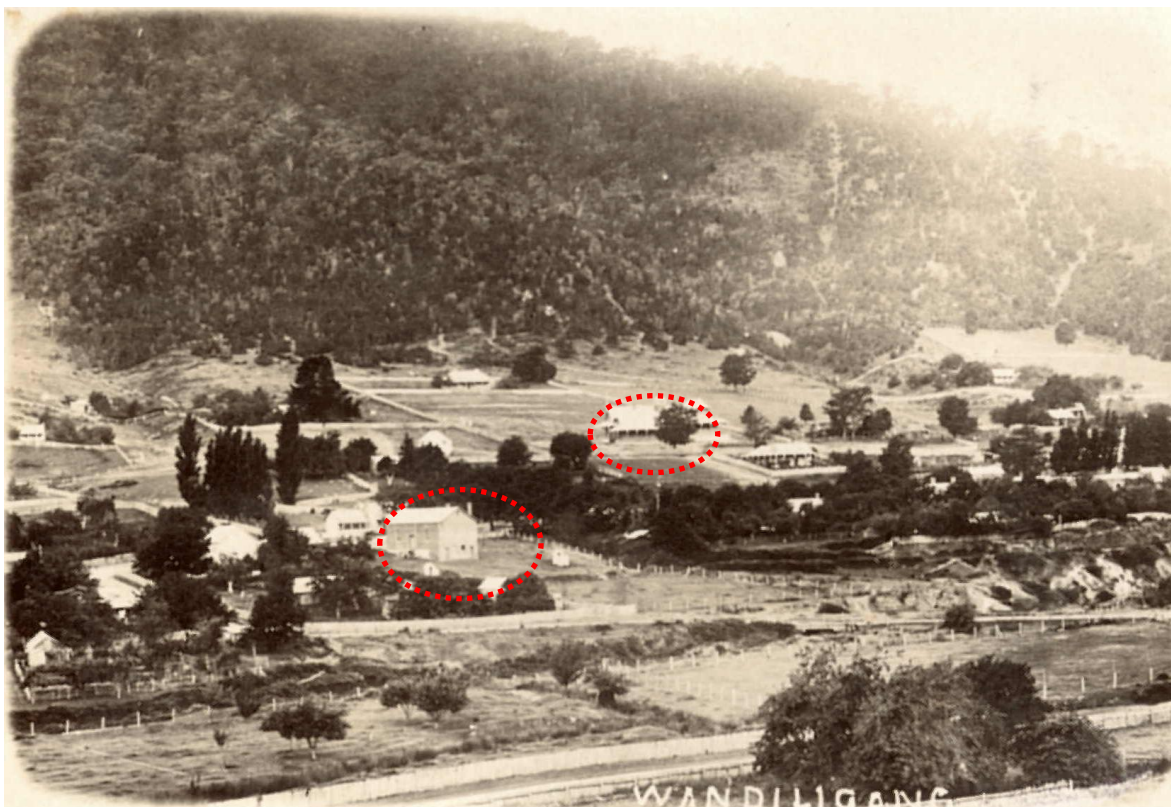
¹⁰ This image is entitled 'probably near Bright'



1886, 19 March, 'Near Bright', Nicholas J Claire, looking south with the school dashed and the Manchester Unity Hall (arrow)
(Source: SLV, H96.160/1833)

It was not until 17 February 1888 when the township of Wandiligong was officially proclaimed, a 17-year hiatus after the first land sales.¹¹

Some twenty years later, according to the following image, the planting in the central part of the township seemed to be at a similar level.



Ca. 1905 Wandiligong, from the west (Source: H94.145/8, SLV) The Primary School and rear of Manchester Unity Hall highlighted

¹¹ *Victoria Government Gazette*, 1888, p551

The 1948 aerial shows the township with much less tree coverage centrally – notably along both Morses Creek and Morses Creek Road. Orcharding was well established along School Road, where it has continued in the section north of Bruce Lane.



