# *FAIRVIEW*

ADDRESS: 1134 Mahers Road, Bonegilla

STUDY No.: 2C HO No.: ..... HERMES No.: 27742

DATE: 1928

CONDITION: Good

INTEGRITY: Good



North elevation (Source: Council, June 2024)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### What is significant?

*Fairview*, or the former Maher Homestead, at 1134 Mahers Road, Bonegilla, which was likely constructed in 1928, is significant.

The significant elements of the weatherboard bungalow are the massing, roof clad in corrugated sheet metal, gable ends and areas of shingling, distinctive verandah posts and architraves to the openings, original doors, casement windows, decorative glass (stained and leadlight), and projecting gable end supported on tapered roughcast rendered pillars surmounted by a timber post.

The trees and other elements are not significant, including all outbuildings, though the planting regime is in keeping with the early 20th century format.

**How is it significant?**

*Fairview* at 1134 Mahers Road, Bonegilla is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Wodonga.

**Why is it significant?**

*Fairview* is of historical significance as being demonstrative of the substantial homes that were erected in the rural parts of the municipality during the early 20th century which reflect/suggest the relative prosperity. The place also provides a tangible link to a prominent Bonegilla pastoral family, the Mahers (recognised in the naming of a major road and nearby hill), both their early occupation (from the 1870s) and ongoing presence in the area for over a century. (Criterion A)

*Fairview* is of aesthetic significance as a substantial, intact and fine timber bungalow with much distinctive detailing such as the treatment of the gable ends (timber posts and/or tapered piers, and large louvred vents), the profiles of the openings (pinched near the top of the jambs and lintels with flared ends and a gently curving outline), and the extensive use of decorative glass (stained and leadlight). (Criterion E)

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The interwar period house is setback over 100 metres from Mahers Road and is partly visible near the apex of a gentle rise.

There are various established exotic trees, evergreen and deciduous, in the vicinity of the house, and a few other eucalypts more broadly. Whilst trees have been planted in the vicinity of the house and more broadly on the site for over a century, the extant regime is generally less than 50 years old, according to the 1972 aerial.

The bungalow has a broadly rectangular footprint with a low pitched, hipped and gabled roof clad in (Indian) red painted, corrugated sheet metal (in traditional short sizes). It is punctuated by two brick chimneys, overpainted, with corbelled caps.

The walls are clad in painted weatherboard. There is a large gable end with a return verandah to the west (front) with a large timber louvred vent and shingles to the gable end and upper part/screen of the verandah, which has a timber deck and is supported on timber posts with tapering profile and surmounted by a capital like element.

There is a smaller, wide gabled bay to the north elevation supported on short timber posts above large, tapered roughcast rendered pillars. This gable end also is clad in shingles with a large louvered timber vent and has a timber lined soffit. A timber verandah, accessed by a concrete stair, extends across the length of the north elevation, under the main roof line, and is supported by the same type of timber posts evident at the south-west corner.

The frames/architraves to openings have a distinctive profile – the jambs are pinched near the top and the lintels have flared ends and a gently curving outline.



Front, south-west corner (Council, June 2024)



Main entry with decorative glass and distinctive architrave profile (Council, June 2024)



Adjacent entry, two panelled with decorative glass (Council, June 2024)

The doors are two panelled with an upper decorative glass pane. The main entry is flanked by a sidelight with decorative glass and a transom light (including leadlight with floral motifs typical of

the early 20th century). There are also paired doors to the north elevation. The windows are generally casements with three small upper panes with stained glass, either paired or in groups of three.

The main minor changes are a concrete deck to the rear/east end and infilling of the north-west corner with a small section clad in sheeting.

The garage is a small gable roof structure clad in weatherboards (with failing paint), exposed rafter ends and a similar louvered timber vent to the house, though the profile is less elaborate. Whilst is might have been constructed about the same time as the house, it has been altered and is in poor condition.

