FORMER CHURCH OF ENGLAND RECTORY *(LOYOLA)*

ADDRESS: 45 Church Street, Wodonga

STUDY NUMBER: 2B HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1907

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



(RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The *former Church of England Rectory (Loyola*) at 45 Church Street, Wodonga is significant. The significant elements of the house are the form, gable and hipped roof clad in corrugated sheet metal (traditional sizing); brick chimneys with terracotta chimney pots; shiplap cladding, 1906 founding stone; bullnose verandah with decorative cast iron columns, brackets and frieze; timber front door with sidelights and top light with decorative glass; and timber double hung sash windows.

The non-significant elements include the concrete deck of the front verandah, rear alterations/additions, front fence, timber carport and associated brick paving; and rear shed/garage.

How is it significant?

The *former Church of England Rectory (Loyola*) at 45 Church Street is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The *former Church of England Rectory (Loyola*) is significant due to its historical associations with the Anglican Church in Wodonga and the reverends who lived there for at least 60 years. It provides a physical link to the former St Luke's Church of England. It also has associations due to the local community fundraising efforts and a location for gatherings and the like such as hosting the former Governor of Victoria. (Criterion A)

The *former Church of England Rectory (Loyola*) is of aesthetic significance as a good, intact and relatively commodious residence from the Federation period which is distinguished by the timber screens to the gable end/s, shiplap cladding, and decorative elements including the cast iron to the verandah and glass at the front entry. (Criterion E)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The single storey, Federation period timber house at 45 Church Street, known as *Loyola*, is visible from the public realm behind a reproduction looped wire fence with timber posts to the front boundary. There is brick paving to the contemporary timber carport to the south, which partly obscures the house and reproduces detail from it. The front garden includes silver birch trees and cottage garden-like planting.

It has a gable and hip roof, clad in corrugated sheet metal (in traditional sized sheets and painted Indian red), and is pierced by two (overpainted) brick chimneys with a corbelled cap, each surmounted by two terracotta chimney pots. The gable ends feature a timber screen and bargeboard with a scalloped profile and central finial.

The building is clad in shiplap boards. An offset/corner verandah with a bullnose roof features decorative cast iron brackets and frieze supported by fluted cast iron columns on a non-original concrete deck.

The façade is asymmetrical and includes a gable ended projecting bay to the east and another to the side/south. The original foundation stone survives at the base on the right-hand side, engraved as follows: 'THIS STONE WAS LAID BY MRS ARMSTRONG 31ST OCT. 1906'.

The entry is original with a central four-panelled timber door, red etched glass to the sidelights, and leadlight with stained glass featuring a floral motif to the top light, typical of the period.

There are two pairs of timber, double hung sashes windows to the front, with the windows to the side elevations not being paired.

The house has been altered/extended to the rear and to the south-west at the rear is a late 20th century shed/garage with a gable roof.



Façade, north end (RBA, June 2024)



Façade, from south (Biosis, March 2020)



Foundation stone (Biosis, March 2020)