1948 aerial (Source: Mapsheet Photography, Run 1, Frame 123, Landata)

Later aerials from the 1960s show a similar circumstance along the creek and main road.¹²

¹²12 Standard Mapping Photography ,Frame 335, Run 9 West, 06.04.1968 (Geoscience)

VICTORIAN FRAMEWORK OF HISTORICAL THEMES (2010):

- 4.5 Gold mining
- 4.6 Timber industry
- 6.5 Living in country towns

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Wandiligong Heritage Study (2008)

Historic Houses and Cottages

These are dotted throughout the township, and many are in prominent positions in the landscape because they are built on or close to the road frontages (eg HO70, HO61). Others are set back (eg HO54) or hidden behind garden or tree growth (eg HO65), limiting their visibility. Integrity varies widely. Some cottages/buildings have excellent integrity (eg HO71, HO77, HO61, HO65, HO81), while many others have been severely architecturally compromised by modern alteration (eg HO59, HO58, HO53, HO45, HO76). Others show alterations or extensions varying from minor to fairly substantial (eg HO69, HO62). As would be expected with the aging, predominantly timber buildings, the better the integrity, the poorer the condition generally applies. Designs vary widely, and include miner's cottages, mid-nineteenth century vernacular cottages (eg HO65), and a Victorian-style villa (eg HO71). Most of the original cottages (excluding former commercial buildings) have a small footprint.¹³

Other Historic Buildings

The remaining community infrastructure (churches, hall, school, library) has excellent architectural integrity, and most buildings are prominent in the townscape. The Primary School, the largest of the buildings, has had considerable alteration to its setting, with new buildings erected, trees and gardens planted, and formal parking areas and pathways installed. With the old elm trees now effectively screening views from the front, the building is no longer as visually prominent as in previous years.

Modern Housing

Modern housing is of a wide variety, including mock 'heritage' cottages, large brick villas, log houses, vernacular kit homes, etc. Characteristic of most modern housing is a substantially larger footprint than the historic cottages. Set-back varies, but is typically greater than that of the historic housing. Height, roof lines and cladding vary widely. The scale of some modern housing rivals that of some of the historic community infrastructure buildings (school, churches, hall), reducing the contrast that formerly existed between those buildings and the small, historic cottages.

Township Vegetation

Formal and informal gardens and exotic tree plantings are common in Wandiligong, and particularly along Morses Creek Road and Williams Road, where many houses are obscured. This provides a strong impression of a leafy English village, particularly in autumn when the township displays a riot of colour. The creek area, once barren dredge tailings, now has high stands of maturing eucalypts. Modern exotic tree plantings have risen to limit view lines into and within the township, a point reinforced by reference to historical photography that shows a quite open landscape. Historic early ornamental tree plantings persist throughout the township, but have lost much of their prominence in the landscape with modern development.

Hillsides

The hillsides have been little altered in modern times. The hillsides rise steeply above the town, and are cloaked in regenerating native forest, comprised principally of a grey-green overstorey of peppermint gums (*Eucalyptus radiata*). On the west side of the valley, dark green patches mark plantations of Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*) that provide a strong colour contrast to the native forest. To the south and the east of the township, the valleys of Morses Creek and Growlers Creek lead the eye into what

¹³ Note the individual heritage overlay numbers have been removed

presents as a natural landscape of high, forested mountain ranges. To the north, the hillsides continue to frame the widening valley of Morses Creek as it approaches its junction with the Ovens River.

Additional Description

The elongated township is semirural and has an informal character in part due to the lack currently of an active commercial centre. The undulating terrain results in extensive views of the surrounding hills.

The buildings are exclusively single storey. Roofs are all clad in corrugated sheet metal though originally, they were clad in timber shingles (as evidenced in historic photographs).

Houses

Most are visible from the public realm though a few are concealed.

The houses are predominantly timber and clad in weatherboards with gable roofs and brick chimneys generally surviving. They are indicative of the Miners cottage typology, whose standard format was a single, elongated gable volume with skillion roof verandah extending the length of the symmetrical façade and another skillion volume to the rear. Over time, other gable roof volumes were added in parallel to the rear though many have much larger sections to the rear displaying a variety of roof forms. The central door was typically four-panelled timber with a highlight and was flanked by double hung sash windows, usually two-paned (that is, with a vertical glazing bar). It is unusual that this two-paned window type survives so extensively and serve to suggest that most of the houses were built relatively early, during the 1860s or 1870s. The extant verandahs have presumably all been renewed and whilst some have rudimentary brackets (sometimes curvilinear), it is unclear if any of these are original, or reflective of the original detailing. A few have hipped roofs, which likely date to the later part of the 19th century.

Only a few houses were constructed in brick, with the most substantial – *Cora Linn* – being a later Victorian period example, mid-1880s, and a good example of an Italianate villa. The other brick examples are generally indicative of the Miners cottage type.

Commercial Buildings

The few surviving commercial buildings are clustered on Morses Creek Road – a post office and two general stores – none of which are operating. Whilst the post office dates to the late 19th century, the two general stores at least in part date to the 20th century.

Former Churches

There are three extant former churches, all of which are reflective of a Gothic influence with pointed arched windows and have been converted to private residences. Two are timber (Anglican and Catholic) and one is brick (Uniting/Methodist).

