

<b>Name</b>	Former Shamrock Hotel and Store	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	N01
<b>Address</b>	63 Whewell Street, corner Miller Street, Neilborough	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 44 E3 (external inspection only)
<b>Building type</b>	Private residence (former hotel)	<b>Survey date</b>	July 2010
<b>Date of construction</b>	c. 1904	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: The original Shamrock Hotel, undated, viewed from the north-east (Source: Marie H Manning (ed), *Back-To Raywood and District Souvenir Booklet*, 1973, p. 16). Right: The Crapper family in front of the Shamrock before 1904, when the hotel was razed by fire (Source: Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 381).



Left: View of the present Shamrock Hotel from the north-east. Note chimneys. Right: East and south elevations.



Left: North elevation. Right: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo).



Proposed Heritage Overlay map (indicative only), with the subject site shown as N01.<sup>1</sup>

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

**History**

Gold was discovered in the Whipstick, at Flagstaff hill, in the early 1850s. By the middle of the decade prospectors had moved north to Elysian Flat (Neilborough). In January 1858, Elysian Flat was home to a population of approximately 2,000, and there were 50-60 stores.<sup>2</sup> An area was set aside for the township of Neilborough in 1860, and Neilborough became part of the Borough of Raywood in 1865. A timber police building, lock-up and court house had been constructed by the early 1860s. By 1887, the population of the township was 407, remaining stable at around that figure until the 1930s.<sup>3</sup>

On 23 June 1862 the District Licensing Branch granted John Bennet a license to sell liquor at the Shamrock Hotel, a substantial timber building at the corner of Miller and Whewell streets. Subsequent licensees included Samuel Pendlebury, from 1865-1871, Thomas Wherritt by 1872, Alexander Munro, Thomas Crapper by 1876 and the Harris family.<sup>4</sup> Crapper took over again in 1883, the family remaining as licensees for over half a century. The original hotel had a corner splay, an unusually tall chimney to the east side, triangular roof vents, and verandahs to the north and east. The building was razed in a fire in around 1904. The present brick structure, which replaced it on the same site, operated as a hotel and store.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Crapper (born 1829, at Oxford, England) was transported to Australia as a convict for burglary, arriving at Hobson’s Bay in 1846. He married Alice at Sandhurst in 1859, subsequently settling in the Neilborough area. Crapper’s son Albert James succeeded him as licensee. Another son, Lawrence, was a blacksmith at Neilborough. The Crappers surrendered the license of the hotel in 1942.<sup>6</sup> The Judd family were the last licensees and a Joseph Rayner adapted the hotel as a residence, a use that it retains today.<sup>7</sup> The date of conversion to residence is not known.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 4.5: Gold mining
- 5.6: Entertaining and socialising
- 5.8: Working

### Description & Integrity

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is a substantial single-storey Federation-era brick building (c. 1904), located on a corner site in Neilborough. The building has a shallow open setback to both Miller and Whewell streets. The building appears in good condition and externally is predominantly intact as built. The property is now used as a private residence. It is interesting to note that the present building retains a number of characteristics of its 1860s timber predecessor, including an unusually tall brick chimney, a corner splay, verandahs to the north and east and triangular roof vents (see page 1).

The single-storeyed former hotel and store, broadly L-shaped in plan, is built of red brick with stucco trimmings. An additional brick wing, set back from Whewell Street, extends towards the south from the cavity of the 'L'. It is possible that the rear wing was the original residential quarters. The hotel, which is built on a stone plinth, has a corner splay, and timber posted verandah to Miller and Whewell streets (north and east respectively). The verandah posts have Arts and Crafts influenced brackets; there is a band of light coloured stucco above the verandah line on the north and east elevations. The hipped roof is clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, which appears to be recent. The ridges and stamped finials are galvanised steel. There are two triangular roof vents to the north and east elevations. Small green-painted metal shamrocks are fixed at the apex of the vents, a reference to the building's name. Three tall and elaborate chimneys are visible from the street, with a fourth, far less ornate to the rear wing. The detailing of the chimney to the rear wing suggests that it may be a remnant of the original 1860s Shamrock Hotel. The three chimneys visible in the street are of cement rendered brick with prominent bases and moulding of two rolled edges tapering to the stacks. The stacks, which comprise panels of face brick with cement rendered surrounds, are surmounted by pronounced moulded cornices and a concave summit topped with an additional cornice. The window openings are timber double-hung sashes with a single pane to each sash and sloping window sills. Aside from the door to the corner splay there is an opening to the east elevation, possibly the entrance to the former store. There is a timber bay window, with three facets, to the south elevation of the hotel. The date of this apparently domestic modification is not known. A metal picket fence is located to the south of the site, with a modern metal fence to the north, topped with lattice work strip, evoking the details and Edwardian era 'blood and bandage' colours of the hotel.

Modern structures include a large water tank and modern steel-clad garage (in a 'barn' style) to the south of the site.

