

**BON ACCORD  
HOUSE  
35 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, IRONBARK**

**SURVEY DATE: 1991-2**

**STUDY GRADING: A**

**CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1872**

**FIRST OWNER : RAE, WILLIAM**



**CITATION:**

**History**

William Rae was another 'quartz-reefer' who made a fortune from the Victoria Reef. His timber home in Happy Valley was no longer adequate for a man of such standing, so he had two grand rooms with entrance hall and portico added in 1872. One room has the floral ceiling and decorative cornice in original condition. There is a

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

small room beneath the earlier house for cool summer living. A decline in his fortunes may have precluded further building<sup>1</sup>.

### **Description**

Set on a hill overlooking the Victoria Hill gold mining area, the Bon Accord complex consists of many construction stages, the most notable being the grand double-fronted Italianate wing which provides the north-facing entrance to the house. Almost deep enough for use as a porte-cochere, the pedimented entrance porch, with its Doric detailing (columns and pilasters), is an impressive house entry, perhaps unique in Bendigo or Eaglehawk. The facade behind it has a deeply ruled, smooth rusticated stucco facing with moulded architraves around, and bracketed flat pediment moulded atop each of the two windows.

A recessed doorway and panels set below each window pediment are further refinements, along with symmetrically-placed corniced chimneys, eaves brackets and associated rosettes. The main roof form is typically (for the style) hipped and the cladding slate. Behind this elevation lies a series of timber wings with corrugated iron clad, mainly gabled roofs. These appear to predate the front wing by a considerable period. To the west of the house is a gabled face-brick stable and loft, fronting on to a steep driveway on to Union Street. The garden setting is notable with a number of succulents and cacti clumped at intervals around the 'house' yard and many mature exotic trees including a Bunya Bunya pine, silky oak, a cypress specimen and a Canary Island Date Palm. Added to these are pepper tree groves which extend beyond the property boundary.

### **External Integrity**

The portico roofing (slates?) has been replaced with 20th century cement Marseilles pattern tiles, but otherwise (given the above development sequence) the complex is generally original, except for minor rear additions.

### **Landscape**

Possible original layout; plantings include 'Ficus macrophylla,' 'Douglas fir,' hedge of 'Nerium oleander,' fine specimen of 'Araucaria bidwillii,' 'Phoenix canariensis' (numerous), cacti and succulents (various), 'Eucalyptus sp.'

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