Public Buildings and Other Elements

The three key public buildings are brick construction and date from the mid to late 1870s with the primary school being the largest and most distinctive. Both the smaller Library and nearby former Manchester Unity Hall have a central porch however different massing otherwise.

There are also reconstructed timber buildings or structures in Alpine Park, some pedestrian bridges over Morses Creek, and a water wheel, visible on Grenvilles Road. In addition, some interpretive elements have been installed such as the Chinese Pavilion near Growlers Creek near what had been the Chinese camp.



Reconstructed water wheel on Grenvilles Road (RBA, March 2024)

Trees

There is an array of established exotic trees particularly located along Morses Creek Road, between where it joins with School Road in the north and Centenary Avenue to the south, as well as along these secondary streets, in addition to several in the Alpine Park (HO206).

Among this group of about 50 specimens, the Lombardy poplars are thought to be the earliest plantings and dating to circa 1870. A few were also planted during the late 19th century with most generally planted during the early 20th century.¹⁴ Multiple specimens of the following trees are noted:

- Lombardy poplar (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*), including the avenue south of the township (HO205)
- Dutch elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*),
- English oak (*Quercus robur*), Deodar (*Cedrus deodara*),
- Irish Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*),
- Chinese wind palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), and
- Giant Redwood (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

There are also some individual types of beech, cedars, chestnuts, cypress, and maples also some shrubs or bushes including camelias, magnolias and holly.

¹⁴ Bet Moore and Dave Deakin, 'Nothing worth Saving' – the History of the Wandiligong Preservation Society, 1972-2005, pp76-78. A map and list of the trees is provided.

Valley Setting

The sides of the valley are widely visible throughout the township and provide a landscaped back drop however of different character to each side. Whilst the east is densely covered in native forest, there are pine plantations to the west side in varying states of growth creating a patchwork and changing appearance of juvenile specimens, established specimens, and harvested areas.



Morses Creek Road, looking west to the pine plantations (RBA, March 2024)



Sidling Track, north end, looking north (RBA, March 2024)

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

There is no comparison in the Alpine Shire for a precinct of this size. There are however individual places within, and without, the other settlements dating from 19th century development and/or relating to gold mining.

Precincts on such a large scale are unusual outside the central metropolitan area.

One similar, former township is Walhalla in Gippsland (HO8, Shire of Baw Baw). Established in 1862, it has a lower permanent population and is located in a narrower valley so that the buildings are concentrated in smaller area with fewer residential. Similarly, there are many exotic deciduous plantings providing extensive autumnal colour.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HERMES number: 70476

The Wandiligong area has been subject to heritage assessment and/or protection with HO83 or nearby have.

VHR and VHI

Several nearby mining sites are included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) or the archaeologically related the Victorian Heritage Inventory (VHI).

National Trust

Some elements have included in the National Trust of Australia (VIC) Register, which has no statutory implications. However, classification by the National Trust as widely recognised as being a robust assessment of heritage significance:

- Five buildings or structures: Primary School (B0708), Water wheel & race (B0709), MU Hall (B3234), Bandstand (B3363), and Holy Trinity Church (B5685).
- L10237 (Wandiligong Valley) – State
- T11399 (*Populus nigra var italica*) – State

Register of the National Estate (RNE)

