Name Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct

Address 1 Rushworth Road MURCHISON 11 Rushworth Road Significance Level Local

MURCHISON 12 Rushworth Road MURCHISON 15 Rushworth Road MURCHISON 25 Rushworth Road MURCHISON 27 Rushworth Road MURCHISON 9

Rushworth Road MURCHISON

Place Type Townscape

Citation Date 2014



Rushworth Road Murchison Residential Precinct

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR No HI No PS Yes

# **History and Historical Context**

#### **Aboriginal Post Contact History**

The Ngooraialum tribe were the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. This tribe (and other clans) were placed in the Murchison Protectorate soon after Europeans came to this area. The Murchison Protectorate was one of four Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorates established in February 1839. The Chief Protector was George Augustus Robinson (1788-1866). Robinson supervised the four Protectorates set up in different geographic districts of Port Phillip. Initially, in May 1839, the Goulburn Valley Protectorate was located near Mitchellstown under James W Dredge. He quickly resigned in protest, it is said, at the appalling conditions imposed upon the Aboriginal people. Dredge was replaced one year later by William Le Souef in 1840, and the Protectorate removed to 'a square mile of country which Robinson had chosen'. By 1841, Le Souef reported to Robinson that improvements to the Protectorate included acres of wheat, barley, oats, maize and potatoes. It also included five small and large bark buildings. The work was undertaken by those living within the Protectorate. The Goulburn Aboriginal Station, as it was known, closed in May 1853, and Governor La Trobe abolished the Office of the Protector of Aboriginesin 1860.

#### **Murchison and District**

Squatters started settling the area in 1840. French vigneron Ludovic Marie came to the district in the 1850s and established a vineyard. He also set up a hotel and a punt service over the Goulburn for gold miners travelling between Bendigo and Beechworth. Marie received his licence to establish a punt 1855. In 1854, the township site was surveyed by the Colonial Surveyor Philip Chauncy. The area surveyed for the township was next to the former Protectorate and adjacent to the river crossing point. It appears that Chauncy placed the township centre in this location for a number of reasons. The river crossing was already at this location and had created a de facto settlement. He was acting on early town planning principles (that went back to Arthur Philip), where townships were to be situated on rivers, the area was typically 3 miles (1.9km) by 1 mile (0.4km), and within this area only small allotments were to be released with the rest of the space reserved for future expansion. Public areas were to be reserved for public buildings and other purposes such as public squares and/or reserves. Chauncy's 1854 survey of the Port of Echuca is similar in intent to Murchison - with both having a town square near to the river and roughly in the centre of the old township. The location for Echuca like Murchison was identified by the site of the punt and the river crossing.

Murchison soon became prosperous as it was on the route to the goldfields and shallow draft paddle steamers could navigate the Goulburn River. There are a number of early buildings from this period surviving in the township.

Land along the Goulburn was first opened for selection in 1865, with most small landowners moving into the area in the 1870s. By 1865 Murchison boasted a school, two hotels and stores and a number of houses. When the selectors began opening up the land, they cleared the fertile ground and began growing wheat. The cultivation of wheat in turn meant the establishment of flour mills, scattered across the Goulburn Valley. Murchison area had a flour mill at Noorilim, six kilometres south of the township, to grind locally grown wheat (VHR H1523). In addition Day's Mill (VHR H7924) became large and important flour milling operation for the region and continued to function for many years with flour being shipped out by train.

In 1871 a bridge was built over the Goulburn to replace the punt service. Between 1871 and 1875 the Waranga shire, in which Murchison was situated, increased its areas under wheat and under fallow two fold and six fold respectively. In Murchison a Mechanics' Institute was opened in 1874, and Presbyterian, Anglican and Catholic churches were built during that decade. A railway line was built along the eastern side of the Goulburn River in 1880, passing through Murchison East. Ten years later a branch line crossed the river to the west, passing through Murchison to Colbinabbin.

After the 1890s Murchison entered a period of stagnation, with few initiatives in commerce or development. The building of the Goulburn Weir for irrigation in 1887-90 meant that the Goulburn River was no longer navigable by paddle steamer. Much of the Dhurringile district remained under the control of a few individuals and this meant that Murchison was denied the commercial benefits that a closer settled district would have provided. Irrigation waters that were made available to many districts following the completion of the Goulburn Weir in 1891 were not readily available to the farm lands surrounding much of Murchison. This meant townships such as Shepparton, Tatura and Mooroopna continued to thrive on the back of irrigation developments while Murchison struggled.

