

**MYCUMBENE
HOUSE
31-33 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD,**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

STUDY GRADING: B

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1900c

FIRST OWNER : RAE, WILLIAM



CITATION:

History

W A Rae was granted this site in 1905 when it is likely that the house was built¹. However, William Beebe called tenders for a house for W Rae in this street in 1900². Subsequently George F Rae occupied the house, being replaced by Mrs Mary Rae in the 1930s³. John Lavery lived there in the 1940s-60s⁴. (see 35 happy Valley Road)

1 parish plan CA209/A
MUAJ
D1920-40
4 D1944-62, Rate search needed

**BENDIGO & EAGLEHAWK HERITAGE STUDY-SIGNIFICANT SITES
GRAEME BUTLER & ASSOCIATES**

Description

Build from red (tuck-pointed on the front) and cream face brickwork, the house possesses the typical Italianate hipped roof and verandahed form typical of the late 19th century. Superimposed on this are two gables, set in the roof over shallow window bays which extend below the convex-profile verandah. These echo the Queen Anne revival style, popularised here mainly from inspiration by American examples, and possess the gable rising-sun motif which is characteristic of many Bendigo and Eaglehawk late 19th and early 20th century house designs. One gable still possesses a (zinc?) finial and orb at the apex.

The verandah is supported on turned posts with capitals and the cast-iron iron frieze is panelled with iron brackets and fringing below. Timber balustrading is comprised of slatting set (in part) as a ric-rac pattern, reflecting the Far-Eastern influence of India and China. Chimneys are of face red brick with cemented cornices and barrelled tops.

Landscape

The landscape setting, shared with 35 Happy Valley Road, comprised of mature trees at the rear with semi-mature, mainly evergreen exotic shrubs and trees, some typical of the Edwardian era, at the front. Mature trees include good specimen of 'Araucaria bidwillii' and 'Cupressus funebris' 'Grevillea robusta' 'Ficus macrophylla' and 'Nerium oleander' hedge and photinia; many bulbs and succulents probably original plantings. Of local significance.

Context

The house provides a significant pair, viewed with 35 Happy Valley Road, in both an architectural and landscape sense. The gold workings behind and in front of the house are also historically supportive, along with the more distant Goldmines Hotel and 9 Happy Valley Road.

Significance

Architecturally, the house has the familiar Beebe trademarks (gable, American influence) which makes the design distinctively of the Bendigo area. It also relates closely to the earlier Rae house and the two can be recognised as connected historically, particularly with the fine exotic garden shared by both houses. Historically, the houses' proximity to Rae's mine and the others in the group also its place in the greater building group which includes the Gold Mines Hotel and Coath cottage, is regionally and locally significant, given the importance of gold to the district.