TIMBER HOUSE

ADDRESS: 106 Hume Street, Wodonga

STUDY NUMBER: 2B HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

DATE: 1910-1911

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Excellent



(RBA, June 2024)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The Timber House at 106 Hume Street, Wodonga, erected during 1910-11 for the local vigneron Herbert Trudewind as a rental property, is significant. The significant elements are the asymmetrical massing; gambrel roof clad in corrugated sheet metal, gable end with battened sheeting, exposed rafter ends, timber lined soffit, red brick chimneys; weatherboard cladding, bullnose verandah and timber fretwork; front entry with sidelights and toplight; tripartite timber double hung sash windows with sidelights and window hoods. The mature Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) to the front north boundary is also significant.

The non-significant elements are the steel poles and concrete deck to the verandah, the front fence of cement blocks, the additions to the rear skillion (east part), and the sheds and the like to the rear yard.

How is it significant?

The Timber House at 106 Hume Street, Wodonga is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Wodonga.

Why is it significant?

The Timber House at 106 Hume Street, Wodonga is of historical significance as a surviving Federation period weatherboard house and so illustrative of an early development phase within the township at the beginning of the 20th century, when it continued to progress due to the ongoing activity as a crossing place. (Criterion A)

The Timber House is of representative is a good and largely intact example of economical version of the Queen Anne style, typical of the Federation period. It retains elements characteristic of the style including the gambrel roof form, battened sheeting the gable end, exposed rafter ends, and timber fretwork to the verandah. The mature Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) contributes to the significance of the heritage place as landscape feature typical of the early/mid-20th century. (Criterion D)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The house is located at the edge of the expanding commercial area of Wodonga and is visible from the public domain behind a textured concrete block front fence, likely dating to mid-20th century. The garden comprises a central lawn with perimeter plantings including a mature Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) to the front north boundary. There a concrete driveway with a central grassy island extending along the south side of the house.



House from north (RBA, June 2024)

The weatherboard clad house has an asymmetrical form with a picturesque roof featuring exposed rafter ends and comprised of a main gambrel section and projecting gable end. The roof is clad in corrugated sheet metal, unpainted and in traditional sheet sizes, and is punctuated by a red brick chimney with a corbelled cap. The gable end has battened sheeting and the soffit is timber lined.

The offset verandah has a roof with a bullnose profile and a timber fretwork frieze which is supported by non-original steel poles. The deck is concrete.

The front entry features sidelights and a toplight, either side of which are tripartite timber double hung sash windows with sidelights of coloured glass. The projecting bay has a window hood with decorative timber brackets. An original window survives to both side elevations.

To the rear, the original skillion section has been extended eastwards, with a red brick chimney, which has limited visibility, defining the junction between the two. There are non-original windows to each side.

