

Resource 3B: Example 3 – Stawell Main Street citation

Stawell Reefs Main Street Heritage Precinct, Stawell

Note that historic figures are described and sourced in the Sources section. They can be viewed in the PDF version of the citation (included as an attachment to the VHD record).

Contextual/thematic history

Gold mining

The Shire is situated on the western extremities of the Central Victorian goldfields. Opened in the 1850s they were as much a product of the gold consciousness of the time as of the dynamic movement of waves of prospecting parties fanning out from diggings at Maryborough, Avoca and Ararat, and Dunolly, Inglewood and the Korong. Gold sparked an immediate rapid increase in population; it founded St Arnaud and Stawell, the townships of Great Western, Stuart Mill and the hamlet of Deep Lead; it promoted the establishment of local government, police, courts, schools and hospitals; it forced the improvement of the communications infrastructure that lessened the pervading sense of rural isolation; and it provided the impetus to wresting control of the land from the squatters to establish a burgeoning agricultural industry. Above all, gold enabled the idea to flourish that real material advancement and elevated social status was within reach of the hardworking and the lucky, no matter their social class — a possibility previously unimagined by most workers on the pastoral stations.

Yet, in the early to mid-1850s when gold promised so much in a Colony where news of fabulous wealth arrived almost daily, the Shire's experience did not mirror that of Mount Alexander, Ballarat and Bendigo. When those rich fields were being opened and developed quiet pastoral seclusion reigned between the Avoca River and the Grampians; when the diggers finally came, rushing in their thousands, gold rewarded some, while others, frustrated by the old problems of water supply and distance from major centres, departed worse for the experience; and when the shotty or fine alluvial gold ran out leaving the quartz reefs as the basis for future prosperity investors at first were few to provide the means of getting at the mineral and processing it. For those prepared for long-term commitment, either as miner or investor, the Shire's gold mines collectively delivered great wealth for more than sixty years. A mining revival in the late twentieth century held further promise (Taylor et al 2022:4.26-27)

Locality history

Historical Overview *The place and precinct history are drawn directly from the precinct citation in the 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study' (W Jacobs, P Taylor, M Taylor & C Walker, 2004), with minor edits and additions made in 2024. Key sources are provided at the end.*

Stawell: A Town Built on Gold

Gold was discovered near Pleasant Creek on the south-western outskirts of the present Stawell township in 1853, and from 1854 prospectors began to sporadically work this area, and the nearby quartz reefs on Big Hill. By the end of 1856, 'twenty-five men were working the quartz reefs, which came to be a recognized mining location within the Pleasant Creek field' (Murray & White 1983:10). Part of this area forms this precinct.

It was the discovery of a deep lead called the Commercial Street Lead early in 1856 that marked the beginning of the rush to Pleasant Creek. Other diggers had one alluvial find after another and the goldfield crept north culminating in exciting discoveries at Deep Lead in July 1857. These rich discoveries of alluvial gold to the north and west of the Pleasant Creek brought thousands of diggers and their families to the area. The rush had two main centres: Deep Lead (still a locality to the north-west of present-day Stawell), and the area centred on Commercial

Street and bisected by High Street, which ran to Deep Lead. Commercial Street ran almost parallel to the present-day road to Halls Gap and was a couple of miles west of present-day Stawell (in the general area of the present-day locality of Illawarra).

Work on the quartz reefs at and nearby Big Hill had slowed, but not abated, during the rushes to Commercial Street and Deep Lead, but a subsequent rush to the Reefs (or Quartz Reefs as they were also known) in early 1858 focused attention back on that area. Around that time the Pleasant Creek goldfield could be seen to have had a horseshoe-like shape, with Commercial Street to the west, Deep Lead to the north and the Reefs at Big Hill to the east of what was to become the original Township of Stawell. In about March 1858, the Government is said to have decided to create a township near the creek that had given its name to the district, and on 11 June 1858 the Township of Stawell was proclaimed. It was to be some years, however, before the official name of Stawell was commonly used in preference to the unofficial name of Pleasant Creek. The first streets to be laid out were Burgh, Leslie, Longfield and Cooper Streets, all crossed by Austin, Griffith, Seaby and Foster Streets. This area is now generally known as Stawell West.

Even though the first allotments of the newly surveyed Township of Stawell were put up for sale in July 1858, its establishment as a town was slow and there were continued arguments about its suitability. In October 1858 it was officially announced that all government buildings would be situated at the new Stawell township. A block (Section 5) bounded by Seaby, Longfield, Griffith and Leslie Streets, was reserved for Public Purposes on 29 February 1860. It was on Section 5 that the first permanent civic buildings in Stawell were erected from 1860 onwards, with the township named after Sir William Foster Stawell, former principal law officer of the District of Port Phillip and later Chief Justice of Victoria (*Home to Stawell*).

By the early 1860s, however, the alluvial gold yields at Commercial Street and Deep Lead were almost worked out, and it had become clear that the area's long-term future lay with its deep quartz mines and since most were at Big Hill that was where urban settlement concentrated. By the end of 1859 there were 2,400 people at Quartz Reefs and 20 to 30 at Stawell. With alluvial gold becoming scarce, the Reefs became the active goldfield. 'Pleasant Creek is a remarkable place', wrote a visitor in 1861. 'The population does not occupy the town. It lives at one place and the town is in another.'

The Stawell Road District was proclaimed on 21 January 1861. Its boundaries were the same as the Pleasant Creek Mining Division and included Great Western, the Fyans Creek valley, Stawell and Glenorchy. On 30 December 1864, the Stawell Road District became the Shire of Stawell. By the late 1860s it had become clear, however, that while the ~~P~~ost and ~~T~~elegraph ~~O~~ffice, the Court House, the Shire Hall and the police camp were all situated at the Township of Stawell, it did not adequately serve the community. The population in the Township was approximately 500, while several miles away, on the western slope of Big Hill and about Main Street there were ~~about some~~ 6,000 people congregated at the booming Quartz Reefs.

In November 1869 the Shire of Stawell was subdivided into two municipal areas - the Borough of Stawell (an amalgamation of the Stawell settlement alongside Pleasant Creek, and the settlement at Quartz Reefs) and the Shire of Stawell (the outlying areas). In time new public offices were built closer to Big Hill, in upper Main Street and Patrick Street, and Quartz Reefs came to be called Stawell.

Precinct history

Development of Roads and Commercial Buildings 1850s-early 1860s

With the arrival of gold diggers to Stawell also came the development of roads and buildings. Just prior to the rush in the mid 1850s, the area was described by one early digger, Maynard Ord, as follows (Murray & White 1983:11):

The ground which our present busy Main Street occupies was studded with ungainly-looking stunted trees and the ground was so thick with prickly acacia and other dwarf scrub that, although there were no habitations except a few tents, it was not possible to see the line of shallow shafts. In the summer-time when the scanty herbage had assumed its hue of brown, the locality was one of the most miserable-looking that the eye could rest upon ...

Within a few years in the late 1850s, the small mining camp was rapidly transformed into a little town with plentiful 'good hotels, fashionable drapers, first-class stores and capital shops' (Murray & White 1983:24). In 1862, the Advertiser described the fledgling Stawell township (Murray & White 1983:24):

The ancient calico habitation is quickly going out of date; nice little cottages may be observed everywhere, and an air of comfort and content is seen in all quarters. The first hand crushing machine has given place to nearly half a score of engines and their tall chimneys give the place the appearance of a small manufacturing town in England.

