# RUSSELL RESIDENCE (former)

ADDRESS: 27 Hovell Street, Wodonga

STUDY NUMBER: 2B  HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1933

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



(RBA, June 2024)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### What is significant?

The *Russell Residence (former)* at 27 Hovell Street, Wodonga is significant. Built in 1933, the significant elements are the form, triple gable roof, clad in sheet metal, chimney, gable ends with battens and decorative timber vents, red brick walls with rendered plinth and frieze, front porch with squat columns, and timber sash windows, which are box framed with decorative lead lighting to the façade. The front fence of red brick, wire mesh panels, and original gates is also significant.

The non-significant elements are the gabled roof carport/garage and rear additions/alterations.

### How is it significant?

The *Russell Residence (former)* at 27 Hovell Street, Wodonga is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Wodonga.

**Why is it significant?**

The *Russell Residence (former)* is of historical significance as it reflects the growth in the township during the interwar years, a key development phase associated with the construction of the Hume Weir and by its commodiousness, the relative prosperity of the township. (Criterion A)

The *Russell Residence (former)* is of aesthetic significance as an intact and fine example of the Californian bungalow type with multiple gable ends to the façade. Characteristic of the style, there are varied wall finishes, articulation of the gable ends, porch with squat columns, and timber box-framed windows to the façade with leadlight windows and a complementary original fence. (Criterion E)

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

27 Hovell Street is a long rectangular block on which the Californian bungalow sits at the front. A gravel driveway extends along the southern side of the house and there is a garage to the non-original gabled roof carport.

The house is visible behind an original fence comprised of red brick piers and plinth with panels of wire mesh, that incorporates paired, tubular steel-framed vehicular gates and a central pedestrian gate.

The Californian bungalow has a broad gable roof, clad in corrugated sheet metal with two minor gabled sections to the front. A red brick chimney with a rendered cap is partly obscured from the front. The gable ends are rendered with battens over and a central louvred vent in a pedimented frame/architrave. The soffits are lined with timber boards with exposed rafter ends to the side elevations.



(RBA, June 2024)

The walls are mostly red brick in stretcher bond with a smooth rendered plinth and roughcast rendered frieze. The front porch has a brick balustrade with squat masonry columns, a ceiling of battened sheeting, and a concrete deck.

The visible windows are timber-framed, double hung sashes. To the façade, they are box framed with leadlighting and stained glass incorporating pendant motifs. To the south side, the windows are recessed in the wall with concrete lintels and flush rendered sills.