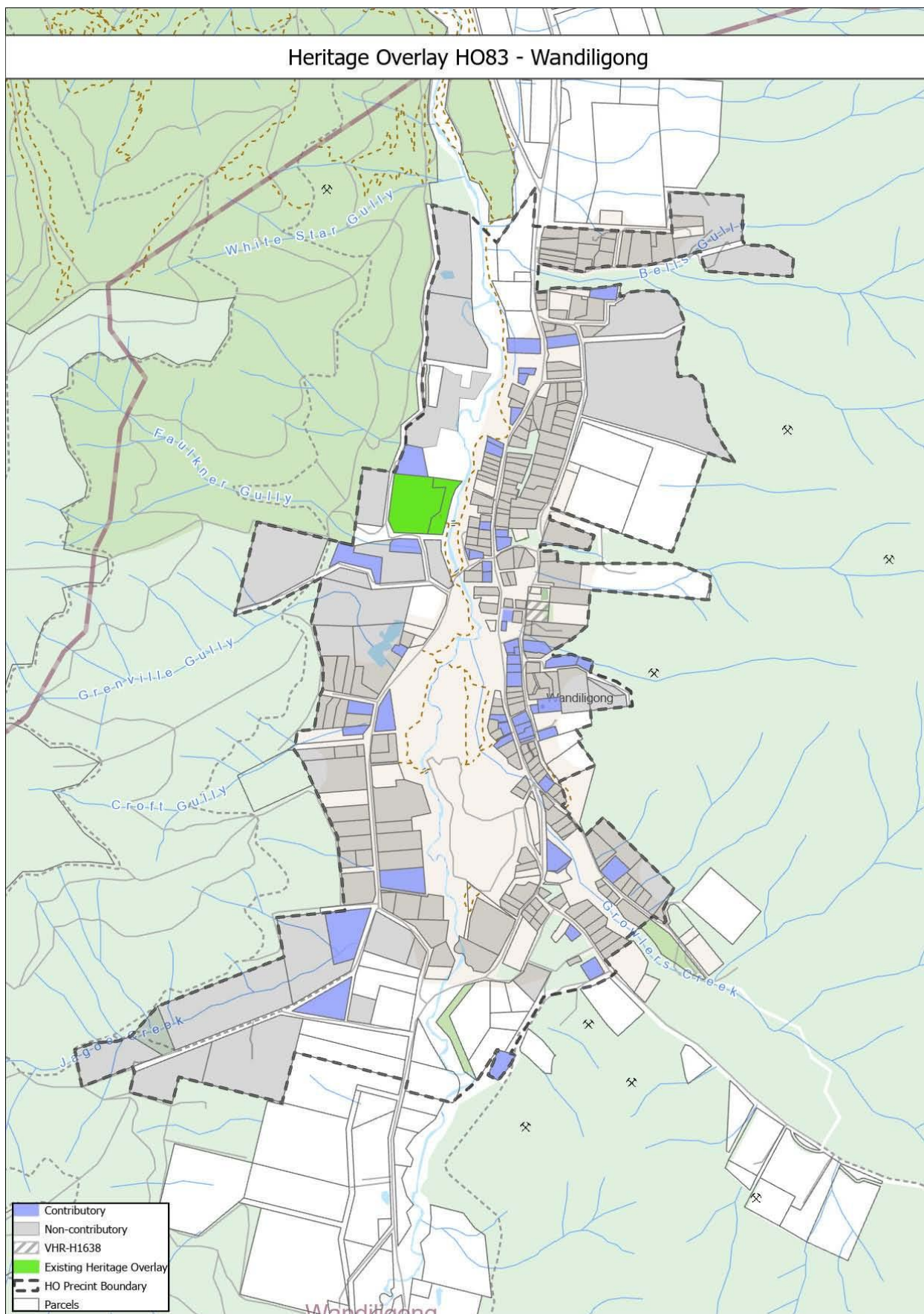
The RNE has been archived: Place ID – 4580 (Wandiligong Valley), identified as an ‘indicative place’.

ALPINE SHIRE PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

External paint controls	Yes
Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	Yes
Solar energy system controls	Yes
Outbuilding or Fences	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

EXTENT OF THE HERITAGE OVERLAY

The Wandiligong Precinct is to be retained in the Schedule of the Heritage Overlay for the *Alpine Planning Scheme* as HO83. The extent of the heritage overlay relates to the township in addition to some adjoining land along the main roads.