HISTORIC THEMES

6.5 Living in country towns

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

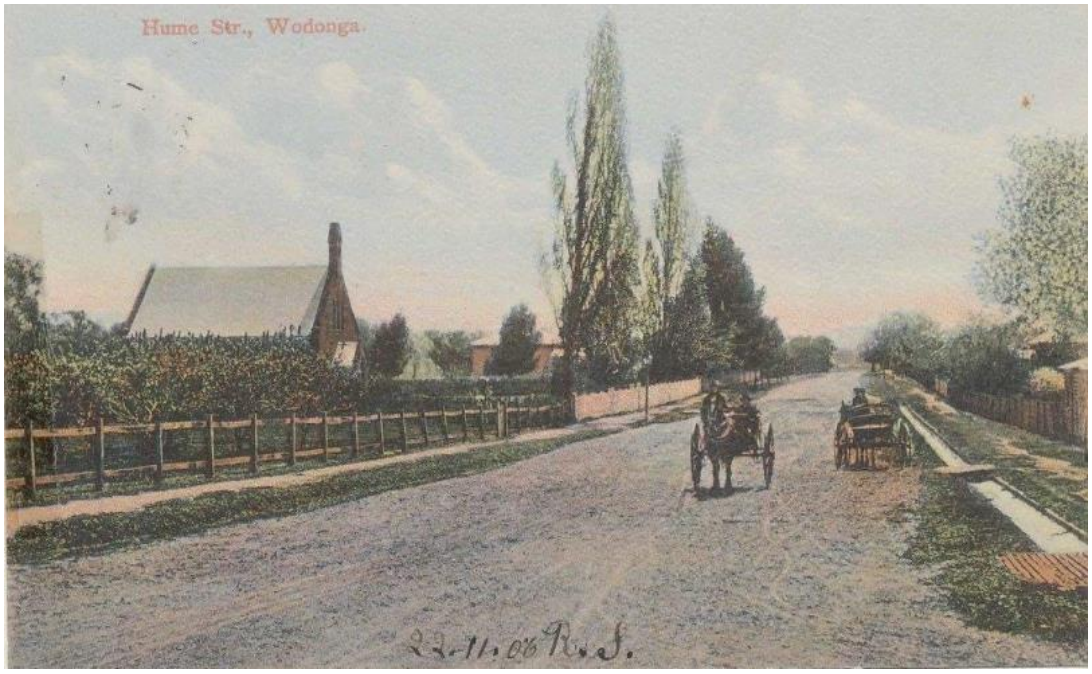
HISTORY

The subject site originally formed part of Crown Allotment 8, section I, which had an area of a over half acre and was acquired by Fred Street in June 1858. Street also acquired an adjoining allotment to the north (no. 9) and in Leneva (Wodonga Township plan W308-S4).



Wodonga Township plan W308-S4, showing approximate location of subject site

Subsequently the land at the corner of South and Hume/Church streets was acquired by the Anglican Church and St Luke's, constructed of local stone, was opened on 15 March 1863. It was demolished in 1969 and a new church built in Beechworth Road (Wodonga Historical Society Archives).



Postcard of Hume (Church) Street, Wodonga showing the former St Luke's Church, November 1906.

In November 1906, details of a new Anglican rectory were reported as follows:

> Recently the board of guardians of St Luke' Church of England, Wodonga, disposed-of the rectory in South street to Dr Schlink, with a view to erecting a more up--to-date structure on the church ground. The new rectory will consist of 5 rooms, besides kitchen, study, and bathroom. The contract for the building has been let to Mr G. Swain (Wodonga and Towong Sentinel 1906).

The foundation stone for the new rectory was laid on 31 October 1906, the event of which was recorded in a local newspaper as follows 'the ceremony, of laying the foundation stone took place on Wednesday and was performed by Mrs. Armstrong, wife of the Bishop of Wangaratta' (*Ovens and Murray Advertiser* 1906*).*

A tender for a stable and coach house on the site were offered in mid-1907 (presumed demolished).

In 1907 the existing house at 45 Church Street was completed for £285.

Reverend W A Williams lived at the rectory in 1919 and was recorded as residing there in 1949. In 1945 the parish community of St Luke's sought permission from Council to erect the ironwork fence in front of church and rectory (*Wodonga and Towong Sentinel* 1949). Reverent A R May resided in the rectory in 1951, followed by Reverend A R Clark who was the last priest to live there.

Reverend Clark was in residence in 1964 when he invited the Governor of Victoria, Rohan Delacombe to lay the foundation stone at the new church, St John's, in Beechworth Road. The

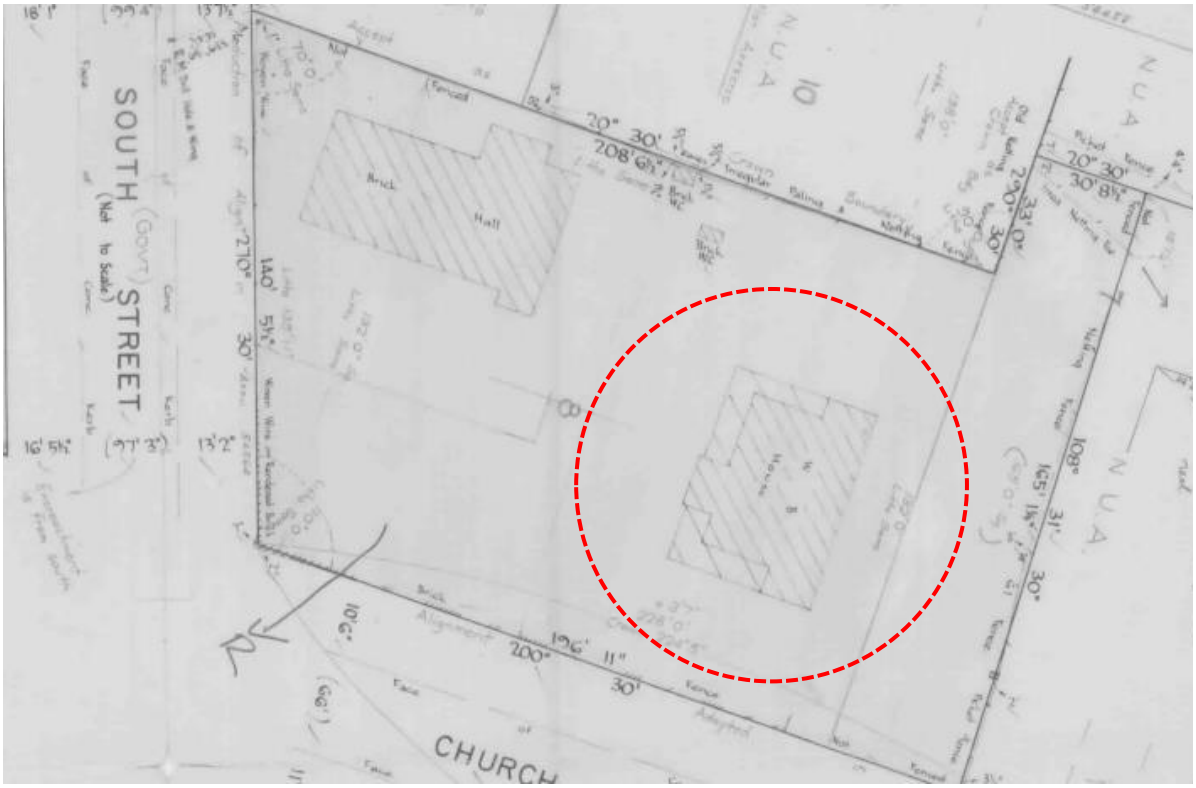
Governor was entertained later at afternoon tea at St Luke's Rectory. Soon after, the rectory became used a private residence (Wodonga Historical Society Archives).