A number of events occurred in the Interwar period that provided some stimulus to the local economy and supported further development. This included the provision of electricity (1926), the construction of a Bush Nursing Hospital (1934) and the construction of a new steel bridge (1937). This coincided with further housing development along Rushworth Road and River Road. The houses were relatively substantial and stylish with many displaying fine architectural features. The location of these largely substantial buildings is of note, as Rushworth Road and River Road became the preferred areas for new residential building. This period is notable for an increasing prosperity of some farmers, and townships such as Murchison benefited from the consolidation of farms and integrated rural industries such as dairies, creameries, butter factories and accessibility of metropolitan markets through rail links.

During World War 2, three prisoner of war camps, together with four internment camps, were established in the Murchison/Tatura /Rushworth area. This was the largest group of such camps set up in Australia, a unique concentration. Dhurringile mansion, 11 kilometres to the north, held internees for a short time, then German officer POWs and their batmen. Camp 13 near Murchison, with the associated wood-cutting camp at Graytown, held German and Italian POWs, and Japanese POWs after the Cowra breakout. The overall total capacity of these camps was in excess of eight thousand prisoners: the staff of 2700 comprised guards, medical personnel, women's services, and administrative staff. The combined populations of the camps far exceeded the local populace. Numbers of internees, particularly Italian internees, were released daily to work on local farms and orchards.

Murchison was a comfortable post-war country town with public gardens, reticulated water and electricity, varied agriculture and saw-milling. There was no other significant industry apart from retailing. The town's function as a local service centre has remained much the same.

On 28 September 1969 a meteorite shower fell 2 kilometres south of Murchison. Many local residents collected samples of these meteorites. The rocks were analysed at the NASA Ames Research Center where they were discovered to contain the first convincing evidence of amino acids of extra-terrestrial origin, confirming the Miller-Urey experiment. The Murchison meteorite samples contained 90 different amino acids, only 19 of which are found on earth.

### **Statement of Significance**

#### What is Significant?

The Rushworth Road Murchison Residential Precinct is significant.

Contributory places:

- \*1 Rushworth Road MURCHISON (HO414)
- 9 Rushworth Road MURCHISON
- 11 Rushworth Road MURCHISON
- 12 Rushworth Road MURCHISON

- 15 Rushworth Road MURCHISON
- 25 Rushworth Road MURCHISON
- 27 Rushworth Road MURCHISON

#### How is it Significant?

The Rushworth Road Murchison Residential Precinct is of local historic and aesthetic cultural heritage significance to the City of Greater Shepparton.

#### Why is it Significant?

The group of houses is of historic and aesthetic significance as these houses demonstrate the character of residential development that was occurring in Murchison during the Interwar period.

The houses are of a substantial scale and the design is of a relatively high quality. The location of these largely substantial buildings is of note, as Rushworth Road (and River Road) became the preferred areas for much of the new residential building. This period is notable for an increasing prosperity for many farmers. Townships such as Murchison benefited from the consolidation of farms, and the integration of rural industries such as dairies, creameries, butter factories, and accessibility of metropolitan markets through rail links.

The intensification of development on the outskirts of Murchison is associated with the increasing prevalence and use of cars, the new steel bridge (1937) and the provision of electricity. HERCON criteria A & D

\*This place is also of Individual cultural heritage significance. Please refer to the individual citation (HERMES records)

#### **Recommendations 2014**

Yes	
No	
Yes All mature trees	
No	
No	
Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan	
No	

Name 1 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 1 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



1 Rushworth Road, Murchison (Kestell)

Recommended Heritage Protection VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)

## **Description**

#### **Physical Condition**

Kestell is a late Victorian villa. It is a very good representative example from this period. The facade is distinguished by its symmetry - the central door, flanked on either side by windows, the decorative breakfront and the brick chimneys.

The villa is constructed from timber with timber weatherboards and the roof is clad with corrugated metal. The brick chimneys have subtle cornices that provide further texture to the facade through their shadow lines. The eaves with their paired timber brackets are typical for the period and style. The return verandah has a highly decorative cast iron frieze

and brackets. The central front door with its late Victorian timber detailing is enhanced by the side lights and high lights. The centralised character of the front dooris further emphasised by the breakfront. The pediment to the breakfront has replicated the cast iron detailing found on the verandah and the overall symmetry of the facade is further refined by the timber finial.

