

<b>Name</b>	<i>Myrnong</i>	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	KF17
<b>Address</b>	2 Myrnong Court, Kangaroo Flat	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 613 M4
<b>Building type</b>	Private residence	<b>Survey Date</b>	June 2010
<b>Date of construction</b>	1857-58	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	Myrnong is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



West elevation of Myrnong.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map. Myrnong is indicated as KF17.

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

## History

Myrnong was built by Englishman, John Cappy, in 1857-58.<sup>1</sup> Cappy was associated with deep lead mining and believed that a reef ran through his property. However, he refused to allow mining on his land. As a result Myrnong does not appear on mining maps.<sup>2</sup> In 1872, Myrnong was described in the Bendigo Advertiser as an, 'English gentleman's home,' with privet hedges and a trellis covered in the grape vines. The property at that time covered an area of 2.6 ha (6.5 acres), and the house had 10 or 12 rooms. The property was presumably used as a horse stud (?), as in 1872 it had 14 stables with space for 28 horses, living quarters for the stable hands, and a blacksmith's area.<sup>3</sup> The coach house was demolished in about 1980.<sup>4</sup> The driveway to the house was originally from the north. However, the early configuration of the property has been completely obscured by subdivision. Myrnong is now located at the end of a cul-de-sac on a suburban allotment.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 6.5: Living in country towns

## Description & Integrity

Myrnong is a symmetrical single-storey, hipped and gabled, early Gothic-influenced house with its front elevation facing west. The original face brick external walls have been overpainted. The roof forms, which are clad in corrugated galvanised steel, comprise a transverse ridge over the linking central section of the building, and gables over the projecting flanking (north and south) wings. There is a cast concrete cornice to the parapets and a reconstructed timber posted verandah to the central building section. Two large brick chimneys are visible from the street (Myrnong Court), with proportionally broad bases and plain uncorniced stacks. The front door is offset to the north end of the verandah. The flanking wings have canted window bays with light timber frames and large-scaled sashes. The front yard has been reorganised since the 1990s and a paved driveway leads past the house on its south side, diagonally to its right. A swimming pool has been installed to the rear, and a large asphalted apron leading to a large outbuilding in on the south side of the house. This outbuilding is roofed in corrugated galvanised steel. The rear of the house has a verandah roofed in corrugated galvanised steel with three polycarbonate light sheeting, and a square, flat roofed wing, apparently recent, runs off the south wing toward the swimming pool. Two skylights have been added to the south wing. There is a further shed on the property's south-west side and a circular formal garden immediately south of the driveway. The property appears to be in generally sound condition.

## Comparative Analysis

As a building dating to the 1850s, Myrnong's only Kangaroo Flat equivalent is Tweedside at 39 Crusoe Road (c. 1856). Dwellings dating to the 1850s in the City of Greater Bendigo include Dudley House at 60 View Street, Bendigo (1858); Specimen Cottage at 178-180 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo (1856); and Myrnong (1857-58). All are among the oldest surviving dwellings on the Bendigo goldfields. With regard to aesthetic presentation, Myrnong is an early local example in the picturesque genre, albeit with loosely Gothic details. The gable detailing includes an emphatic gable moulding with unusual turned-down gable-shoulders and a large a drip-moulding. Other common elements of the genre include exposed brickwork, albeit this has been overpainted at Myrnong; conspicuous chimneys; a steep pitch to roofs, and canted bays. These are also typical of Colonial picturesque architecture and its usual domestic variant, the cottage orné<sup>5</sup> and had been well-tried in earlier and more thoroughgoing examples such as Lindsay and Carthona in the Sydney suburbs (1834-1844); and in Melbourne at The Hawthorns (1846-7), Invergowrie (1846-69), Banyule (1846) and Overnewton (1849).<sup>6</sup> In this company Myrnong is an interesting although rather tentative example, with limited Gothic details and moderately pitched roofing. The lightly framed window bay is also another example of this detail locally: timber canted bays, or bays developed around expanded mullions, recurred in other Kangaroo Flat houses including later examples such as Hope Park (1867) and Millewa Hall (1872).

