Name Rocky Vale Villa Reference in 1998 study

MG2

Address 7 Wick's Road, Maiden Gully Map reference VicRoads 606 H/J 7

Building type Private residence Survey date December 2011

Date of construction

c. 1873-1891 (completion) Recommendation Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay1

Significance Rocky Vale is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Left: Front (south) elevation c. early 1980s (Source: Ruth Hopkins. Moving Forward, Looking Back, the History of the Marong Shire, Shire of Marong, 1995, p. 14). Right: Front elevation, December 2011.

Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site highlighted green (MG2). Note The extent of the overlay is indicative only.2
Intactness Good Fair Poor   Existing Heritage Status HV AHC NT

History Rocky Vale Villa was designed and built by stonemason William Beebe Senior (c. 1827-1891), two of whose sons, John and William, followed their father to become stonemasons, later practising as architects. John Beebe was later in partnership with noted Bendigo architect, William Vahland. Beebe Snr was born in the village of Cottesmore in the county of Rutland, England, arriving at Portland, Victoria towards the end of 1854. He and his wife were at Myers Flat, north-west of Bendigo by 1857,

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having initially spent some time in Dunkeld, in the Western District. Beebe Snr established a dairy at Homevale, Myers Flat, acquiring two allotments at Maiden Gully in 1873 and 1875. By 1875, the Beebes were living at the family stone yard while Rocky Vale Villa was under construction.3

The house took almost 20 years to construct, and was finally completed in 1891, the same year that William Beebe Senior died. It was built of sandstone and granite quarried at the property, with Harcourt granite used for the lintels and quoins. The property previously included a two-acre orchard, irrigated by the dam, which survives. Beebe Snr was an outspoken character, given to expressing his firm opinions through the local press. 4 His stonework is found at cemeteries throughout the Bendigo region. The Beebes were a prominent family for many years in the Bendigo

area. As well as the work of William Beebe Snr's architect sons, William Beebe Junior was a councillor and mayor of the City of Bendigo.

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes Victoria's themes and sub-themes: 4.6: Exploiting other mineral, forest and water resources   5.8: Working

Description & Integrity The following description is based on analysis of photography dating to the 1980s and 1990s, recent aerial photography, the description of the property prepared by Andrew Ward in 19985, and information acquired in a site visit, December 2011.

Rocky Vale Villa is a two-storey rustic Gothic Revival house built of sandstone and granite, located to the south of the Calder Highway at Maiden Gully, at the end of a private drive. It was designed and built by English stonemason William Beebe over a period of almost 20 years from the early 1870s. While the front elevation and side elevation remains largely intact, rear alterations include the addition of a one-storey, cream brick veneer structure used as a kitchen, bathrooms, and laundry most likely dating from the 1960s. Also, two small, one-storey buildings have been built in close proximity to the house.6

Rocky Vale Villa is a robust and well detailed residence on an 'L' shaped plan, with an engaged tower at the junction of the two gabled wings. The principal elevation faces north. The front door is to the east face of the tower; the latter has a more steeply pitched roof than the two wings and its gable ends have copings, skew corbels over dressed stone quoins, fleur de lis finials in the Gothic manner and a small cartouche reading Rocky Vale Villa. The two wings, with comparatively shallow pitched roofs, also have copings to the gable ends. The apex of the north wing is terminated with a finial; a chimney is located at the apex of the east wing. The roof areas are clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, which is not original.

The coursed stonework incorporates granite heads, sills and architraves to the windows and gable vents and there are granite quoins. The windows have stone block sills, lintels, mullions and architraves. At the ground floor, the windows are tall double-hung sashes. The first floor windows have three elements which appear to comprise a double-hung sash and fixed fanlight. The attic windows are either blind, as in the north wing, or in three elements, as in the tower.

There is an intact domed well in the yard in good condition and two original dams, one lined with sandstone, on each side of the house towards the rear.7

The property has limited prominence in the local landscape due to its location at the end of a private drive.