While buildings sprung up amongst the shafts, mullock heaps, engines and dust of the reefs mining operations on land held by Miner's Right, there was no orderly survey of the Stawell settlement in the late 1850s and early 1860s. The mining companies initially opposed such undertakings, as they were anxious not to alienate possible auriferous ground. The result is preserved in the present town plan: orderly rectangular streets at Stawell West/Pleasant Creek (formerly the Township of Stawell) and 'higgledy-piggledy' allotments along a 'stragglng upper Main Street' at the Reefs (which was 'Stawell' after the late 1860s). Robert Murray and Kate White in *The Golden Years of Stawell* provide a revealing description of the town in those years:

As Main Street climbed towards what became Patrick Street and the rise of Big Hill, it swerved around a mine on the first line of reefs before ending at a maze of tracks which skirted mine-heads, dwellings and mullock-heaps of discarded rock from underground. Mud or dust, stumps and the occasional tree constituted the street-surface. Wood, bark, calico and galvanised iron were the main building materials of shop, office and house, and some curious mixtures evolved. A shop might have a respectable wooden front, but iron and calico sides; a tent might be married to a bark hut or stone chimney ~~for to~~ form a dwelling. Mine-heads broke into the line of shops, even in bustling Main Street, where ladies in sweeping crinoline dresses and gentlemen in frock-coats and mutton-chop whiskers watched out for the hazards of horse-drawn traffic: quartz falling off drays as they jolted over bumps, "flash" riders or drivers moving their animals too fast, and "boy nuisances" trying to frighten tethered mares ...

For two or three miles around, the countryside was denuded of its trees, which were taken for mine props or for wood to feed insatiable boilers which provided steam for engine-power (Murray & White 1983:24-25).

Figure 8.01 provides an insight into the streetscape and landscape of the Stawell [Reefs-Main Street](#) area in the early 1860s. There was a winding line of unplanned, modest, single storey commercial buildings that were predominantly domestic in scale and almost temporary in nature. These buildings were of a vernacular design, with rudimentary gabled or hipped roofs and projecting skillion verandahs supported by timber columns. Timber shingles, galvanised iron or calico appear to have been the main roof cladding types, with timber weatherboards being the predominant wall cladding. Timber signage parapets and verandah hoardings stood proud, displaying the names or wares available within. The roads were rough and soiled by the nearby mining operations and the horses, and by the open spoon drains that ran down the slopes. Beyond the civilizing (although hap-hazardly situated) buildings at the Reefs were the mine shafts, poppet heads, mullock heaps, steam engines and chimneys stacks with miner's cottages nestled between.

1860s-~~2000~~1900

More orderly development in the Reefs area ensued in the 1860s. Streets were laid out around the major mines and special allotments surveyed by Fred Smith in 1866 (Figure 8.02) (Smith 1866). It was also in that year when a disastrous fire destroyed a block of buildings in Main Street (Kingston 1989:78). This fire appears to have partially instigated a transformation of the fledgling, temporary-like building landscape into more prosperous streetscapes with well-designed shops, stores, commercial structures and dwellings. A photograph (Figure 8.03) of the upper Main Street at the Reefs (Stawell) in 1867 illustrates the growing transformation of the commercial area. While Main Street continued to wind around the mines, the photograph shows the beginnings of more secure development in the two storey, Victorian styled brick buildings and in the better constructed timber buildings with galvanised iron roofs. This photograph (Figure 8.03) and Figure 8.01 also indicate strong visual connections between the commercial buildings and the mines. The rear domestic quarters (especially highlighted by the rear chimneys and verandahs) of the Main Street buildings overlooked the mines that provided the sustainable wealth for the shopkeepers within.

It was also the proclamation of the streets at the Reefs in 1868 that brought to an end the uncontrolled development of buildings, tracks and mines. [Mining activity had not entirely ceased, as evidenced by the c1870s Powder Magazine in Church Street, constructed as a private venture for an ironmonger and timber merchant who sold blasting powder to miners.](#) The official souvenir publication of the 'Home to Stawell' celebrations in 1947 provides a description of the situation in 1868 and the ensuing years:

In 1868 an agitation began to have the Streets at the Reefs proclaimed, as buildings were being erected haphazard and on no defined survey, and any person could take up a Miner's Right and sink a shaft either on or under the roads, and further than this, the Shire was not allowed to expend its funds on roads that were not proclaimed and the result was the roads were in a shocking state of disrepair. On 11th December, 1868, the first Streets were proclaimed, but the proclamation of the Streets did not end all the friction and some people persisted in erecting structures which encroached upon the streets. There were cases where persons had takn [sic.] out Miner's Rights and were in lawful possession of land which was encroaching on the streets and the Council had to purchase and compensate the owners for the land required for streets.

By the 1880s, the commercial area of the Reefs, and particularly Main Street, had become a built-up town centre (Figure 8.04). Although the poppet heads, mullock heaps and other evidence of the now-declining mining operations were still visible in the distance (Figures 8.05-8.06), and there were residential allotments with gardens and picket fences in the commercial area, there was a predominance of one and two storey buildings. These buildings were well-constructed of brick, stone and less frequently timber, with forms, details and openings articulated in various Victorian styles ranging from a basic Victorian commercial to the Victorian Free Classical. Most buildings were adorned with parapets and [appropriate](#) signage, and verandahs projected over the footpaths, constructed and decorated in either cast iron or timber, depending on the scale of the building and the affluence of the owner. Chimney stacks adorned the rooflines beyond the parapets, as did timber flagpoles, while some buildings also featured first floor balconies over the street frontage. Improvements in road infrastructure was also noticeable, with the construction of Stawell stone kerb and channel or spoon drains, and in the general cleanliness of the gravelled surfaces.

1901-2024

In the early 20th century, little building change had occurred in the commercial area as it continued to reflect the prosperity of a previous gold booming era of the second half of the 19th century. Mining poppets were still an important focal point in the distance (Figure 8.07) but not as prevalent as the 19th century, and gas street lamps were a notable feature in Main Street (Figure 8.08). The commercial area for the immediate years after Federation in 1901 ~~have~~been~~was~~ described as follows (Murray & White 1983:129):

The pace of change was still moderate, and for many years to come, wandering cattle in the streets continued to be a ~~course-cause~~ of complaint. Street lighting, except in Main Street and part of Patrick Street, was 'wretched', and people generally went to bed by candle-light. Tar-sealing, even of Main Street, did not come until towards the outbreak of World War One. Footpaths away from the main shopping centre were of rough earth or gravel ...

It was after the First World War in 1919 when more significant change was experienced at Stawell. The last remaining gold mine closed in 1920, in the same year that the Council-~~introduced~~ electricity scheme began to light the streets and provide domestic power supply (Murray & White 1983:155). The mine closure brought an end to the landmark mining poppets beyond the commercial area, and instead the streetscapes were marked by overhead power poles and lines and the increasingly popular motor car (Figure 8.09). Initially the main streets continued to have a gravelled surface, but by 1930 the main streets had been sealed. Again, little building change had been experienced, the commercial centre continuing to reflect the 1860s-1880s architecture with projecting verandahs (Figure 8.10).

Stawell arose "phoenix like" from the ashes of mining, as Town Clerk Walter Sharpley termed it in 1932, with an increase in home building about 1906. Several reasons have been advanced to explain a trend that lasted three decades: the town was the largest in the region with a well-established industrial and business structure; it was a major railway service depot and transshipment point for Wimmera wheat and Mount Difficult freestone; it was the preferred centre for southeast Wimmera farmers, many of whom formerly worked in the town's mines; and it had the ability to capitalise on these advantages through its "strong community spirit and commercial opportunism" (Taylor et al 2022:6.17).

The most profound architectural change to the Stawell ~~Reefs-Main Street~~ streetscape appears to have occurred after the Second World War from the late 1940s, during the second half of the 20th century. Many of the 19th century verandahs were replaced with cantilever~~ed~~ing canopies, and a large number of shopfronts were also substantially altered (Figure 8.11). There were some new buildings introduced in the interwar period (c.1920s-1940s), and the Gold Reef Mall was created along the north-eastern end of Main Street in the 1970s. Significantly, while these changes did have a critical impact on altering the 19th century commercial streetscape, most of the buildings – as shown in Figure 8.12 – remained intact behind the front façade (including the rear building portion, roof form and building construction). The surviving legacy of the gold-mining era had therefore been partially retained. The Gold Reef Mall was re-opened to traffic in 2003/2004.