## **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

This place is also of Individual cultural heritage significance. Please refer to the individual citation for (HERMES record #200235)

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
Tree Controls	Yes All mature trees
Fences & Outbuildings	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
Incorporated Plan	Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Name 9 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 9 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



9 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** 

Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Bungalow

# **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

9 Rushworth Road Murchison is a fine representative example of the Federation Bungalow style. The facade is distinguished by two gable fronts both of which have timber detailing to their gable fronts with terracotta finials at the apex of the gable. The columns to the verandah consist of masonry plinths with a rendered Doric inspired column . The windows are triple bands of double hung timber windows. with the upper sash showing fine leadlighting.

The walls are face red brick and the roof is clad with terracotta tiles.

# **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

## **Recommendations 2014**

Yes	
No	
Yes All mature trees	
No	
No	
Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan	
No	



Name 11 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 11 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



11 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** 

Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Bungalow

# **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

11 Rushworth Road, Murchison demonstrates many of the architectural features associated with the Bungalow style. This includes the double gable facade with articulated gable fronts and return verandah with its relatively deep recess. The return verandah is distinguished by its the columns and these have been designed with a masonry plinth and column. The columns are fluted with a simple flat capital. The windows vary between triple double hung windows and paired double hung windows. The walls have a render finish.

The fence is a later addition and has been constructed with masonry columns with steel picket infill.

The garden setting contributes to the aesthetic significance of this place.

# **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
Tree Controls	Yes All mature trees
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Name 12 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 12 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



12 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** 

Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Bungalow

## **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

12 Rushworth Road, Murchison demonstrates many of the architectural features associated with the Bungalow style. The steeply pitched gable roof has a transverse gable located centrally within the facade. This gable roof projects out to form a porch and entrance to the house. The gable front has a stylish timber batten feature to the whole of the gable. The entrance porchincludes a doorwith a triple band of windowsto one side. On either side of the entrance there are bay windows characterised by their relatively shallow projection. Each bay has a triple band of windows with the uppersash having

multi panes - as was often found during this period.

The house has been constructed with timber weatherboards and has a corrugated metal roof.

The front fence has concave bays of pickets and is a sympathetic addition to the house.

The garden setting contributes to the aesthetic significance of the place.

# **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
Tree Controls	Yes All mature trees
Fences & Outbuildings	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
Incorporated Plan	Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Name 15 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 15 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



15 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)

## **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

15 Rushworth Road, Murchison is a distinctive face brick building. It demonstrates many of the features associated with the late 1940s - 1950s. This includes the triple frontage with the stylised arched entry and contrasting corbelled brick work to the corners. The contrasting corbelled brick work detail is also found on the principle gable front. The roofis clad with terracotta tiles.

The low timber fence is a sympathetic addition to the place. The garden setting contributes to the aesthetic significance of the place.

## **Statement of Significance**

15 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON Hermes No 201987 Place Citation Report A contributory place within the Murchison Central Township Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (Hermes record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

#### **Recommendations 2014**

Yes
No
Yes All mature trees
No
No
Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan
No



Name 25 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 25 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



25 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** 

Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918)

# **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

25 Rushworth Road, Murchison is a Federation/Edwardian period house. It demonstrates many of the architectural features associated with this period. This includes the asymmetrical layout with the projecting gable front and recessed section. The gable front has a symmetrically placed timber window with side lights and window hood. The gable front has timber strapping. The recessed section has a posted bullnosed verandah that returns to one side.

The building is clad with timber weatherboards and the roof is clad with corrugated metal.

# **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

#### **Recommendations 2014**

Yes	
No	
Yes All mature trees	
No	
No	
Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan	
No	



Name 27 Rushworth Road, MURCHISON

Address 27 Rushworth Road MURCHISON Significance Level Contributory

Place Type House Citation Date 2014



27 Rushworth Road, Murchison

**Recommended Heritage Protection**  VHR No HI No PS Yes

**Architectural Style** 

Federation/Edwardian Period (1902-c.1918) Bungalow

# **Description**

#### **Physical Description**

27 Rushworth Road, Murchison is a large housed designed with many of the features associated with the Bungalow style. The main gable roof has a large opposing gable and this has created a gable fronted porch with the brick pillars and low wall to its front. The low front porch wall includes the name of the property highlighted on a smooth render background.

The gablet dormer contributes to the style with its opposing gablet dormer. The large bay window with its sash windows with lead light sashes is a fine addition to the architectural expression.

The bungalow is constructed from face brickwork and has a terracotta tiled roof.

# **Statement of Significance**

A contributory place within the Rushworth Road Murchison Precinct. Please refer to the precinct citation for (HERMES record # 200692) for information about the significance of the place.

HERCON Criteria A, D & G

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
Tree Controls	Yes All mature trees
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	Greater Shepparton Heritage Incorporated Plan
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No