The extent and gradings map of HO83

GRADINGS SCHEDULE

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
Beers Lane	6	Non-contributory
Beers Lane	21	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	1	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	3	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	19	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	21	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	27	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	47	Non-contributory
Bells Gully Road	67	Non-contributory
Bruces Lane	8	Non-contributory
Bruces Lane	45	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	26	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	40	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	42	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	42A	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	44	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	69	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	74	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	76	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	78	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	85	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	86	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	99	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	100	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	106	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	117	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	118	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	120	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	123	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	124	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	125	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	130	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	137	Contributory
Centenary Avenue	148	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	149	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	155	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
Centenary Avenue	159	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	163	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	172	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	173	Non-contributory
Centenary Avenue	177	Non-contributory
Clarkes Road	2	Non-contributory
Clarkes Road	4	Non-contributory
Fredos Lane	16	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	4	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	5	Contributory
Gillards Lane	10	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	12	Non-contributory
Grenvilles Road	19	Non-contributory
Grenvilles Road	28	Contributory
Grenvilles Road	31	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	1	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	6	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	7	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	13	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	16	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	19	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	22	Contributory
Growlers Creek Road	23	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	25	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	31	Non-contributory
Growlers Creek Road	33	Non-contributory
Fredos Lane	16	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	4	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	10	Non-contributory
Gillards Lane	12	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	5	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	8	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	10	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	11	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	13	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	15	Non-contributory
Higgs Lane	16	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
Jagoes Gully Road	2	Contributory
Jagoes Gully Road	37	Contributory
Jagoes Gully Road	67	Non-contributory
Jagoes Gully Road	70	Non-contributory
Jagoes Gully Road	97	Non-contributory
Jagoes Gully Road	98	Non-contributory
Kaighins Lane	2	Non-contributory
Lardis Lane	4	Non-contributory
Long Tunnel Track	4	Non-contributory
Long Tunnel Track	9	Contributory
Long Tunnel Track	12	Non-contributory
Long Tunnel Track	14	Non-contributory
Long Tunnel Track	28	Non-contributory
McEvoys Lane	12	Non-contributory
McEvoys Lane	14	Non-contributory
McEvoys Lane	16	Non-contributory
Mitchells Lane	8	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	342	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	358	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	359	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	375	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	380	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	381	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	382	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	393	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	400A	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	402	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	403	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	406	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	407	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	411	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	417	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	418	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	420	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	422	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	423	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	424	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
Morses Creek Road	426	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	427	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	428	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	429	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	430	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	431	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	435	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	436	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	437	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	439	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	440	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	442	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	444	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	448	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	450	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	452	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	462	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	465	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	468	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	472	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	474	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	479	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	483	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	497	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	499	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	508	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	511	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	512	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	513	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	516	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	517	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	518	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	521	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	522	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	524	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	534	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	546	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
Morses Creek Road	571	Contributory
Morses Creek Road	580	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	586	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	587	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	588	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	589	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	606	Non-contributory
Morses Creek Road	614	Non-contributory
Norleys Lane	10	Contributory
Oshea Lane	7	Non-contributory
Robertsons Road	26	Contributory
Royal Bridge Track	5	Non-contributory
Royal Bridge Track	7	Non-contributory
Sangsters Lane	4	Non-contributory
Sangsters Lane	5	Non-contributory
School Road	1	Non-contributory
School Road	4	Non-contributory
School Lane	7	Non-contributory
School Road	11	Non-contributory
School Road	12	Non-contributory
School Road	13	Non-contributory
School Road	15	Non-contributory
School Road	21	Non-contributory
School Road	27	Non-contributory
School Road	36	Non-contributory
School Road	42	Non-contributory
School Road	46	Non-contributory
School Road	48	Non-contributory
School Road	52	Non-contributory
School Road	54	Non-contributory
School Road	56	Non-contributory
School Road	64	Non-contributory
School Road	66	Non-contributory
School Road	68	Non-contributory
School Road	76	Non-contributory
School Road	82	Non-contributory
School Road	84	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
School Road	86	Non-contributory
School Road	88	Non-contributory
School Road	103	Non-contributory
School Road	113	Non-contributory
School Road	115	Non-contributory
School Road	119	VHR-H1638
School Road	126	Non-contributory
School Road	129	Non-contributory
School Road	133	Non-contributory
School Road	135	Contributory
School Road	136	Contributory
School Road	137	Non-contributory
School Road	143	Non-contributory
School Road	151	Non-contributory
School Road	155	Contributory
School Road	165	Non-contributory
School Road	169	Contributory
School Road	182	Non-contributory
School Road	184	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	1	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	5	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	6	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	11	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	26	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	28	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	30	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	34	Non-contributory
Shepheards Lane	56	Non-contributory
Sidling Track	2	Contributory
Sidling Track	28	Non-contributory
Sidling Track	48	Contributory
Smithy Lane	3	Contributory
Smithy Lane	6	Contributory
Smithy Lane	11	Non-contributory
Smithy Lane	22	Non-contributory
Tobias Track	5	Non-contributory
White Star Road	11	Non-contributory

STREET	NUMBER	GRADING
White Star Road	33	Contributory
White Star Road	42	Non-contributory
White Star Road	60	Contributory
White Star Road	70	Non-contributory
White Star Road	105	Non-contributory
White Star Road	130	Non-contributory
Williams Road	5	Contributory
Williams Road	7	Non-contributory
Williams Road	10	Non-contributory
Williams Road	13	Non-contributory
Williams Road	14	Non-contributory
Williams Road	18	Non-contributory
Williams Road	20	Non-contributory
Williams Road	29	Non-contributory
Williams Road	45	Contributory
Williams Road	46	Non-contributory
Williams Road	48	Non-contributory
Williams Road	49	Non-contributory
Williams Road	50	Non-contributory
Williams Road	55	Non-contributory
Williams Road	57	Non-contributory
Williams Road	59	Non-contributory
Williams Road	64	Non-contributory