There was some change in the precinct in the two decades between 2004 and 2024. An early (c.1860s) dwelling at 34 Scallan Street was demolished. The Edwardian Free Style dental surgery at 119 Main Street was partially defaced, and the Victorian shop at 124 Main Street was demolished and replaced with a simple neo-Victorian front. The modern pedestrian mall (the Gold Reef Mall) along Main Street, between Wimmera and Layzell Streets, was reversed to reintroduce car traffic along a central asphalted roadbed. As part of this work, a number of semi-mature street trees (of no heritage value) were removed. One element retained from this period is brick footpath paving in colours and patterns referencing Victorian polychromy. The footpaths have outstands at corners and near pedestrian crossings, as well as widened areas to allow

[outdoor dining.](#)

Cultural, Civic and Residential Building Development in the [Reefs Area](#) precinct

Although the first permanent government and civic buildings at Stawell were constructed in the 1860s on the reserve for public purposes at Pleasant Creek ([now](#) Stawell West), there were a number of cultural and civic buildings erected in the Reefs area in the 1860s and 1870s, and later in the 1920s and 1930s. Most of these buildings were churches or church-related structures built in Scallan Street, but there were also a few situated in Main Street. They included St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church (Scallan Street), 1868; Stawell Baptist Church (Scallan Street), 1869; Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Main Street), 1870-72; Congregational Church (Scallan Street), 1874; and the Salvation Army Citadel (Main Street), 1934.

Of the government and civic buildings, the most prominent was the Stawell Town Hall in Main Street, initially built in 1872, with the clocktower added in 1939. The Stawell Post Office further along Main Street was built in 1875 and the Stawell Mechanics' Institute, erected in 1875, became an important cultural institution in the town.

There are also a number of residential buildings constructed during the height of Stawell's gold mining prosperity in the second half of the 19th century and in the initial years of the 20th century. Situated in Scallan Street, some of these residential buildings are associated with the nearby churches. [These include the Victorian former Congregational Manse at 23 Scallan Street and the Presbyterian Manse of 1920 at 9 Scallan Street, both of which stand beside their respective church. Most of the houses on this street date from the late nineteenth century, the earliest being 'Glenariffe' built by 1878, as well as 1890s examples at 31 and 33 Scallan Street. There is also a red brick California Bungalow of the 1920s at 15 Scallan Street.](#)

Sources:

'*Home to Stawell*', 1947. Official Souvenir Publication, Matthews Publishing Co., Melbourne, Stawell Historical Society collection.

Kingston, R. 1989. *Good Country for a Grant: A History of the Stawell Shire*.

Murray, R. & K. White, 1983. *The Golden Years of Stawell*, The Town of Stawell in conjunction with Lothian Publishing Co Pty Ltd, Port Melbourne.

Smith, F. surveyor, 1866. 'Special Allotments, Reefs, Pleasant Creek, Parish of Stawell', 14 November 1866, survey photo-lithographed at the Department of Lands & Survey, Melbourne, Lands Victoria collection.

Taylor, P. 1999. *Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Vol. 2: Thematic Environmental History*, 1999.

[Taylor, P., W. Jacobs & D. Rowe 2022. *Northern Grampians Shire Thematic History \(revised edition\)*, draft Sept. 2022.](#)

Historic images:

[Figure 8.01: Stawell Reefs, early 1860s. Source: Stawell Historical Society, \(D20 SHS Image.1\)](#)

[Figure 8.02: 1866 Map of Reef, Pleasant Creek. Special allotments, Reefs, Pleasant Creek, Parish of Stawell \[cartographic material\] / surveyed by Fred Smith, Contract Surveyor; photo-lithographed at the Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, November 14th, 1866.](#)

[Figure 8.03: Upper Main Street, Stawell Reefs, 1867. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D14a \[1867\] SHS 1290\).](#)

[Figure 8.04: Main Street, Stawell, c.1880. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D16 \[c1880\] SHS_0549\).](#)

[Figure 8.05: Lower Main Street, Stawell, c.1880. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(Do2a \[c1880\] SHS_0537\).](#)

[Figure 8.06: Central Stawell \(Stawell Reefs\), c.1880. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D19 \[c1880\] SHS_0535\).](#)

[Figure 8.07: Main Street, Stawell, 1906. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D13c \[1906\] SHS_1423\).](#)

[Figure 8.08: Lower Main Street, Stawell, 1906. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D11b SHS_1906 SHS_1422\).](#)

[Figure 8.09: Main Street, Stawell, c.1925. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D07a SHS_1055\).](#)

[Figure 8.10: Main Street, Stawell, c.1935. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D05c SHS_0366a\).](#)

[Figure 8.11: Main Street, Stawell, c.1965. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(D06d SHS_1136\).](#)

[Figure 8.12: Main Street, Stawell \(from Town Hall clocktower\), c.1980. Source: Stawell Historical Society \(Aerial View from Town Hall Tower\)](#)

Description

Precinct Boundaries ~~(refer to precinct plan at the rear of this precinct)~~

The Stawell ~~Reefs~~ Main Street Heritage Precinct is largely comprised of Main Street, where there are the main concentrations of commercial buildings. The precinct is bound by the properties fronting the north-western side of Scallan Street and the rear boundaries of the Main Street allotments on the south-eastern side, between Manse and St. George's Streets, and Layzell and Patrick ~~s~~Streets.

Buildings & Significant Details ~~(refer to photos at the rear of this precinct)~~

[Refer also to precinct child records in the Victorian Heritage Database prepared for the majority of properties within the precinct, including descriptions and brief histories.](#)

Buildings

The Stawell ~~Reefs~~ Main Street Pprecinct is ~~especially~~ characterised by its retail centre along Main Street, with its concentration of 19th and early 20th century buildings ~~(photos 8.01–8.02), the former Gold Reef Mall (photo 8.03)~~ and a number of civic and ~~c~~Church buildings in Main and Scallan ~~s~~Streets ~~(photo 8.04)~~. Most of the significant single or double storey Victorian and interwar commercial ~~styled~~ buildings in Main Street ~~consist of~~ have unpainted or rendered brick wall construction and prominent parapets or eaves overhangs. These buildings have ~~early~~ gabled or hipped roofs clad in galvanised corrugated iron (and with a roof pitch between 20 and 35 degrees), with some examples of early monitor roofs that contribute to the picturesque nature of the roofscapes. Early ~~significant~~ unpainted or rendered brick chimneys adorn the rooflines of several buildings, while timber ~~framed~~ double ~~–~~hung windows are a feature of most upper floor facades and at the rear. Of critical importance to these buildings and the precinct are the surviving rear building portions. These sections are largely intact, and some retain domestic quarters that survive from the 19th century. Furthermore, these rear sections provide an architectural ~~and~~ historical ~~and social~~ link to the nearby mining sites that have long since disappeared.