## Assessment Against Criteria

*Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

*Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

Myrnong, at 2 Myrnong Court, Kangaroo Flat, is of historical significance. It was built in 1857-58 for Englishman John Cappy, who was associated with deep lead mining. By the 1870s, Myrnong was a substantial 'gentleman's residence,' with extensive stabling and horse facilities. At that time the property was also located in a generous landscaped setting, although the early configuration of the property, and the scale of the grounds, has been obscured and reduced through subdivision. Myrnong is also one of the oldest residential buildings in Kangaroo Flat and one of the few remaining 1850s dwellings on the Bendigo goldfield.

*Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

Myrnong, as a building dating to the 1850s, is one of the few dwellings of this period in Kangaroo Flat and in the City of Greater Bendigo generally, and a rare example of a property dating to the 1850s which was built on the fringes of Bendigo. It is also among the oldest surviving dwellings on the Bendigo goldfields.

*Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

N/A

*Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.*

N/A

*Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.*

Myrnong is of aesthetic/architectural significance. The 1850s dwelling is an early local example in the picturesque Gothic genre, albeit simply detailed but with prominent gabling and canted window bays. Its symmetrical façade, with the tranverse roofed central section and flanking gabled wings, is evocative of the mid-Victorian period. Other elements of note include the large brick chimneys and the light timber frames and large-scaled sashes to the canted window bays. The dwelling is also substantially externally intact, albeit overpainted (i.e. not retaining its original face brick presentation).

*Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*

N/A

*Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.*

N/A

*Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.*

N/A

## **Statement of Significance**

*What is significant?*

Myrnong, at 2 Myrnong Court, Kangaroo Flat, was built in 1857-58 for Englishman John Cappy, who was associated with deep lead mining. Myrnong, set in a generous allotment, is a symmetrical single-storey, hipped and gabled, early Gothic-influenced house with its front elevation facing west. The original face brick external walls have been overpainted. The roof forms, clad in corrugated galvanised steel, comprise a transverse ridge over the linking central section of the building, and gables over the projecting flanking wings. There is a cast concrete cornice to the parapets and a reconstructed timber posted verandah to the central building section. The flanking wings have canted window bays with light timber frames and large-scaled sashes.

*How is it significant?*

Myrnong, at 2 Myrnong Court, Kangaroo Flat, is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

Myrnong is historically significant (Criterion A) as a dwelling built in 1857-58 for Englishman John Cappy, who was associated with deep lead mining. By the 1870s, Myrnong was a substantial 'gentleman's residence,' with extensive stabling and horse facilities. At that time the property was located in a generous landscaped setting, although the early configuration of the property, and the scale of the grounds, has been obscured and reduced through subdivision. Myrnong as a building dating to the 1850s, is also one of the few dwellings of this period in Kangaroo Flat and in the City of Greater Bendigo generally, and a rare example of a property dating to the 1850s which was built on the fringes of Bendigo. It is also among the oldest surviving dwellings on the Bendigo goldfields (Criterion B). Myrnong is additionally of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E), as an early local example in the picturesque Gothic genre, albeit simply detailed but with prominent gabling and canted window bays. Its symmetrical façade, with the transverse roofed central section, and flanking gabled wings, is evocative of the mid-Victorian period. Other elements of note include the large brick chimneys and the light timber frames and large-scaled sashes to the canted window bays. The dwelling is also substantially externally intact, albeit overpainted.

## Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is indicated in the above map, with the focus of significance on the 1850s building and its presentation to Myrnong Court. In preference, the external paintwork should be removed and the original facebrick presentation of the building returned. The advice of a heritage practitioner should be sought prior to undertaking such works.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

## Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

## References

Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 1987.

David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

### *Specific:*

- <sup>1</sup> The surname is also given as 'Capper,' by Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 1987, p. 141.
- <sup>2</sup> Cited by David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 87.
- <sup>3</sup> Cited by David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 86, and Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 1987, p. 141.
- <sup>4</sup> David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 86
- <sup>5</sup> James Stevens Curl, *Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture*, Oxford, 2006, p. 206. Jane Austen notes the *cottage ornee* as a usual form in her incomplete manuscript *Sanditon* (1817).
- <sup>6</sup> See Joan Kerr and James Broadbent, *Gothick Taste in the Colony of New South Wales*, Ell, Sydney, 1980, esp. Chs. 5, 6; *The Heritage of Australia*, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1981, pp. 3/3, item 1 (*Banyule*); 3/35 item 9 (*Overnewton*). Philip Goad and others, *Melbourne Architecture*, Watermark, Sydney, 2009, pp. 19 item 10 (*Banyule*), 19 item 13 (*The Hawthorns*), 20 item 16 (*Invergowrie*).