Comparative Analysis In the Australian colonies, two-storey houses in random (irregular) coursed stone, or random rubble stone, with smooth dressing generally occurred where owners had the money or persistence and typically utilised picturesque Gothic or Cottage Orné effects. A contemporary example in New South Wales is Abercrombie House, Bathurst (1870-8), which is also in granite with Dutch gabling.8 The L- shaped massing at Rocky Vale Villa also relates to a picturesque composition with Gothic detailing

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seen earlier in Sir Thomas Mitchell's Carthona in Sydney, 1841-4,9 in the Melbourne area with both the stucco-rendered Banyule at Heidelberg (1846), and the random rubble basalt of Invergowrie and the Hawthorns, Hawthorn (1846.).10 A local although simpler counterpart is Hope Park at 12 Weir Court, Kangaroo Flat (1867). The most inventive in Victoria's genre were Davidson and Henderson's contemporary Narrapumelap at Wickliffe (1877), and Joseph Reed's trio, Barragunda at Cape Schanck (1865), Heronswood at Dromana (1864), and the round-arched Kolor at Penshurst (1868).11 Narrapumelap and Kolor are in the Western District; Barragunda and Heronswood are on the Mornington Peninsula. All these designs are undeniably more adventurous and inventive than Rocky Vale Villa, which is more focussed on details and the basics of stone construction.

Assessment Against Criteria Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

Rocky Vale Villa (built 1870s-1891), at 7 Wick's Road, Maiden Gully, is of historical significance. The two-storey residence built of locally quarried sandstone and granite is testament to the skill and perseverance of its builder, English stonemason William Beebe Snr, who commenced construction of the house in the early-1870s, and completed it in 1891, the same year he died. Beebe' stonework is found at cemeteries throughout the Bendigo area. Two of his sons, William and John, also followed their father, becoming stonemasons and later architects. John Beebe was later in partnership with noted Bendigo architect, William Vahland. William Beebe Jnr was also Mayor of the City of Bendigo.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City the of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

Rocky Vale Villa is a rare example in the municipality of a substantial two-storey stone house built in the picturesque Gothic Revival mode, a style commonly found in parts of New South Wales and Victoria from the 1840s until the 1870s.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.

Rocky Vale Villa, at 7 Wick's Road, Maiden Gully, is of aesthetic/architectural significance. It is a rare local example of a substantial two-storey stone house built in the picturesque Gothic Revival mode, a style commonly found in parts of New South Wales and Victoria from the 1840s until the 1870s,

the decade that construction of Rocky Vale Villa began. The main north elevation is essentially intact as completed in 1891. Detailing of note includes the engaged tower at the junction of the two gabled wings, the pitched roof forms, stone quoins, and fleur de lis finials, and the coursed stonework which incorporates granite heads, sills and architraves to the windows and gable vents. While there are more adventurous and inventive Gothic Revival dwellings of the nineteenth century (including outside the municipality), Rocky Vale Villa is particularly focussed on the detailing and the basics of stone construction. This is perhaps not surprising given William Beebe Snr's profession as a stonemason.

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

N/A

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Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

N/A

Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.

Rocky Vale Villa has some significance for its association with William Beebe Snr, the original owner and builder of the dwelling, whose stonework is found at cemeteries throughout the Bendigo area. Two of his sons, William and John, were also local stonemasons and architects, with John eventually forming a partnership with noted Bendigo architect, William Vahland; and William later becoming Mayor of the City of Bendigo.

Statement of Significance What is significant?

Rocky Vale Villa, built 1870s-1891, is at 7 Wick's Road, Maiden Gully.

Rocky Vale Villa is a rustic Gothic Revival two-storey house built of sandstone and granite, on a 'L' shaped plan with an engaged tower at the junction of the two gabled wings. The principal elevation faces north. The front door is to the east face of the tower, which has a more steeply pitched roof than the two wings. The tower's gable ends have copings, skew corbels over dressed stone quoins, fleur de lis finials in the Gothic manner and a small cartouche reading Rocky Vale Villa. The two wings, with comparatively shallow pitched roofs, also have copings to the gable ends. The roof areas are clad with corrugated galvanised sheet steel, which is not original. The coursed stonework incorporates granite heads, sills and architraves to the windows and gable vents, and granite quoins. The windows have stone block sills, lintels, mullions and architraves. There is a domed well in the

yard. The property has limited prominence in the local landscape due to its location at the end of a private drive.

The mid to late 20th century, brick veneer additions in the rear of the building, both attached and freestanding, are non-significant and detract from the interpretation of the place.

How is it significant?