While new buildings, ~~substantially the many~~ altered shopfronts, reclad and ~~overly~~ ~~proportioned~~ oversized parapets and new verandahs or canopies have intruded on the original and early commercial streetscape ~~(photo 8.05)~~, a number of ~~the prominent~~ fine 19th and early

20th century buildings are largely intact. In addition to the architectural features already listed, ~~the principal facades of constructional and stylistic details are displayed from the street frontage of the~~ intact buildings ~~that have been designed in distinctive Victorian styles~~ ranging from a rudimentary Victorian commercial ~~style type~~ to the Late Victorian Boom Classical style. ~~display characteristic constructional and stylistic details.~~ The intact features include the parapet details (balustraded or solid), window and door architraves, stringcourses and several Victorian decorative details (~~a number often~~ with Classical origins) including arches punctuated by keystones, rustication or quoins ~~work~~, pilasters or piers with stylized capitals, and window or parapet pediments. Some of the most prominent and intact commercial buildings include the former State Savings Bank ([SL/18460 Main St](#)), Town Hall Hotel ([62-68 Main St](#)) ([SL/185](#)), former Victoria House ([SL/187](#)), Post Office Arcade ([SL/194](#)), Toyworld ([SL/195](#)), Total Music Store ([SL/218](#)), former McKellar's Building ([SL/233](#)), former Club Hotel ([SL/234180 Main St](#)), Sandwich Shop ([SL/195](#)) ([photo 8.06](#)), Post Office ([SL/19387 Main St](#)) ([photo 8.06](#)), former Union Bank ([SL/224153-155 Main St](#)), former Bank of Victoria ([SL/227163 Main St](#)), and the former Oriental Bank ([SL/234171-173 Main St](#)). These buildings are noteworthy examples of ~~individually~~ significant buildings in the Stawell Reefs Main Street precinct.

There is a large number of commercial buildings that retain a largely intact front façade, and secondary elevations, though often they do not retain an original or early shopfront. These include single storey shops in Main Street at 70, 88 (former Post Office Hotel (now Arcade)), 90-92, 100-102, 107 ('Cambrian Hall'), 133-137 (former Star Hotel), and 164-168. Interspersed among them are two-storey shops with intact upper storeys on Main Street at 72-74 (former Victoria House), 102-104, 113-115 (former Brown Furniture Warehouse), 134, 148, and 177, as well as the three-storey former McKellar Building at 174-178. These buildings are Contributory to the precinct.

Only two shops appear to retain their original shopfront, both interwar. They are the Midway Shop at 132 Main Street, built in 1935 in the Spanish Mission style, and the diminutive shop at 4 Byrne Street (whose façade is between 171-173 and 177 Main Street). A number of Victorian-era buildings have early shopfronts, dating from the Edwardian and early interwar eras, which are also of heritage value. They are found on Main Street at 107, 121-123 (former 'Mitchell's Men's and Ladies Wear Emporium'), 152 (former Laxton's Boot Factory), 157-161 (former 'Chadwick's Drapers'), and 177 (former Punchard Furniture Warehouse; continuous with the shopfront at 4 Byrne Street).

There are also a substantial number of 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings in Main Street that have experienced considerable shopfront and front façade alteration and change ([photos 8.05, 8.07](#)). However, the three-dimensional gabled or hipped form (mainly following a rectangular plan), brick wall and galvanised corrugated iron roof construction ([photo 8.08](#)), and rear sections ([photo 8.09](#)) of several of these buildings are intact. They survive beyond the introduced street facades of steel deck and aluminium cladding or brick construction, aluminium framed shopfronts (some with in-goes), introduced canopies, ~~overly~~ proportioned over-sized metal-clad parapets and other introduced details. These buildings include the former Chadwick and Company building ([SL/1651/157 Main St](#)), Shop building ([SL/203108 Main St](#)), Miner's Pick store ([SL/207112-114 Main St](#)), Civic Store ([SL/209118 Main St](#)), Attrills Florist and Haymes Stores Specsavers ([SL 211-213 120 Main St](#)) and ~~the a Northern Grampian Shire Council shopfront officeshop with a small residential wing to its rear~~ ([SL/215125-127 Main St](#)) ([photos 8.07, 8.09](#)). These buildings are noteworthy examples of Contributory significant buildings in the Stawell Reefs Main Street precinct. Apart from the front elevation, the majority of the building fabric contributes to the architectural and historical amenity value of the precinct.

There are also a large number of cultural and civic buildings surviving in the Stawell Reefs Main Street precinct. The most prominent is the Stawell Town Hall in Main Street (~~photo 8.10~~), together with the Post Office (~~photo 8.08~~). The Town Hall is a substantial brick building, with rendered front façade, built in two phases. The front section, of 1872, is eclectic Victorian Classical in style, with an interwar Art Deco clocktower added in 1939. The Post Office is two-storey rendered masonry building of 1874 in a Victorian Italianate palazzo style. Another notable cultural and architectural building is the two storey, ~~face brick~~, Mechanics' Institute, with face brick walls and fine pressed-cement enrichments. while along the southern end of Main Street is the Salvation Army Citadel of 1934, representing early 20th century interwar developments. It is free classical in style, with dressings in an unusual rock-faced bricks. These buildings are of individual significanttee.

Apart from Adjacent to the Holy Trinity Anglican Church near the St. George's Street end of Main Street, there is an important cChurch precinct in Scallan Street. The surviving cChurch buildings include St. Matthew's Uniting (former Presbyterian) with its landmark Gothic spire, the modest classical revival Welsh Baptist Church-Chapel, and the modest Gothic St. Peter's Lutheran (former Congregational) Church, together with some secondary church buildings and residences. These The buildings churches are of similar brick or rendered construction as like the commercial buildings, with hipped and/or gabled roofs clad in slate tiles or galvanised corrugated iron, often steeply pitched (between 25 and 40 degrees), and picturesque in form and detail with side buttresses. These buildings are of individual significant, except for the altered Holy Trinity Anglican Church Parish Hall which is Contributoryee. Beside two of the churches are residences, including the Victorian Italianate timber villa at 23 Scallan Street (former Congregational Manse), and the late Federation red brick villa at 9 Scallan Street (former St Matthew's Manse), both of which are also Significant due to their historical associations and intactness.

The other dwellings on Scallan Street in the precinct are mostly Victorian era, found in a row at Nos. 27-33, either They are constructed of rendered brick or horizontal timber weatherboards, and also have hipped or gabled roofs clad predominantly in galvanised corrugated steel (with roof pitches between 25 and 35 degrees). They have timber framed double hung windows and timber framed doors, narrow eaves, brick chimneys that adorn the roofline and front or side verandahs. The earliest of them is 'Glenariffe' (29 Scallan Street), built prior to 1878, with a long transverse gabled roof, slightly concave verandah roof, and a combination of sash and French windows to the front façade. The other houses in this group are all timber, mostly illustrating the symmetrical version of the typical Italianate house, though No. 33 has a projecting canted bay to the side elevation. There is also an interwar house, a brick California Bungalow with a typical transverse gabled roof and minor gable forming the front porch. These houses are all Contributory. –

Most of these buildings are of individual significance.

Signage

Signage is generally situated in the parapet locations, along prominent side elevations or occasionally as verandah hoardings. There are various examples of advertising that are sympathetic and appropriate for the style of the building, such as the painted wall signage at the side of the Sandwich Shop (SL/192) or the parapet signage of Pamela's Fruiters (SL/190) (photo 8.06). There are also examples of inappropriate advertising, whereby overly proportioned hoarding or parapet signs, or unsympathetic colours, stylistic designs and materials have been used. Additional inappropriate signage is identified by the projection of the internally illuminated signs about the upper walls of the main façade of some buildings (photo 8.04).

Urban Design & Engineering Infrastructure

The Stawell Reefs Main Street heritage precinct is largely a built-up Victorian and interwar

commercial area (particularly Main Street), with some cultural and residential sections in Main and Scallan sStreets.

The allotment sizes within the precinct vary considerably, with Main Street forming the central core. The allotment and street configuration of the primary and secondary streets broadly follows the original 1866 survey. Along Main Street, the commercial buildings predominantly take up the full width of the narrow and wide allotments.

These blocks are reasonably deep, and while most of the commercial buildings are attached and semi-detached, there are some narrow drives and walkways that punctuate the strip of commercial activity (~~photo 8.11~~). The residential allotments are comparatively large, with most front setbacks approximately ranging ~~between from 2 and to~~ 4 metres. There is a large allotment on Main Street forming the municipal reserve for the Town Hall and neighbouring car park (formerly the site of a church, whose granite front fence survives along the southern boundary).