Other sheds and the like are metal clad and date to the second half of the 20th century or later

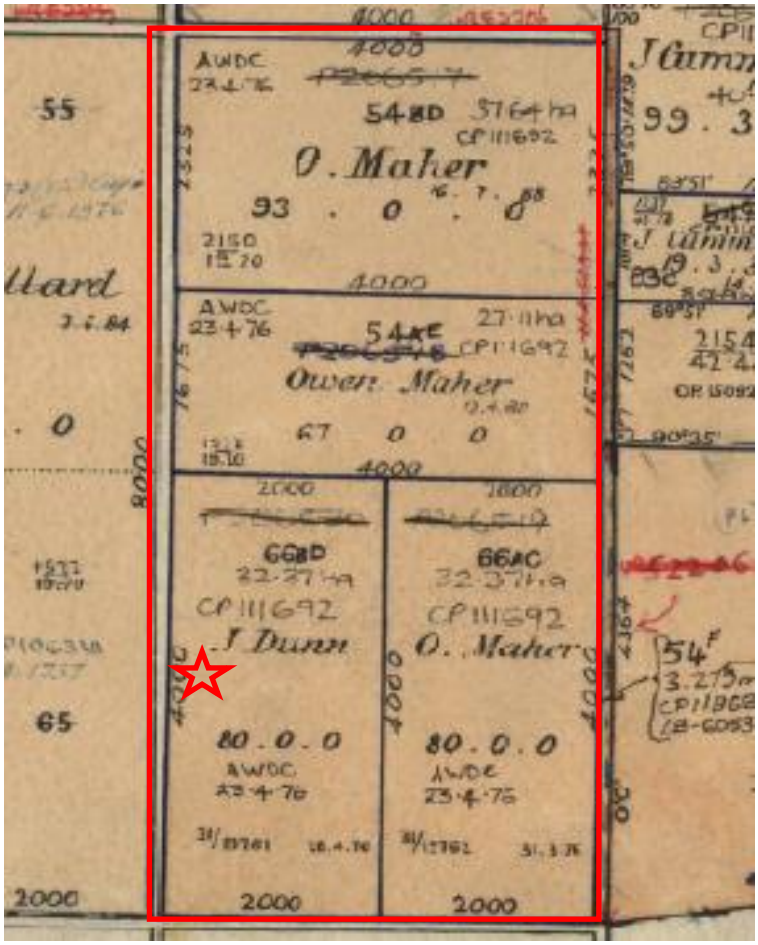
## HISTORIC THEMES

4.3 Grazing and raising livestock

6.7 Making homes for Victorians

## HISTORY

The Maher homestead stands on Crown Allotment 66D, Parish of Bonegilla. The 80-acre freehold was initially acquired through selection by (the estate of) Joseph Dunn in April 1876 as Crown Allotment 66B.



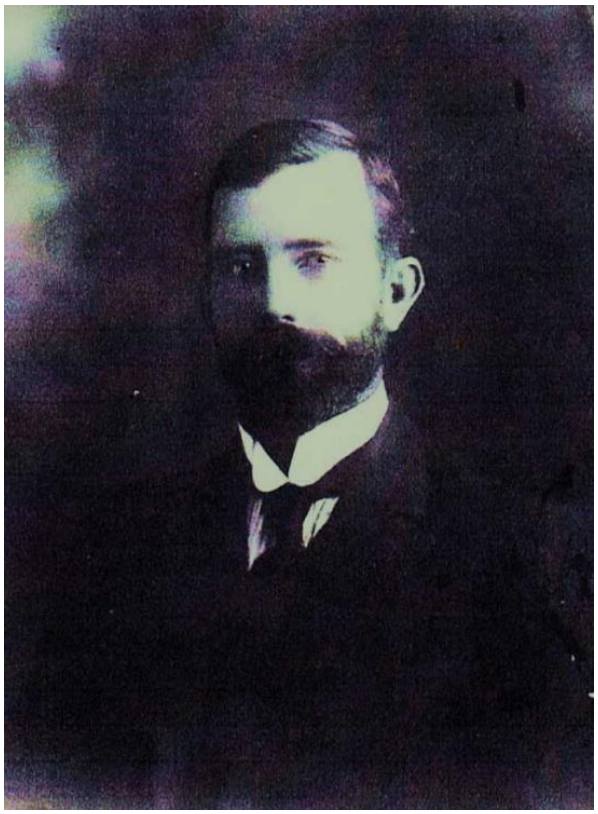

Bonegilla Parish Plan, showing the approximate location of the Maher homestead and the extent of the 320 acre holdings (Bonegilla Parish Plan 2178 1952)

All of Dunn's wealth was bequeathed to Irish-born neighbour and farmer Owen Maher following Dunn's sudden death in 1872 as follows:

> County Court at Yackandandah, in its Probate and Administration Jurisdiction, that ADMINISTRATION, with the WILL annexed, of the Goods, Chattels, Credits, and Effects of the above-named JAMES DUNN, deceased, may be GRANTED to OWEN MAHER, of Bonegilla, aforesaid farmer (*Ovens and Murray Advertiser*).

