

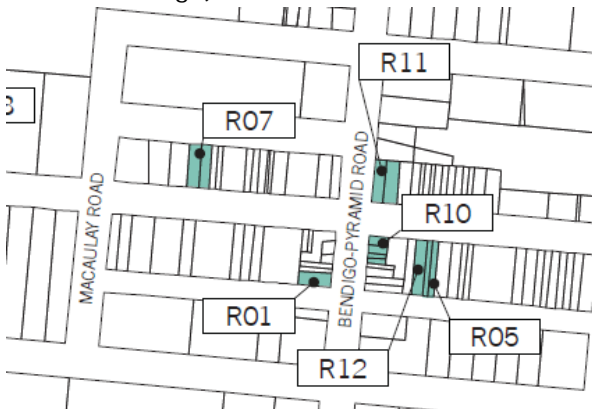
<b>Name</b>	Post Office and Quarters	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	R07
<b>Address</b>	33-37 Inglewood Street, Raywood	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 44 E2
<b>Building type</b>	Post office	<b>Survey date</b>	June 2010
<b>Date of construction</b>	1902 (quarters); 1912(post office)	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	Raywood Post Office and Quarters is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Post office entrance, at east of property. Right: Verandah at west of property.



Left: West elevation, as viewed from Inglewood Street. Right: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo).



Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown at R07.

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

## History

Within a few weeks of the October 1863 gold strike at Thunder Plains that led to the establishment of Raywood, local storekeepers sent a petition for a post office to Melbourne.<sup>1</sup> A room at Gunn's Hotel (R10) served as the town's first post office, from 4 January 1864.<sup>2</sup> Prior to that, Raywood's mail was despatched from the Elysian Flat (Neilborough) post office by the Cobb and Co coaches that ran from Sandhurst (Bendigo) to Huntly, Elysian Flat, Raywood and Sebastian before returning to Sandhurst.<sup>3</sup> Later, a separate building was erected as a post office approximately opposite the present post office on Inglewood Street.<sup>4</sup> In 1902, Isabelle McPhee commissioned the construction of the present property on the north side of Inglewood Street, adding the post office in 1912.<sup>5</sup> McPhee was postmaster from c. 1902 until at least 1930.<sup>6</sup> The building is not believed to have been built by the Commonwealth Government, as there is no mention of a post office at Raywood constructed during this period in the Department of Home Affairs reports covering post and telegraph offices.<sup>7</sup> The building also does not conform to the Postmaster General Department's designs of the period. The post office remains in use.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 3.7: Establishing and maintaining communications
- 5.3: Marketing and retailing
- 5.8: Working

## Description & Integrity

The timber post office and quarters at 33 Inglewood Street, Raywood were built in 1912 and 1902 respectively. The main component of the property was inspected externally; additions to the rear and outbuildings on the property were not inspected.

Raywood Post Office is a single-storey timber structure built in the Queen Anne manner, with hipped and gabled roof forms and a return verandah. The post office component comprises a gabled wing projecting forward of the main building line at the east side of the building. The south wall of this wing, which comprises a pair of double hung sash windows with a metal hood above, is given emphasis externally by its king post gable decoration and oculus vent. The entrance is in a faceted bay to the east, with a hipped roof. An overpainted brick chimney is located to the north of the entrance porch, projecting from the east elevation. The pitched roof of the post office wing is clad with corrugated galvanised sheet metal. The residence, to the west, has a timber posted bull nosed return verandah with cast iron lace enrichment to the south and west. Windows are generally double hung sashes. There is another projecting bay to the north-west. The hipped roof of the residence is clad in corrugated galvanised sheet metal, there are picturesque bracketed eaves. The building is clad with weatherboards and painted a dark green. It appears to be in generally sound condition.