A significant urban focus in Main Street is the Stawell Town Hall and clocktower (~~photo 8.10~~). There are also significant views to the Grampians along the south-western end (~~photo 8.12~~), to the RSL building in Scallan Street, the steeple of St. Matthew's Uniting Church in Scallan Street (~~photo 8.10~~), the chimney stack of the Stawell brickworks to the west, and to the Baptist Church in Scallan Street from Main Street through the Town Hall carpark. The mMemorials and garden plantings near the southern end of the precinct forms another significant landmark that can be viewed from a number of different locations in the precinct. The uninterrupted views of the rear of the commercial shops from Church and Bayliss streets — with their picturesque gabled and hipped galvanised corrugated iron roof forms and intact construction and details - also makes a critical and unusual contribution to the rural, commercial architectural character of the precinct. The former Powder Magazine is located in the central reserve of Church Street. It is a small utilitarian structure of face brick with a cement-rendered barrel vaulted roof.

Throughout the precinct is a mixture of ~~introduced non-original~~ concrete footpaths, concrete flagged footpaths and polychrome brick paving to the central commercial core of Main Street. There is also introduced concrete kerb and channel and concrete roll over kerbs, with some shallow spoon drains. introduced Recent traffic islands form an intrusive street feature at the junction of Main and Wimmera sStreets.

No early Stawell stone kerbs or spoon drains survive in the precinct, although there is an early 'pyramid style' post box in Main Street (near Patrick Street) (~~photo 8.13~~).

Landscaping

Throughout the precinct are pockets of both significant ~~or as well as~~ recent landscaping. The mMemorials and garden plantings in Main Street, at the triangular junction with Victoria Street, near the southern end of the precinct forms an important landscape, with its grassed area, pond, flagpoles, rose garden and perimeter flower beds (~~photo 8.12~~). It contains a stripped classical granite cenotaph upon which stands a statue of a digger in repose, in remembrance of the Great War (WWI). Beside it is a second granite memorial, for WWII and the Korean War. ~~In the Gold Reef Mall are mature Ash trees (photo 8.03), although the Mallaleucas surrounded by bluestone borders near Victoria Place have been introduced. Other introduced~~ Landscaping introduced in recent time includes the Town Hall Gardens (although the granite fence is early but altered) (~~photo 8.14~~), brick planter boxes and seating, and the young Ash trees in projecting islands on Main Street. Other isolated landscaping includes the two mature poplars outside the front of the Baptist Church in Scallan Street (photo 8.15).

Comparative analysis

The Stawell Main Street Precinct is most appropriately compared with other early commercial and civic precincts in the towns of the Northern Grampians Shire. There is currently a very small number of places in the Northern Grampians Heritage Overlay, most of them also in the Victorian Heritage Register. No precincts are currently in the HO. For this reason, this comparison will necessarily consider comparator precincts that have been assessed but not (yet) included in the HO.

The 2004 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', Vol. 1 (Jacobs, Johnson, Rowe & Taylor) contains assessments of ten heritage precincts, including the subject precinct. Four of them are in Stawell, four in St Arnaud, and one each in Great Western and Marnoo. There are three, apart from the subject precinct, that encompass commercial and/or civic areas of the shire's early towns:

Commercial Heritage Precinct, St Arnaud – Starting with the first township survey in 1858, this precinct contains a predominantly intact 19th and early 20th century commercial townscape supported by secondary streets of residential and other buildings. The key period of development is the 1870s to the 1930s. Apart from commercial and residential development, there is a treed municipal reserve associated with the Town Hall, a collection of churches, and a number of mature exotic street trees. The township was first developed from the 1850s as a result of gold discoveries in the area.

It is closely comparable to the subject precinct, in its origins (related to the gold rush), range of uses, and typologies of single and two-storey commercial buildings, as well as nineteenth-century dwellings at the edges. The level of architectural quality is similar. It appears to have a somewhat higher level of intactness, with a number of early twentieth-century shops retaining their original shopfronts, a lower proportion of shops whose front parapet has been covered in metal sheeting or rebuilt, and it retains at least two posted verandahs (Crone's and Brain's buildings). It does not, however, contain an area of striking churches and their subsidiary buildings, as seen on Scallan Street in the subject precinct.

Old Civic Heritage Precinct, St Arnaud – This small precinct comprises the old government reserve and Queen Mary Gardens. It characterised by face brick cultural, civic, government and church buildings in a landscaped setting designed between the 1860s and 1902. These buildings, including the Court House, Kara Kara Shire Office, Land Office, Post Office, and Police Lockup, are situated in a landscaped setting, and face the Queen Mary Gardens. They are considered a largely intact and rare grouping of government, cultural and infrastructure buildings and historical public gardens, potentially of State significance. This level of significance is set out in a comparative analysis looking at other government quarters in Beechworth, Omeo, Maryborough and Kyneton.

It is not as closely comparable to the subject precinct, as many of the buildings are earlier than those in Stawell. It is also quite different in the landscaped setting afforded the early government buildings. There are, however, similarities including spired Victorian churches, and some of the civic uses (like the post office).

Great Western Heritage Precinct, Great Western – This precinct covers the commercial area of a small town that was developed from 1858 with the discovery of a local goldfield, followed by a township survey in 1859. It also covers adjoining residential and cultural buildings, and some mature street trees. Buildings of heritage value date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Commercial buildings are small scale, all of them single storey, and they are of both masonry (brick, rammed earth) and more modest timber construction. Cultural buildings – churches, schools and a Mechanics' Institute – also vary between brick and timber construction. The Victorian and Federation houses in the precinct are clad in weatherboards. In its array of uses and building types, it is quite comparable to the subject precinct, though

buildings are generally smaller and of more light-weight construction than in Stawell, which is in keeping with the status of Great Western as a small town as compared to Stawell as a local centre.

Marnoo Heritage Precinct, Marnoo – This township developed later than the other comparators, starting in 1875 around a new school. This was an agricultural area, and its origins were not related to the gold rush. The precinct takes in the central Marnoo township area comprising commercial, cultural and residential buildings. It is characterised by the contextually large number of significant single storey, modestly scaled residential, commercial and cultural buildings. Nearly all of them are of timber construction. While there are a few nineteenth-century dwellings, the majority of surviving development dates from the early twentieth century, generally after the opening of a railway station in 1909.

While it contains similar uses, this is not a close comparator to the subject precinct. Its origins are related to agriculture not the gold rush, it contains much more modest development – both in the size of buildings and their construction, and it significant for its early twentieth century development. In contrast, the subject precinct illustrates a longer period of development, with many nineteenth-century buildings, and its built form is larger and more substantial.

In conclusion, the Stawell Main Street Precinct is one of the two most substantial nineteenth and early twentieth century town centres in Northern Grampians Shire. It contains many buildings of masonry construction, some of a large size, in contrast to the more modest scale and timber construction of small towns such as Great Western and Marnoo. While the commercial buildings in the St Arnaud Commercial Heritage Precinct are overall somewhat more intact, the architectural quality present in the two precincts is comparable, and the subject precinct is particularly distinguished by its suite of fine churches and associated dwellings on Scallan Street.

Statement of Cultural Significance

What is significant?

The Stawell Main Street Heritage Precinct is significant, comprising 4 Byrne Street (part), 45-187 & 46-180 Main Street, 9-33 & 12-34 Scallan Street, 2 & 4 Scotland Place, 1 & 3 Victoria Place, and 26-32 Wimmera Street, Stawell.