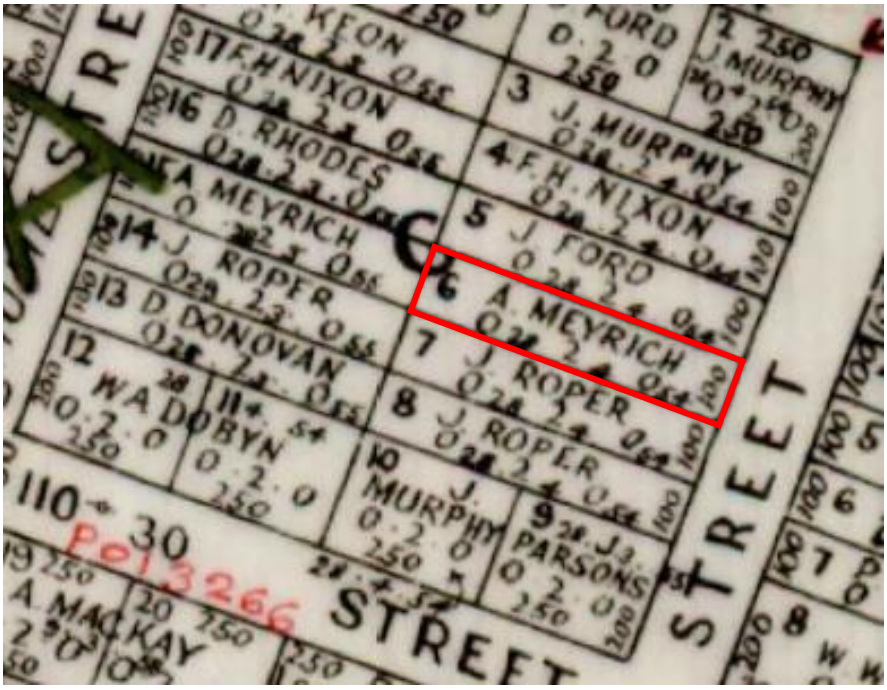
## HISTORIC THEMES

6.5 Living in country towns

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

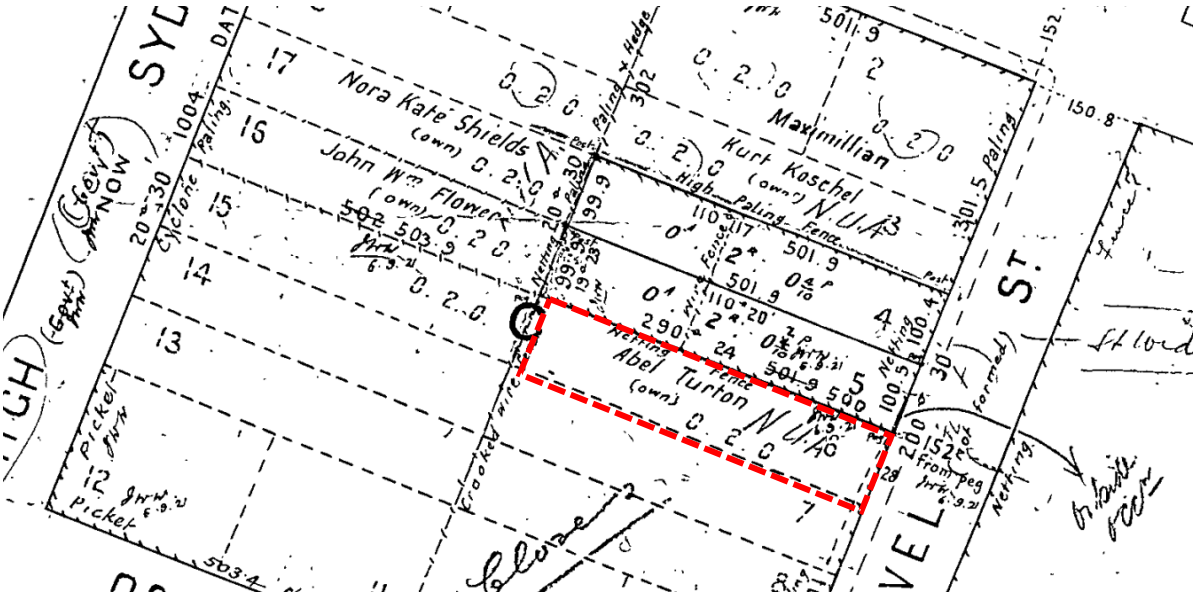
## HISTORY

The subject is located on Crown Allotment 6, Section C in the Township of Wodonga which was first purchased by A Meyrich in 1854 along with the adjoining Allotment 15 fronting High Stret.




Wodonga Township plan with Allotment 6 highlighted. (PROV)

Rates records indicate that the vacant land had been purchased by labourer Elli Turton by 1900, who at this time also had acquired the nearby allotments 13 and 15 to High Street. Abel Turton took ownership of allotments 6 and 15 in 1908 and is recorded as being a local fireman and owner of a local coach building business in High Street, Wodonga (City of Wodonga Municipal Rates Records; Wodonga Historical Society Archives). A plan from 1921 identifies him as the owner and that was undeveloped at that time.




1921 plan, showing the site undeveloped and owned by Abel Turton (AP44334)

Postal employee William Russell purchased the property (allotment 6) in 1933 at which time the existing bungalow was constructed (City of Wodonga Municipal Rates Records; Wodonga Historical Society Archives). The house is evident on the following aerial of 1963 as is a building in a similar location to the extant shed/garage along the southern boundary but the structure has likely been modified.



1963 aerial with subject place highlighted. (CAD8, Run 2, Frame 269, Geoscience Australia)

## COMPARISON

Several interwar period bungalows have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay reflecting that this was a major growth phase in Wodonga and municipality generally, associated with the construction of the Hume Weir, which commenced in 1919. The bungalow mode

predominated during the 1920s and remained prevalent throughout the 1930s in the municipality.

The subject house is indicative of a Californian bungalow type however is distinguished from most by its triple gable frontage and leadlight.

Among the existing heritage overlays, there is minimal comparison. Although there are several bungalows within the Lawrence Street Precinct (HO48), the main comparator is the timber example at 134 Lawrence Street with its prominent gable ends aligned to the front. It has a verandah rather than a porch and multi-paned sashes rather than lead lighting and stained glass. The timber house at no. 150 also features paired but separate gable ends. other bungalows include an off-centre gable end within a main hip roof format.

There is no direct comparison with any of the interwar period houses along the Beechworth Road included in the Schedule as these bungalows tend to date to the later 1930s and lack gable ends.

## EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that *Russell Residence (former)* at 27 Hovell Street, Wodonga is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme with front fence controls.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the parcel of land (Allotment 6, Section C\PP5869) on which the house and fence are located as outlined below.




(VicPlan)

## PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

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

## REFERENCES

AP44334 (lassi-spear)

City of Wodonga Municipal Rates Records

Wodonga Historical Society Archives

Wodonga Township plan (W308-S4)