## Comparative Analysis

In a general sense, the subject building compares to many single-storey timber buildings in Victoria in the Queen Anne style, and utilises typical elements of the style including the picturesque gables and return verandah with cast iron lacework. The 1902 building departs from the more common form and arrangement of these dwellings, however, in incorporating the post office component of 1912. While there are many timber post offices in Australia, dating from the 1900-1915 period, these were purpose-built post office buildings many of which incorporated quarters in their original design and construction. The Raywood Post Office and quarters is therefore distinctive in this group. Together with the former McGregor's Store at 54 Inglewood Street, Raywood Post Office and Quarters is also a timber commercial building of long standing in the township.

## Assessment Against Criteria

*Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

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

Raywood Post Office and Quarters, built in 1912 and 1902 respectively, is of historical significance. The original part of the building was constructed in 1902, for the postmaster Isabelle McPhee, before the post office component was added in 1912. The building has served as a post office since that time although postal services were established at Raywood as early as 1864. McPhee held the job of postmaster from c. 1902 until at least 1930, which is also a matter of interest, shedding light on one of the public positions available for women in this period, when career opportunities were generally limited.

*Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City the 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.*

Raywood Post Office and Quarters is of aesthetic/architectural significance as a substantially externally intact timber 1902/1912 building in the Queen Anne style, which combined an earlier residence with a later post office. In this way the building departs from many purpose-built post office buildings of a similar period, which incorporated quarters in their original design and construction. The building also utilises elements typical of the style including the picturesque gables and return verandah with cast iron lacework. The post office component, to the east, is given prominence by its projecting gabled wing, king post gable decoration, oculus vent and the faceted entrance porch to the east. Together with the former McGregor's Store at 54 Inglewood Street, Raywood Post Office and Quarters is additionally a timber commercial building of long standing in the township.

*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?*

Raywood Post Office is a single-storey timber structure built in the Queen Anne manner, with hipped and gabled roof forms and a return verandah. The post office component (built 1912) comprises a gabled wing projecting forward of the main building line at the east side of the building. The south wall of this wing, which comprises a pair of double hung sash windows with a metal hood above, is

given emphasis externally by its king post gable decoration and oculus vent. The entrance is in a faceted bay to the east, with a hipped roof. The residence to the west (built 1902) has a timber posted bull nosed return verandah with cast iron lace enrichment to the south and west. The hipped roof of the residence is clad in corrugated galvanised sheet metal, there are picturesque bracketed eaves. The building is clad with weatherboards and painted a dark green.

*How is it significant?*

Raywood Post Office and Quarters is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

Raywood Post Office and Quarters, built in 1912 and 1902 respectively, of 33 Inglewood Street, Raywood is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance. The property is historically significant (Criterion A), with the original part of the building constructed in 1902, for the postmaster Isabelle McPhee, before the post office component was added in 1912. The building has subsequently served as a post office for nearly 100 years, although postal services were established at Raywood as early as 1864. McPhee held the job of postmaster from c. 1902 until at least 1930, which is also a matter of interest shedding light on one of the public positions available for women in this period, when career opportunities were generally limited. Raywood Post Office and Quarters is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E) as a substantially externally intact timber 1902/1912 building in the Queen Anne style, which combined an earlier residence with a later post office. In this way the building departs from many purpose-built post office buildings of a similar period, which incorporated quarters in their original design and construction. The building also utilises elements typical of the style including the picturesque gables and return verandah with cast iron lacework. The post office component, to the east, is given prominence by its projecting gabled wing, king post gable decoration, oculus vent and the faceted entrance porch to the east. Together with the former McGregor's Store at 54 Inglewood Street, Raywood Post Office and Quarters is additionally a timber commercial building of long standing in the township.

### Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is illustrated in the above map, although the focus of significance is on the 1902/1912 building components. The additions to the rear and outbuildings on the property were not inspected.

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.

Marie H Manning (ed), *Back-To Raywood and District Souvenir Booklet*, 1973.

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

*Specific:*

- <sup>1</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 325.
- <sup>2</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 325.
- <sup>3</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 325.
- <sup>4</sup> 'Post Office and Quarters' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Post Office and Quarters' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.
- <sup>6</sup> Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 325.
- <sup>7</sup> 'Post Office and Quarters' citation, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.