The precinct contains the Victorian, Federation and interwar commercial buildings, with predominantly brick wall construction (face brick or rendered); hipped and gabled roof forms clad in galvanised corrugated iron and with a roof pitch between 20 and 35 degrees; monitor roofs; timber framed double hung rear and first floor windows; prominent brick or rendered brick parapets (decorated by balustrades or other Victorian details of Classical derivation); projecting stringcourses; decorative window and door surrounds, decorative pilasters with stylized capitals, wall rustication or quoinwork, brick chimneys; and some parapet, verandah hoarding and side wall signage. These buildings also have significant rear portions, featuring brick chimneys, porches and verandahs, parapets, timber framed doors and often a domestic scale. In some cases Contributory buildings have a very altered front façade, but retain a largely intact rear section, visible from adjacent streets.

Civic and church buildings have picturesque gabled or hipped roof forms clad in slate tiles or galvanised corrugated iron, brick or stone wall construction, and side buttresses. Most are accompanied by a manse.

The Victorian and interwar houses in the precinct have hipped and gabled roof galvanised corrugated iron forms (with a roof pitch between 25 and 35 degrees), brick or horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, timber framed double hung windows and timber framed doors, narrow eaves and front or side verandahs.

The heritage status of each property in the precinct is set out in the attached table.

Descriptions and histories of all Significant places and most Contributory places are found in precinct 'child records' in the Victorian Heritage Database.

How is it significant?

Overall, the Stawell Reefs Main Street Precinct is of historical, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the Northern Grampians Shire. LOCAL significance.

Why is it significant?

The Stawell Reefs Heritage Precinct has significance as an intact and unusual 19th- and early 20th-century commercial townscape that continues to form an important physical legacy of Stawell's prosperous gold era between the 1860s and early 20th-century. A number of the commercial buildings along Main Street are significant and relatively intact, of one or two storeys constructed in brick (either face brick or rendered), with galvanised corrugated hipped and gabled roofs behind parapets or with decorative eaves. The 19th-century buildings are contextually opulent and designed in a range of Victorian styles. Of critical importance to the precinct are the rear sections of many of the commercial buildings, which remain largely intact. The name of the town, Stawell, is also unusual, having been named after Sir William Foster Stawell, principal law officer of the District of Port Phillip and later Chief Justice of Victoria.

The Stawell Reefs Main Street Heritage Precinct is of representative architecturally significant (architecturally) at a LOCAL level (AHC criteria D.2, E.1) for its retention of typical of examples of masonry commercial buildings and timber dwellings, largely from the nineteenth century as well as the early twentieth century. Although the central township streetscapes have been altered by intrusive new buildings or building elements (such as cantilevering verandahs and overly proportioned parapet cladding), the precinct still They demonstrates many original and early the design qualities associated with the commercial, cultural and residential development of the Reefs area between the 1860s and the 1930s, and are substantial in size and/or construction in comparison with most early townships in the Shire. (Criterion D). These qualities include the Victorian and interwar styled commercial buildings, with predominantly brick wall construction (with face brick or rendered); hipped and gabled roof forms clad in galvanised corrugated iron and with a roof pitch between 20 and 35 degrees; monitor roofs; timber framed double hung rear and first floor windows; prominent brick or rendered brick parapets (decorated by balustrades or other Victorian details of Classical derivation); projecting stringcourses; decorative window and door surrounds; decorative pilasters with stylized capitals, wall rustication or quoinwork, brick chimneys; broadly projecting verandahs; and some parapet, verandah hoarding and side wall signage. These buildings also have significant rear portions, featuring brick chimneys, porches and verandahs, parapets, timber framed doors and often a domestic scale. The cultural buildings (civic and church buildings) are also significant for these picturesque gabled or hipped roof forms clad in slate tiles or galvanised corrugated iron, brick or stone wall construction, and side buttresses. The houses in the precinct are also significant for their hipped and gabled roof galvanised corrugated iron forms (with a roof pitch between 25 and 35 degrees), brick or horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, timber framed double hung windows and timber framed doors, narrow eaves and front or side verandahs.

The Stawell Reefs Main Street Precinct is aesthetically important/significant. It demonstrates unique visual qualities that reflect the historical and cultural development of the township and surrounding areas, and contribute to the setting of the township. These qualities include the landmark clocktower of the Town Hall building and the landmark steeple of St. Matthew's Church, together with the mMemorials and garden plantings, mature Ash trees, mature poplars near the Baptist Church in Scallan Street and the uninterrupted views of the rear of the commercial buildings and to the Grampians to the south-west. The precinct is particularly distinguished by its suite of fine churches and associated dwellings on Scallan Street, and by

[the grandeur of key Victorian-era buildings, such as the Town Hall, Post Office, Mechanics' Institute, and banks. \(Criterion E\)](#)

The Stawell [Reefs Main Street](#) Precinct is historically significant ~~at a LOCAL level (AHC criterion H.4)~~. It is associated with the early development of the Reefs area of Stawell (originally known as Pleasant Creek) from the 1850s but more particularly from the 1860s until c.1920 as a result of gold discoveries. The precinct has associations with the survey of the Reefs area in 1866, which was carried out by Fred Smith of the Department of Lands and Survey. Once dominated by surrounding mine poppet heads, mullock heaps, steam engines and miner's cottages, the central core of the precinct, Main Street – with its irregular layout – continues to reflect the importance of gold mining as the road was laid out around the gold mines. Although the early civic and government centre of the Stawell township was originally situated at Pleasant Creek from 1858, the Main Street ([Reefs](#)) area soon became a critical commercial focus which by the 1860s featured a number of cultural and commercial buildings. Further [commercial](#) buildings were constructed in the ensuing years ~~of the Victorian, Federation and interwar eras and the integrity of the Stawell Reefs Precinct streetscapes were fully retained until the 1950s and 1960s~~. Some of the rear sections of the commercial buildings in Main Street have domestic quarters that may be a lasting legacy of mining accommodation to the gold mines that were once visually connected to these buildings. The name given the town honoured Sir William Foster Stawell, principal law officer of the District of Port Phillip and later Chief Justice of Victoria. [\(Criterion A\)](#)

The Stawell [Reefs Main Street](#) Precinct is socially significant [due to the presence of civic buildings, churches and the war memorial, many of which have been loci of community activity since the nineteenth century at a LOCAL level \(AHC criterion G.1\)](#). ~~This area of Stawell is recognized and highly valued by the local community for commercial, cultural, and commemorative reasons. (Criterion G)~~

~~Overall, the Stawell Reefs Precinct is of LOCAL significance.~~

Property schedule

Name and address	Build date	Heritage status
Single-storey shop, 4 Byrne Street (part)	C1920s	Contributory; interwar shopfront
Former Powder Magazine, Church Street	C19	Significant H09
War Memorial, cnr Main and Victoria streets	1923	Significant
Manse, 45-47 Main Street	Post-war	Non-contributory
Shops, 46 Main Street	C1930s	Contributory
Stawell Auto Parts (part), 48 Main Street		Non-contributory
Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 45-4749-51 Main Street	1872	Significant
Salvation Army Citadel, 50 Main Street	1934	Significant
Shops, 52, 54 & 56 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shops, 53 & 55-57 Main Street		Non-contributory
Stawell Town Hall, 59-69 Main Street	1873, 1924, 1939	Significant (Miners' Banner VHR H2383)
Former State Savings Bank, 60 Main Street	1888	Significant
Town Hall Hotel, 62-68 Main Street	1873, 1897, 1913	Significant
Shop, 70 Main Street	1870s	Contributory
71-75 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shops, 72-74 Main Street	1874	Contributory