Maher himself purchased three adjacent Crown Allotments, also by way of the Selection Act, over a twelve year period, which consisted of 320 acres in total. The other allotments were: CA66A to the east, comprised of 80 acres, acquired in March 1876; CA54A, 67 acres to the north in April 1880; and CA54B, 93 acres to the north in July 1888.

The earliest located historical reference to *Fairview* is in 1896 when Owen and Sarah Maher are recorded in a marriage notice as residing there ('Marriage'). *Fairview* was a sheep and cow grazing property, the former of which were sheered and sold to market under 'Fairview wool'. Owen and Sarah continued to live at their farm into the 20th century with one of their adult sons, Martin John ('Personal and Social', 1917) until their deaths in 1917 and 1921 respectively. Martin John continued to live at *Fairview* with his wife, Elsie (nee Rowley) and three children.



Portrait of Martin John Maher, circa 1890s

The extant house was built for Martin John, replacing an older homestead during the interwar period. According to Pennay and Randall, the weatherboard bungalow was constructed in 1928 (Randell & Pennay 2004).

Martin John continued to reside at *Fairview* with his wife, Elsie (nee Rowley) until his death in August 1938 ('Personal').

The extant house had been built by 1940 as it is evident on the following aerial. At the time, there were several established trees about the house but not in the same configuration or clustering, including an orchard to the east, that is currently the case. The extant garage had likely been built to the south-east at the end of the driveway and various other outbuildings to the south.



Aerial, 1 December 1940, with the house highlighted (Source: MAP1356, Frame 16235 Geoscience Australia)

Members of the next generation of Martins continued to reside at the site as in January 1947, John Maher, who was the only son of Mrs E Martin and the late Mr M Maher, married Monica Byrnes in East Malvern. However, it was reported that the young couple would 'make their future home at *Fairview*, Bonegilla' ('Weddings').

According to the following aerial from 1972, the planting immediately north of the house reflects the current circumstance but as juvenile specimens and those to the south of the house are not evident.



Aerial, 28 May 1972 with the house highlighted (dashed) and the extant garage (arrow) (Source: CACD7532, Frame 180, Geoscience Australia)

## COMPARISON

To date, no early 20th century farmhouses have been included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay and most of the interwar period residences identified as being individually significant date to the 1930s, are masonry, and are located on Beechworth Road in Wodonga.

The interwar period 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 broadly characteristic of the Californian bungalow type with its prominent gable ends and is distinguished by its detailing – screens to the front verandah and curvilinear architraves.

Among the existing heritage overlays, there are few clear comparators, although there are several bungalows within the Lawrence Street Precinct (HO48). The bungalows in this precinct however are generally less substantial or elaborate but the roof forms similarly combine gable ends with hipped sections. There are both timber examples (e.g. 134, 146, 148 and 165 Lawrence

Street), with that at 134 Lawrence Street having similar tapered piers with a double gabled facade, and masonry examples (147 and 163 Lawrence Street).

Regarding the interwar period houses along the Beechworth Road, there is also no clear comparison because they generally date to the 1930s and have hipped roofs - e.g., no. 185 (HO18), no. 204 (HO20), though it has a small central gabled porch, no. 206 (HO21), no. 208 (HO22) and no. 209 (HO23) – or are indicative other contemporary styles such as the Tudor Revival at no. 322 (HO29) or Moderne at no. 324 (HO30).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### EXTENT OF LISTING

It is recommended that *Fairview* at 1134 Mahers Road, Bonegilla, 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 timber homestead, on 66D\PP2178, extending to the front boundary with a curtilage of 30 metres to the north and south, and 20 metres to the rear/east.



(Nearmap, 22 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

Albury 782D2 1945

Bonegilla Parish Plan 2178 1952., accessed 5 July 2022, http://prov.vic.gov.au/vers/schema/PROS99-007.

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'Marriage', *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 1 May 1896, p2, http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article69541665

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'Personal', *Wodonga and Towong Sentinel*, 4 November 1938, p3

'Personal and Social', 1917, *The Albury Banner and Wodonga Express (NSW: 1873-1938)*, https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/99859069?searchTerm=%22Robert%20Lecky%20Phelps%22%20AND%20%22Albury%22&searchLimits=.

Randell F & Pennay B 2004. *City of Wodonga Heritage Study Stage 1*, WODONGA CITY COUNCIL.

'Weddings', *Sunraysia Daily*, 29 January 1947, p3