

Name	Farm complex	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	WL01
Address	550 McKenzie Road, Shelbourne ¹	Map reference	VicRoads 44 C6
Building type	Private residence/farm	Survey date	July 2010 (external inspection only)
Date of construction	Barn/store, after 1857; villa, c. 1870s	Recommendation	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	The farm complex is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Front (south) elevation of the red brick villa. Right: Rear elevation.



Left: Barn/store to the north of the house. Right: Mature trees to the front garden.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as WL01.

Intactness ✓ Good Fair Poor

History

Woodstock on Loddon, south-east of Marong, was a horse changing point on the Bendigo-Tarnagulla mail run. Land was subdivided here from the late 1860s, with a school being established by 1865.² The district was primarily agricultural and pastoral.³ Michael Bourke of County Galway was an early farmer and businessman in the area, arriving in 1857. He was involved in the hotel industry, butter and cheese manufacture, bacon curing, viticulture and dairying, regularly advertising produce from his cheese factory in the *Bendigo Advertiser* during the 1880s, prior to its sale to Cocks and Co.⁴ Bourke lived on a 1.2ha (3 acre) allotment of his larger 650ha (1,600 acre) property. A red brick villa and bluestone barn/store are surviving elements of what is believed to have been a much larger farm complex. It is assumed that the barn/store was used for the preparation and storage of his produce. Michael Bourke was elected to Council for the Shire of Marong in 1877, serving as president in 1884.⁵

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 4.3: Grazing and raising livestock
- 4.4: Farming
- 5.3: Marketing and retailing
- 5.8: Working
- 6.8: Living on the fringes

Description & Integrity

The mid Victorian farm complex at 550 McKenzie Road, Marong includes a single-storey red brick villa, a two-storey bluestone store/barn and mature trees in a landscaped garden to the south. The property is located approximately 5km south-east of Marong, near the border of Loddon Shire. The site slopes from the north towards McKenzie Road at the south. The buildings were not inspected internally; references to internal elements in the following derive from the 1998 survey.⁶

House and landscape

The brick dwelling is square in plan and built on bluestone base walls. The south elevation (principal façade) is symmetrical, with a central door flanked by a window to each side. The windows are double-hung sashes, with a single pane to each sash, and projecting sandstone sills. There is a timber-post verandah, with concave roof, timber frieze rail and grapevine lacework. The verandah is accessed by a flight of three steps. The steeply pitched hipped roof of the main house is almost pyramidal; there are brick chimneys with corbels to the east and west sides of the roof ridgeline. The house has not been dated through documentary evidence, but in composition and details is estimated to date to the 1870s (see also 'Comparative Analysis'). As such, it is assumed to be a replacement of an earlier residence on the property. There are two brick skillion-roofed secondary wings directly to the rear of the main house, each with a tall brick chimney; these are early if not original elements which are flanked to the east and west by later brick additions with skillion roofs. A verandah of recent origin extends across the rear of the property and wraps around to the east and west elevations of the main house. All the roof areas of the property are clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel (green), which appears recent and in good condition. There is a cellar and a well (covered over) at the rear. The front driveway is landscaped with mature Monkey Puzzle trees and Moreton Bay figs, which are of long-standing and assumed to have been planted by Michael Bourke.

Barn/store

To the rear of the house is a substantial gable-roofed two-storey bluestone barn with tooled joints to the front (south) only, and double sliding timber doors, diagonally lined. The barn is undated, but may be a remnant of Bourke's early occupation of the site from the late-1850s. The east and west walls are battered, for stability. The loft is accessed by an external timber staircase and entered by a timber door surmounted by a long timber lintel. There is an oculi surrounded by rubbed white bricks in the centre of the south facing gable. Ventilation at the lower levels is by narrow slits. The roof is clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel. Inside, the main beams are adzed (i.e. they show evidence of having been cut with a steel cutting blade, or adze) attached at right angles to a wooden handle, used for dressing timber and span approximately six metres. There is a well at the rear and associated timber-framed outbuildings. The barn appears to be in generally sound condition, albeit with some evidence of structural movement.

Other elements

Attached to both the east and west elevations of the barn are later corrugated galvanised steel clad additions, with skillion roofs and large timber barn-style doors. To either side of these again, flanking the barn but projecting further forward (as 'wings'), are two gable-ended steel clad sheds, on rectilinear footprints. These components, with the barn at the centre, form a complementary group of working/storage buildings. Neither the additions to the barn, or the flanking sheds, have been investigated in detail but may be of long standing.

An additional ruin, referred to in the 1998 survey, was not found during the site visit. This brick structure, measuring approximately 15m x 4m on plan was set into a nearby hill and partially submerged.

Comparative Analysis

As a farm complex with a farmhouse and associated outbuildings related to food production, the property at 550 McKenzie Road compares with the former Monmore Vineyard and Butter Factory at Woodvale (not inspected for this survey). The Monmore complex is later than the Bourke property, dating to the 1880s. Seen in isolation the house compares with Woodville at 2 Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat (KF22, built 1872) and 24 Chapel Street, Kangaroo Flat (KF20, built 1872), being a symmetrical, unpretentious, red brick property with a steeply pitched hipped roof and concave verandah – Woodville's verandah has been modified. The barn or store is unusual in the district, with regard to its battered walls, presumed to be for stability, and in having two storeys, there being relatively few two-storey buildings of any description in the area.

