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# House, 32 Barnes Street, STAWELL



SL 012a - House, 32 Barnes Street, STAWELL



SL 012b - Undated photographs, Stawell Historical Society Collection.

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## Location

32 Barnes Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 2004

The house at 32 Barnes Street, Stawell, has significance as a predominantly intact example of a Victorian Italianate style. Possibly built in c.1870 for Thomas Merfield, accountant, commission agent, valuer, broker and auctioneer, the house has experienced some restoration and alteration and appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The house at 32 Barnes Street is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian Italianate style. These qualities include the gable roof. form that traverses the site, together with the minor gable and bullnosed verandah that project towards the street frontage. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, rear traversing gable that projects at the side, narrow

eaves, rendered chimney with a projecting top, projecting faceted bay window under the front gable crowned with a decorative timber cornice, timber finials, timber framed double hung windows and front doorway. The front timber picket fence contributes to the significance of the place.

The house at 32 Barnes Street is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with residential developments in Stawell in the second half of the 19th century. In particular, this house has associations with Thomas Merfield, accountant, commission agent, valuer, broker and auctioneer and original owner, who had it built in c.1870. Merfield's son, C. Merfield, became the Government Astronomer and calculated the Simmons Memorial Sundial in Central Park.

Overall, the house at 32 Barnes Street is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	112003
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The house at 32 Barnes Street, Stawell, has a picturesque setting, with a landscaped front garden comprising an open lawned area with perimeter and central garden beds of shrubs, exotic trees and other plantings. The house has a sizable front setback and narrower side setbacks. A timber picket fence, approximately 1400-1500 mm high, forms the front boundary.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, Victorian Italianate styled house is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a minor gable and bullnosed verandah that project towards the street frontage. There is also a rear traversing gable that projects to one side. These roof forms are clad in lapped and painted galvanised corrugated iron. An early rendered chimney with a projecting top adorns the roofline. Narrow overhangs are features of the eaves.

An early feature of the design is the projecting faceted bay window under the front gable. The flat roofed bay is crowned with a decorative timber cornice, below which are the timber framed double hung windows.

Other features of the design (which may not be early) include the introduced timber verandah posts and fretwork valance, timber finials, other timber framed double hung windows and front doorway.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*