Name and address	Build date	Heritage status
76 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shops, 78-82 Main Street	1910s	Contributory
Shops, Pachamama & Little Stems, 77-79 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shops, 81-83 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shops, 84-86 Main Street	1930s	Contributory
Two-storey building, 85 Main Street	1907	Significant
Stawell Post Office, 87 Main Street	1874	SignificantH08
Post Office Arcade - former Post Office Hotel, 88 Main Street	1879	Contributory
Shops, 90-92 Main Street	c1880s	Contributory
Shop, 91 Main Street	1874	Contributory
Pharmacy, 93-95 Main Street		Non-contributory
Quinn & Co Eyecare, 94 Main Street		Non-contributory
Two-storey Commercial Building - former Wimmera Café, 96 Main Street	1923	Significant
Shop, 97 Main Street	C19	Non-contributory
98 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, Inka, - former Anthony and Co., 99 Main Street	C19	Non-contributory
Two-storey Commercial Building, 100-102 Main Street	After 1871	Contributory
101-103 Main Street		Non-contributory
104-106 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, 105 Main Street	Pre-1888	Contributory
Shop - former 'Cambrian Hall', 107 Main Street	1878	Contributory; early 20C shopfront
Shop, 108 Main Street		Contributory
Former shop parapet and Pioneer Walk, 109 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shop, KMR Accounting, 110 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, Axis Employment, 111 Main Street	c1874	Contributory
Shops, 112-114 Main Street	1930s & C19 rear	Contributory
Two-storey building - former T. Brown Furniture Warehouse, 113-115 Main Street	1873	Contributory
Newsagent, 116 Main Street		Non-contributory
Single-storey shop (part of Lyal Eals Stores), 117 Main Street		Non-contributory
Green Leaf Cafe - former Isaacson shop, 118 Main Street	1878	Contributory
Former dental surgery, 119 Main Street		Contributory
Shop, Specsavers, 120 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Cottage Country & Boutique - former 'Mitchell's Men's and Ladies Wear Emporium', 121-123 Main Street	1889	Significant
Shop and IGA, 122-130 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, 125-127 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shop - former Chaponnel, Bush and Allen Butchers, 129 Main Street	1873	Significant

Name and address	Build date	Heritage status
131 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, 'The Midway Shop', 132 Main Street	1935	Significant
Stawell Club (former Star Hotel), 133-137 Main Street	C19, c1916	Contributory
Two-storey Shop, 134 Main Street	c1885	Contributory
Haircutters, 136 Main Street	Interwar	Contributory
138, 140 & 142 Main Street		Non-contributory
139, 141-145, 147 & 149-151 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, Stawell Tackle & Marine, 144 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shop, Sports Power, 146 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Two-storey Shop, 148 Main Street	1873	Contributory
Crafts & Gifts, 150 Main Street		Non-contributory
Are-Able - former Laxton's Boot Factory, 152 Main Street	c1869	Contributory, early C20 shopfront
Two-storey building - former Union Bank of Australia, 153-155 Main Street, corner Victoria Place	1887	Significant
Mokepilly Café, 154-156 Main Street		Non-contributory
Shop, former 'Chadwick's Drapers', 1/157 Main Street	1869 & Federation	Contributory, early C20 shopfront
Shop, Former 'Imbros Books', 158-160 Main Street	C19	Contributory
Shop, 'Clarks Furniture', 157-161 Main Street	Pre-1875	Contributory
162 Main Street		Contributory
Former Bank of Victoria and stables, 163 Main Street	1871	Significant
Shop, Opp Shop, 164-166 Main Street	early C20	Contributory
Two-storey building (part of former Commercial Hotel), 165-169 Main Street	C19	Significant
Former Free Library and Mechanics' Institute, 168-172 Main Street	1874	Significant
Two-storey building - former Oriental Bank, 171-173 Main Street	1869	Significant
NB: Shop with address 4 Byrne St is located here		
Shop - former Punchard Furniture Warehouse, 177 Main Street	Pre-1888	Contributory; early C20 shopfront
Three-storey building - former McKellar Building, 174-178 Main Street	1876	Contributory
179 Main Street (aka No. 175)	C19	Contributory
Elders Real Estate, 181-187 Main Street		Non-contributory
Former Club Hotel, 180 Main Street	1875	Significant
Former Presbyterian Manse, 9 Scallan Street	1920	Significant
Holy Trinity Anglican Church Parish Hall, 12 Scallan Street	Pre-1890	Contributory
St Matthew's Uniting Church (former Presbyterian Church), 11-13 Scallan Street	1868	H016Significant
California Bungalow, 15 Scallan Street	c1920s	Contributory
Former Welsh Baptist Chapel, 17 Scallan Street	1869	H017Significant
Townhouses, 19 & 21 Scallan Street		Non-contributory
Stawell Medical Centre (part), 20 Scallan Street		Non-contributory
Former Congregational Manse, 23 Scallan Street	Late C19	Significant
Telstra substation, 24 Scallan Street	Post-war	Non-contributory

Name and address	Build date	Heritage status
St Peter's Lutheran Church (former Congregational Church), 25 Scallan Street	1874	Significant (Pipe organ VHR H2177)
Woolworths, 26-34 Scallan Street		Non-contributory
Former St Leonard's Private Hospital, now Lutheran Sunday School, 27 Scallan Street	Late C19	Contributory
House (former 'Glenariffe'), 29 Scallan Street	Pre-1878	Contributory
House, 31 Scallan Street	Pre-1896	Contributory
House, 33 Scallan Street	c1890s	Contributory
Shop, 2 Scotland Place	1930s	Contributory;
Stawell Coach Factory (former), 4 Scotland Place	Late C19	Significant
Shop, 1 Victoria Place	c1900	Contributory
Grampian Ale Works, 3 Victoria Place		Non-contributory
Townhouse, 24 Wimmera Street		Non-contributory
Stawell Medical Centre, 26 Wimmera Street		Non-contributory
30-32 Wimmera Street (NB: part of same property as 85 Main Street)		Significant (part of 85 Main Street)

Statutory recommendations

The following HO Schedule entry is recommended:

<u>External paint</u>	<u>Internal alteration</u>	<u>Tree controls</u>	<u>Solar energy system</u>	<u>Outbuildings or fences</u>	<u>Prohibited uses</u>	<u>Aboriginal heritage place</u>
Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes – 163 Main St stables	No	No

[Apply the HO to the properties as shown on the plan below.](#)



Critical Aspects of the Precinct that need to be considered for Policy Development:

- Individual and Contributory buildings: retention of building form, details, construction and rear sections;
- Contributory buildings: encourage the reconstruction of 19th century shopfronts and street facades through historical evidence of lithographs and photographs. Alternatively, encourage the contemporary interpretation of traditional shopfront design;
- New buildings: encourage the contemporary interpretation of traditional building design (based on the significant qualities of the significant buildings in the precinct);
- Encourage the removal of introduced overly proportioned metal clad parapets to expose picturesque roofscapes and monitor lights on significant buildings;
- Encourage the reconstruction of traditional shopfronts for significant

buildings, based on historical photographs and lithographs. Alternatively, encourage the contemporary interpretation of traditional shopfront design as shown in historical photographs and lithographs;

- Encourage the reconstruction of traditional verandah design of significant buildings, based on historical photographs and lithographs. Alternatively, encourage the contemporary interpretation of traditional verandah design as shown in historical photographs and lithographs;