The building is evident on the following 1963 aerial.



1963 aerial with subject place highlighted. (CAD8, Run 2, Frame 268, Geoscience Australia)

The allotment was subdivided in 1971 with a new title issued for the rectory, and it is around this time that it was presumably sold by the church. The footprint to the front is evident however the rear section has been altered including the removal of another corner verndah.



Survey of land prior to subdivision with the contemporary footprint of the subject house highlighted. (Source: Draughtman's Report, AP55227, 21 April 1971, LASSI)

COMPARISON

Few residences from the Federation period have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay. Whilst the premier example from this period – *Cambourne* at 2 High Street, Wodonga (HO1/VHR - H233) – is of a similar date it is a much grander, masonry building and so not a ready comparator.

Bailabbe, at 232 Beechworth Rd, Wodonga (HO24) bears some comparison as it is also clad in shiplapped boards but is indicative of the Victorian Survival style, that is, generally appears as being from the 19th century but dates to the early 20th century. It however has a symmetrical façade, rather than an asymmetrical façade, and hip roof without gable ends which are a key feature of the subject house. To the north (Brockley Street) elevation, *Bailabbe* does have a faceted bay, which may be an addition.

There is a group of three adjacent timber houses from the Federation period at 241, 243, 245 Beechworth Road (HO26, 27, 28) which have prominent gambrel roofs and exposed rafter ends typical of the period however have symmetrical facades more typical of the late 19th century rather than asymmetrical massing with an off-centre gable end.

Within the Lawrence Street Precinct (HO48), a few houses date to the Federation period however are often indicative of the Victorian Survival style (e.g. 5 Ethel Street, 152 Lawrence Street), with only the house at 151 Lawrence Street being broadly reflective of the Queen Anne style and similarly has an asymmetrical massing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that *former Church of England Rectory (Loyola*) at 45 Church Street, Wodonga is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme with external paint controls.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the parcel of land (Lot 2/LP91033) on which the house is located as outlined below.



Recommended extent of the Heritage Overlay (red line)
(Source: Nearmap, June 2024)

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Planning Controls	Y/N
External Paint Controls Apply?	Y
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	N
Tree Controls Apply?	N
Solar Energy System Controls?	Y
Outbuildings or Fences Not Exempt Under Clause 43.01-4?	N
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register Under the Heritage Act 2017?	N
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	Y
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	N

REFERENCES

1906 'Wodonga and Towong Sentinel (Vic.:1885 – 1954) 2 November, p.2., http://nla.gov.au/nla-news-article69548329.

1906 WODONGA. (1906, November 3). *Ovens and Murray Advertiser (Beechworth, Vic.: 1855 - 1918)*, p. 8. http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200556107

1907 'Tenders', Wodonga and Towong Sentinel, 14 June 1907, p3

1949 'CHURCH NEWS' Wodonga and Towong Sentinel (Vic.:1885 – 1954) 14 January, p.2., http://nla.gov.au/nla-news-article69597335.

Wodonga Historical Society Archives.