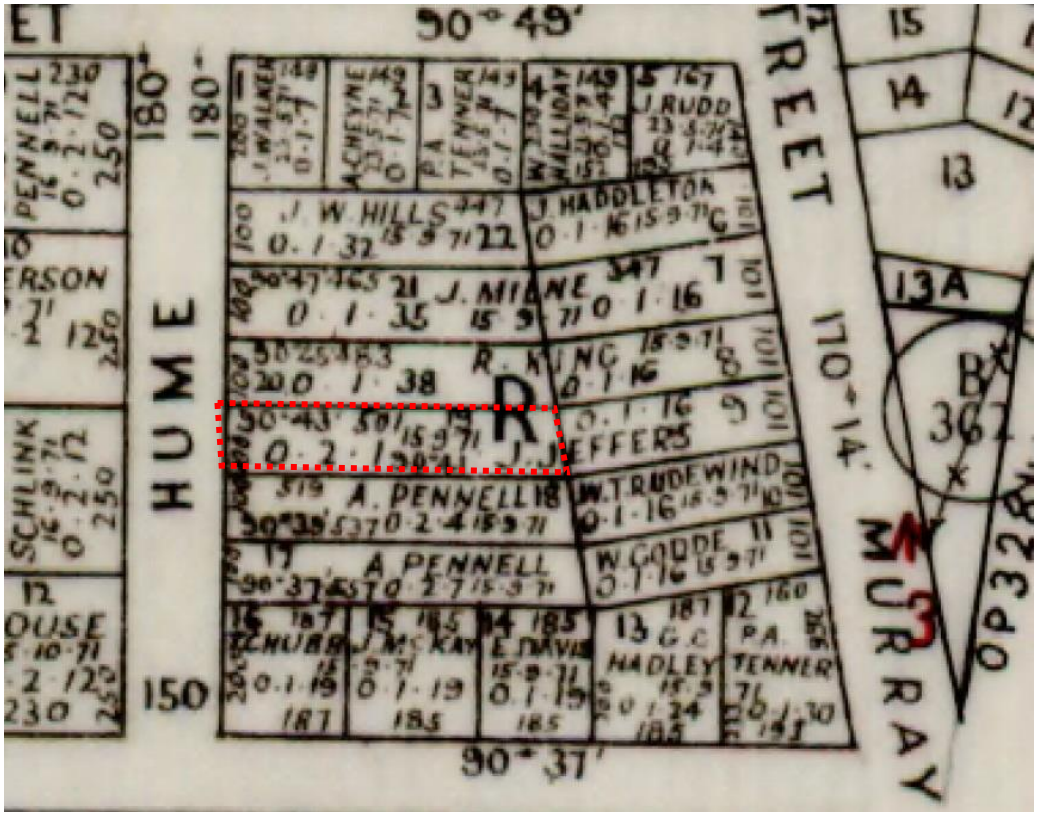
HISTORIC THEMES

6.5 Living in country towns

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

HISTORY

The subject site originally formed part of a half-acre parcel of land in the Township of Wodonga – Crown Allotment 18, Section R – which was first purchased by Jacob Pennell on 15 September 1871 (Title 1), however A Pennell is noted on the following Township Plan. Pennell also acquired CA17 adjoining to the south at that time.



Wodonga Township Plan (W308, sheet 4, Landata)

CA18 changed hands a few times during the late 19th century – Edward Donnelly of Albury acquired it in 1888, George Henry Billson of Albury in 1890, and Herbert Trudewind of Wodonga, vigneron in 1898, who held the site for 22 years (Title 1).

Rate records identify a fenced allotment from 1902 to 1910 and in the following year,1910-1911, identify 'Residence on' under the surname Bull. Entries for other Wodonga properties record a Herbert Edgar Bull, who is reported to have committed suicide, at the age of 41, after being arrested for bank fraud in 1915 (Wodonga Historical Society Archives). As such, the house must have been built for Herbert Trudewind as a rental property.

The property was transferred to Roy Samuel Benson, grocer of Wodonga, in December 1920, who retained it for 44 years until his death in June 1964. His widow, Catherine May, inherited it in February 1966 and in February 1970, the rear/eastern half of the holdings was sold, which has been incorporated into a large carpark (Title 1). In 1954, Roy Benson was identified as a local councillor (*Wodonga and Towong Sentinel)*.

The following 1963 aerial shows planting along the northern boundary which likely includes the extant *Washingtonia robusta*.



1963 aerial, showing the location of the subject place (dashed) and rear half sold in 1970 (solid) (CAD8, Run 2, Frame 269, Geoscience Australia)

In May 1981, Catherine passed in July 1981, the remaining front section was transferred to Kenneth Roy Benson, a moulder who was living at the site (Titles 1 + 2).

COMPARISON

To date, no substantial examples of the Queen Anne style, which is characteristic of the Federation period, have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

Within the Lawrence Street Precinct (HO48), the house at 151 Lawrence Street is broadly indicative of the Queen Anne style but less distinctive. A few houses in the precinct date to the Federation period however are indicative of the Victorian Survival style, that is, generally appear as being from the 19th century but date to the early 20th century.

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 rather than asymmetrical massing with an off-centre gable end which is intrinsic to the Queen Anne style.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that the Timber House at 106 Hume Street, Wodonga is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wodonga Planning Scheme.

The extent of the heritage overlay should include the parcel of land (Lot 1/TP78817) on which the house and mature Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) are located as outlined below.



(Nearmap, 22 June 2024)

PLANNING SCHEME CONTROLS

Planning Controls	Y/N
External Paint Controls Apply?	Y
Internal Alteration Controls Apply?	N
Tree Controls Apply?	Y - Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*)
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

Certificate of Title 1, vol. 453, folio 577

Certificate of Title 2, vol. 9439, folio 677

Municipality of Wodonga Rates Records

Wodonga Historical Society Archives

'Wodonga Shire Council', *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 12 February 1954, p3