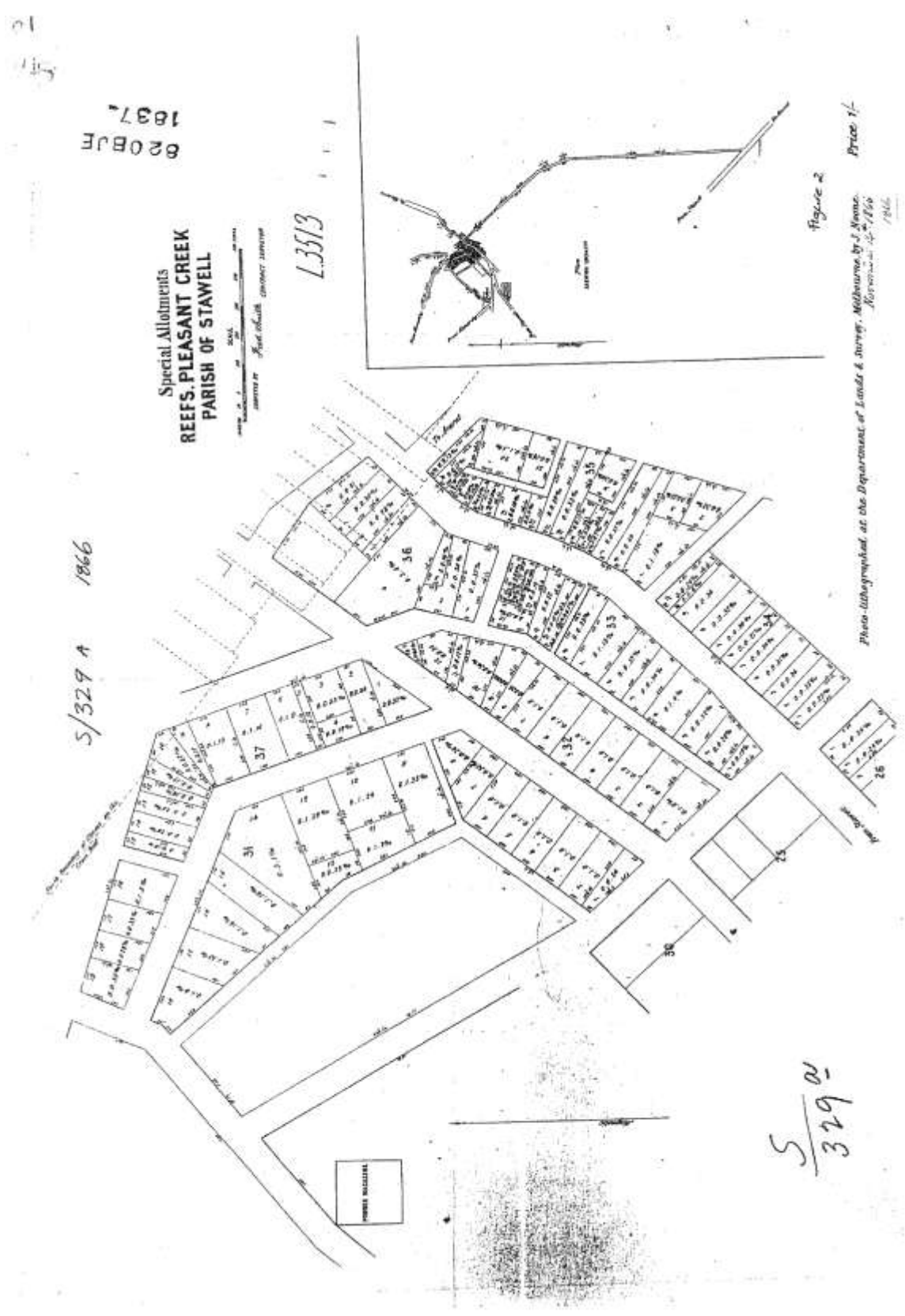


Figure 8.02: 1866 Map of Reef, Pleasant Creek

Source: [State Library of Victoria](https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/)



Figure 8.03: Upper Main Street, Stawell Reefs, 1867.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D14a [1867]_SHS_1290).



Figure 8.04: Main Street, Stawell, c.1880
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D16 [c1880]_SHS_0549).



Figure 8.05: Lower Main Street, Stawell, c.1880.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (Do2a_[c1880]_SHS_0537).



Figure 8.06: Central Stawell (Stawell Reefs), c.1880.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D19_[c1880]_SHS_0535)



Figure 8.07: Main Street, Stawell, 1906.

Source: Stawell Historical Society (D13c_[1906]_SHS_1423).



Figure 8.08: Lower Main Street, Stawell, 1906.

Source: Stawell Historical Society (D11b_SHS_1906_SHS_1422).



Figure 8.09: Main Street, Stawell, c.1925.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D07a_SHS_1055).



Figure 8.10: Main Street, Stawell, c.1935.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D05c_SHS_0366a)



Figure 8.11: Main Street, Stawell, c.1965.
Source: Stawell Historical Society (D06d_SHS_1136).



Figure 8.12: Main Street, Stawell (from Town Hall clocktower), c.1980. Source: Stawell Historical Society (Aerial View from Town Hall Tower)



Photo 8.01: Lower Main Street from the War Memorial gardens showing 19th century Victorian styled two-storeyed commercial buildings. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.02: Main Street (near Wimmera Street intersection) showing early one and two storey commercial and government buildings, including the landmark clock tower of the Town Hall. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.03: Main Street (Former Gold Reef Mall) showing Ash trees, introduced paving and play area, [all of which has been removed.](#) (Source: [‘Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2’, 2004](#))



Photo 8.04: View of the Holy Trinity Church fronting lower Main Street, with the spire of St Matthew’s Uniting Church in the background. (Source: [‘Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2’, 2004](#))



Photo 8.05: Main Street showing new and substantially altered buildings with new shopfronts and over-sizedly proportioned parapets and projecting cantilevering canopies. Note the early roof monitors and gabled roof forms behind some of the introduced parapets. [The pedestrian mall has since been removed.](#) (Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004)



Photo 8.06: View of the [Sandwich shops at 77-85 Main Street](#) and Post Office ~~in Main Street~~. Note the uninterrupted views of the early galvanised corrugated roof forms. [Also note the appropriate signage on the side wall of the Sandwich shop.](#) (Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004)



Photo 8.07: [Northern Grampians Shire Council shopfront office Shope at 125-127 Main Street](#), showing introduced parapet and shopfront. [The brick structure in the middle of the street has been removed.](#) (Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004)



Photo8.0-8: View along Main Street showing introduced shopfronts and parapets, and the early gabled roof forms and monitor roofs (clad in galvanised corrugated iron) behind. [The Post Office is visible in the centre.](#) (Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004)



Photo 8.09: [Northern Grampians Shire Shopfront office](#)—Rear section of 125-127 Main Street, showing largely intact, domestically scaled building. Also note the high integrity of the roof forms, chimneys and rear walls of the neighbouring buildings. (Source: [‘Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2’, 2004](#))



Photo 8.10: Stawell Town Hall in Main Street, with St Matthew's Uniting Church in Scallan Street in the background. (Source: [‘Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2’, 2004](#))



Photo 8.11: Detail of narrow walkway between commercial buildings in Main Street. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.12: View of the Grampians from lower Main Street. Also note the significant War [Memorial](#) and surrounding gardens in the middle ground. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.13: View Early 'pyramid style' post box in Main Street. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.14: View of the Town Hall garden in Main Street. Also note the early (albeit altered) granite fence remaining from the former church building on this site. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.15: View of the Baptist church with mature cypress trees [\(trees since removed\)](#) from Main Street through the Town Hall carpark. [\(Source: 'Northern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Stage 2', 2004\)](#)



Photo 8.16: View of the south side of Main Street, looking east. [\(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[Photo 8.17: South side of Main Street, east end, comprising 162-180 Main Street, with the Mechanics' Institute in the centre. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.18: North side of Main Street, west end, comprising 87-115 Main Street. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.19: North side of Main Street, east end, comprising 163-179 Main Street. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.20: West side of Scotland Place, with former Stawell Coach Factory at left, and 1930s shops at right. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.21: Former Presbyterian Manse, 9 Scallan Street. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.22: Interwar California Bungalow, 15 Scallan Street. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



8.23: Former Welsh Baptist Chapel, 17 Scallan Street. (Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024)



8.24: Former Congregational Manse, 23 Scallan Street. (Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024)



[8.25: St Peter's Lutheran \(former Congregational\) Church, 25 Scallan Street. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)



[8.26: Victorian houses at 27-31 Scallan Street, looking west. \(Source: Landmark Heritage PL, 2024\)](#)