### Comparative Analysis

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is an essentially intact Federation-era building, which is distinguished by its unusually tall and particularly elaborate chimneys. The contrasting 'blood and bandage' colouration of the brick and stucco, and the skillion-roofed verandah are characteristics of the era. Of hotels in the local area, the Shamrock compares with the Little Sebastian Hotel at Sebastian in terms of scale, brick construction and prominence in the streetscape. The replacement of the earlier nineteenth century timber hotel is a common theme. Unusually, the rebuilt Shamrock Hotel retained the tall brick chimney, corner splay, verandahs to the north and east and triangular roof vents of the original building. The building was constructed as a hotel and store, with a private residence at the rear. In this sense it compares with the former Camp Hotel and Store at Woodvale. This combination of functions may also explain its substantial scale, which now appears out of proportion to the small township of Neilborough.

### Assessment Against Criteria

*Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

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

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store, built c. 1904, is of historical significance. There has been a hotel on this corner site since 1862, soon after the rush to Elysian Flat (Neilborough), which began in 1857. In the late-1850s there was a population of around 2,000 at the township and 50-60 stores. The present structure was built c. 1904 following a fire to its predecessor. It was used as a hotel and store until World War II. The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is now one of the last surviving (former) commercial buildings in the township. It was associated with the local Crapper family, with convict antecedents, from the 1870s to the 1920s.

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

N/A

*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.*

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is of aesthetic/architectural significance. It is a large and essentially intact Federation-era building located on a prominent corner site in the township of Neilborough. The building is distinguished by its unusually tall and particularly elaborate chimneys. The contrasting 'blood and bandage' colouration of the brick and stucco, and the skillion-roofed verandah are characteristics of the era. The Shamrock, which replaced a fire-razed predecessor, unusually retained some characteristics of the original building, including prominent chimneys, a corner splay, verandahs to the north and east and triangular roof vents. The Shamrock was rebuilt as a hotel, store and private residence, which may also explain its substantial scale, which now appears out of proportion to the small township. Alterations for the adaptation of the building to residential use have generally been sympathetic to the original form of the building, and have not comprised its capacity to demonstrate the original design intent.

*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?*

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store, built c. 1904, is located at the corner of Whewell and Miller streets, Neilborough. It is a substantial single-storey Federation-era brick building with stucco

trimmings, on a broadly 'L'-shaped in plan, and with a shallow setback to both Miller and Whewell streets. Another brick wing, which may have been the original residential quarters, extends towards the south from the cavity of the 'L'. The hotel, which is built on a stone plinth, has a corner splay, and a timber posted verandah with Arts and Crafts influenced brackets, to the north and east elevations. A band of light coloured stucco runs above the verandah line. The hipped roof is clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, and has pairs of triangular roof vents with metal shamrocks fixed at the apex of the vents, to the north and east roof planes. There are three tall and elaborate chimneys of cement rendered brick with prominent bases and mouldings visible from the street, with a fourth less ornate chimney to the rear wing. Window openings are timber double-hung sashes. In addition to the door to the corner splay there is an opening to the east elevation which was possibly the entrance to the former store. The present building retains a number of characteristics of its 1860s timber predecessor, including an unusually tall brick chimney, corner splay, verandahs to the north and east and triangular roof vents.

*How is it significant?*

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is historically significant (Criterion A) for being associated with the site of a hotel on this corner since 1862, soon after the rush to Elysian Flat (Neilborough), which began in 1857. In the late-1850s there was a population of around 2,000 at the township and 50-60 stores. The present structure was built c. 1904 following a fire to its predecessor. It was used as a hotel and store until World War II. The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is now one of the last surviving (former) commercial buildings in the township. It was also associated with the local Crapper family, with convict antecedents, from the 1870s to the 1920s. The former Shamrock Hotel and Store is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). It is a large and essentially intact Federation-era building located on a prominent corner site in the township. The building is distinguished by its unusually tall and particularly elaborate chimneys. The contrasting 'blood and bandage' colouration of the brick and stucco, and the skillion-roofed verandah are characteristics of the era. The Shamrock, which replaced a fire-razed predecessor, unusually retained some characteristics of the original building, including prominent chimneys, a corner splay, verandahs to the north and east and triangular roof vents. The Shamrock was rebuilt as a hotel, store and private residence, which may also explain its substantial scale, which now appears out of proportion to the small township.

**Recommendations**

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The recommended extent of the Overlay is illustrated in the map above. The focus of significance is on the 1904 historic building and its corner presentation to the street. The brickwork should be maintained unpainted. The modern steel-clad garage to the south of the site is not significant.

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

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984.

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

#### Specific:

<sup>1</sup> Changed map from *Heritage Policy Citations Review, 2011*. November 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, pp. 355-358.

<sup>3</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, pp. 358-60.

<sup>4</sup> Licensee details from Shire of Marong rate books, 1872; Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 360; and 'Former Shamrock Hotel' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998, source uncited.

<sup>5</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 376.

<sup>6</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, pp. 380-81.

<sup>7</sup> Pers comm., Len Rayner, son of Joseph Rayner, interview with Ray Wallace (historian), 17. August, 1998.