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 mid Victorian farm complex at 550 McKenzie Road, Marong is of historical significance for its associations with early settlement at Woodstock on Loddon and for its capacity to demonstrate aspects of the agricultural and pastoral practices of Michael Bourke, a local politician and major dairy, meats and wine producer in the Bendigo hinterland from the late-1850s. The significance is enhanced by the survival of the unusual bluestone barn/store, believed to date to the late-1850s. The combination of house, barn and mature trees, all dating from the Bourke period of ownership and operation, is additionally of note.

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

The barn or store at the farm complex is unusual in the district, with regard to its battered walls, presumed to be for stability, and in having two storeys, there being relatively few two-storey buildings of any description in the area.

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 farm complex at 550 McKenzie Road is of aesthetic/architectural significance. The red brick house is a largely intact example of a simply detailed mid Victorian villa, with a steeply pitched hipped roof,

symmetrical façade, timber-post verandah with concave roof, and grape motifs to the cast iron verandah lacework which refer to the viticultural activities of the historic property. The c. 1850s gabled bluestone barn is a comparatively rare example of this type of structure in the area with its battered walls and two storey massing. The building is enhanced by its stone construction, double sliding timber doors, oculi in the centre of the south facing gable, and loft with external access. The mature trees in the landscaped garden setting, including Monkey Puzzle trees and Moreton Bay figs, further enhance the aesthetic significance.

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 mid-Victorian farm complex at 550 McKenzie Road, Marong includes a single-storey red brick villa, a two-storey bluestone store/barn and mature trees in a landscaped garden to the south. The brick dwelling (c. 1870s) is square in plan and built on bluestone base walls. The south elevation (principal façade) is symmetrical, with a central door flanked by a window to each side. The windows are double-hung sashes, and there is a timber-post verandah, with concave roof, timber frieze rail and grapevine lacework. To the rear of the house is a substantial gable-roofed two-storey bluestone barn (c. 1850s) whose east and west walls are battered. The loft is accessed by an external timber staircase and entered by a timber door surmounted by a long timber lintel. Additional elements at the site include single-storey skillion-roofed additions to the east and west of the barn, and two gable-ended steel clad sheds, which form a complementary group of working/storage buildings. The mature trees in the landscaped garden at the south of the property include Monkey Puzzle trees and Moreton Bay figs.

How is it significant?

The farm complex is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

The farm complex at 550 McKenzie Road, approximately 5km south-east of Marong, is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance. The property is of historical significance (Criterion A) for its associations with early settlement at Woodstock on Loddon, and for its capacity to demonstrate aspects of the agricultural and pastoral practices of Michael Bourke, a local politician and major dairy, meats and wine producer in the Bendigo hinterland from the late-1850s. The significance is enhanced by the survival of the unusual bluestone barn/store, believed to date to the late-1850s. The combination of house, barn and mature trees, all dating from the Bourke period of ownership and operation, is additionally of note. The property is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). The red brick house is a largely intact example of a simply detailed mid Victorian villa, with a steeply pitched hipped roof, symmetrical façade, timber-post verandah with concave roof, and grape motifs to the cast iron verandah lacework which refer to the viticultural activities of the historic property. The 1850s gabled bluestone barn is a comparatively rare example of this type of structure in the area with its battered walls and two storey massing (Criterion B). The building is enhanced by

its stone construction, double sliding timber doors, oculi in the centre of the south facing gable, and loft with external access. The mature trees in the landscaped garden setting, including Monkey Puzzle trees and Moreton Bay figs, further enhance the aesthetic significance.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The Overlay area is indicated in the above map, although the focus of significance is on the red brick villa and bluestone barn, and the landscaped area to the south, including the Monkey Puzzle trees and Moreton Bay figs. The red brick and stone materials to the buildings should remain unpainted. The brick secondary wings to the dwelling, with the tall chimneys, are contributory elements of the house. The skillion-roofed additions to the east and west elevations of the barn, and the flanking sheds, are also potentially contributory elements, pending further investigation and confirmation.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	Yes
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.

Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back, The History of the Marong Shire*, Shire of Marong, 1985.

David Horsfall (ed), *Shire of Marong 1864-1964*, Shire of Marong.

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

Specific:

- ¹ Changed suburb from Marong, *Heritage Policy Citations Review*, 2011. November 2011.
- ² Andrew Ward, City of Greater Bendigo (Marong District) Heritage Study, Stage 1 Report, 1994, unpaginated.
- ³ F F Bailliere, *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*, 1879, p. 515
- ⁴ Ruth Hopkins, *Moving Forward, Looking Back, The History of the Marong Shire*, Shire of Marong, 1985, p. 75.
- ⁵ 'Farm complex,' citation for 550 McKenzie Road, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.
- ⁶ 'Farm complex,' citation for 550 McKenzie Road, Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.