Rocky Vale Villa is of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

Rocky Vale Villa is historically important in the local context (Criterion A). It is associated with English stonemason William Beebe Snr, who built the property of locally quarried sandstone and granite over a period of almost 20 years from the early-1870s. The residence is testament to the skill and perseverance of its builder, who died the year the house was completed (1891). Beebe' stonework is found at cemeteries throughout the Bendigo area. The property is also associated with two of Beebe's sons, William and John, who were also local stonemasons and architects, with John eventually forming a partnership with noted Bendigo architect, William Vahland; and William later becoming Mayor of the City of Bendigo (Criterion H). Rocky Vale Villa is a rare local example of a substantial two-storey stone house built in the picturesque Gothic Revival mode, a style commonly found in parts of New South Wales and Victoria from the 1840s until the 1870s (Criterion B). Architecturally (Criterion E), the main north elevation is essentially intact as completed in 1891. Detailing of note includes the engaged tower at the junction of the two gabled wings, the pitched roof forms, stone quoins, and fleur de lis finials, and the coursed stonework which incorporates granite heads, sills and architraves to the windows and gable vents. While there are more adventurous and inventive nineteenth century Gothic Revival dwellings (including outside the municipality), Rocky Vale Villa is particularly focussed on the detailing and basics of stone construction. This is perhaps not surprising given William Beebe Snr's profession as a stonemason.

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Recommendations The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance. The recommended extent of the Overlay is indicated in the map above, with the focus of significance concentrated in the two-storey stone building. The mid to late 20th century, brick veneer additions to the rear of the stone building, both attached and freestanding are not significant and detract from the overall interpretation of the place; it is recommended that they be removed.12

External Paint Colours No

Internal Alterations Controls No

Tree Controls No

Outbuildings and fences exemptions No

Victorian Heritage Register No

Prohibited uses may be permitted No

Incorporated plan No

Aboriginal heritage place No

Identified By Andrew Ward, 1998.

References Ken Arnold, Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, Bendigo Historic Buildings, National Trust of Australia (Vic), 1987.

David Horsfall (ed), Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns, Back To Committee, 1993.

Andrew Ward et al, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

Specific: 1 Changed from provisional – site visit completed December 2011. 2 Changed map from Heritage Policy Citations Review, 2011. November 2011. 3 Ken Arnold, Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003, p. 233.   4 Mike Butcher and Gill Flanders, Bendigo Historic Buildings, National Trust of Australia (Vic), 1987, pp. 168-169. 5 'Rocky Vale Villa' citation, Andrew Ward et al, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998. 6 Site visit, Amanda Jean and Katie Nolan, 1 December 2011. 7 Site visit, Amanda Jean and Katie Nolan, 1 December 2011. 8   The Heritage of Australia, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1981, pp. 2/254-5, item 4. 9   Graham Jahn and others, Sydney Architecture, Watermark, Sydney, 1997, p. 31 item 142. 10   Philip Goad and others, Melbourne Architecture, Watermark, Sydney, 1999, 2007, pp. 18 item 10 (Banyule), 19 item 13 (The Hawthorns), 20 item 16 (Invergowrie). 11   See The Heritage of Australia, p. 3/139 (Narrapumelap), and Philip Goad and others, Bates Smart: 150 Years of Australian Architecture, Thames and Hudson, Melbourne, 2004, pp. 36-7 (Barragunda), 37 (Heronswood) and 58 (Kolor). 12 Site visit, Amanda Jean and Katie Nolan, 1 December 2011.

Points to consider

The Home: Completed in 1891 by William Beebe (snr) – taking about 20 years to complete. It has been said that he died the year it was finished.

The ramp into the gully: From documents of his death it was claimed that the stone materials for the home was obtained from the gully nearby. I see no other reason for a ramp to be made.

The original road: The came from somewhere near Kronk Street and Marong Road intersection.

The barn:

The blacksmith Shop:

The domed water tank: Currently holding four metres of water. There was also another similar one under the power lines near the front gate – it's dome top had been broken off and filled with rubble.

Granite pieces:

Pipeline between dams:

Gold mining:

Wedding photo: Taken 1909 between a Miss Gray and a Mr Hawley. They had three children – the youngest, born 1914 celebrated her 100th birthday in Bendigo.