HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MAC'S GLENTHOMPSON HOTEL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 14-18 Station Street GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 307   **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 7   **SECTION:** 1   **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J J3 ; VicRoads 229 M10; located on the north side of Station Street between Bell and McLennan Streets in the centre of the township of Glenthompson.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Mac's Hotel Station St Glenthompson

Image Date: 29/05/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings excluding the interiors and all of the land, being allotment 7, section 1, township of Glenthompson.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A single storey symmetrical red brick building, built to the property line with a hipped main roof and three decorative gables. The gables are half timbered. All roofs are tiled with terracotta tiles and terra cotta shingles are used in a decorative bay incorporating a very small window in the middle gable. All the façade windows are fixed with hopper fanlights above. There are tow main entrances, both of which are ledge and brace double doors. These open directly into the building without lobbies. The interiors have been altered by the removal of some internal walls and minor details. Ceilings, joinery and other decorative details do survive. Service rooms exist at the rear including two much older wings, one timber in the centre and one brick on the eastern boundary. These have been much altered. Other facilities, such as the toilets have been introduced behind the front wing.

HISTORY:

The land on which Mac's Glenthompson Hotel now stands was purchased from the Crown by J Wilson. He purchased allotments 6 and 7 on 10th August 1880. He is likely to have been the Joseph Wilson who is listed as a storekeeper at Strathmore in the Shire of Mount Rouse rate books which includes a reference to "Glenthompson" subsequently crossed out. (SMR RB 1871 #130 and 1872 #140.)

John McLennan had already purchased allotment 10 of section 1 on the 27th October 1872, land which fronted the highway. (He is said to have donated part of this land to the Shire of Mount Rouse for the purpose of a mechanics' institute. Some of it also became McLennan Street, the road to Caramut and Chatsworth.) This was not the first land sold in Glenthompson, the adjacent allotment 9 being sold to J Meigs and C Anderson on 27th July 1869.

John McLennan is considered to be the founding father of Glenthompson. He arrived in Glenthompson from Ballarat in 1862 to take over duties in connection with the coach horses of Cobb and Co., and established the first hotel in Glenthompson (the hotel is still known as Mac's Hotel), and store, as well as acting as Postmaster. John McLennan and his first wife Rebecca had only one daughter, Mary Ann who died in infancy (1863 -1869). Rebecca died soon after, in 1871. It appears that John McLennan married his cousin or niece, Jessie McLennan in 1872 (VPI, Reg. No.4321). Jessie died in 1895, and John died in 1907, with no living issue.

McLennan is listed in the Shire of Mount Rouse rate books in 1870, 1871 and 1872 as an innkeeper and as a publican. (SMR RB 1870 #266, 1871 #90 and 1872 #80.) The hotel is valued at 45 pounds net annual value. This compares with 140 pounds for the very substantial Penshurst Hotel at about the same time, 75 pounds for the Cricketers Arms at Penshurst and 6 pounds for the Linlithgow Hotel. There is an historical photograph of "John McLennan's combined hotel, post office and store - Glenthompson's first building of substance" reproduced in the 'Shire of Mount Rouse Centenary History'. This shows a very simple timber building of a domestic scale and form with a projecting room on the right, a central front door flanked by windows and a verandah across the facade. It is likely to be the hotel on its former site, facing the Glenelg Highway. The verandah is enclosed at either end. According to Hope Henry in 'Glenthompson History', "Mr. McLennan was the first white man to build a house in Glenthompson in 1862, having applied for a rural site. He built a Hotel and Store and c arried on the duties of Postmaster free of charge."

Another later photograph of "Mac's Glen Thompson Hotel" shows a different building which is on the present site. It is a single storey timber building with three doors and three windows. Each of the doors is a conventional four-panel single leaf door. The western window is a standard two-paned double hung sash. The other two are sub-divided by glazing bars to create borders. The eastern window has the word "bar" painted on it and a Victoria Bitter Ale advertisement painted on mirror between it and the bar door. The

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name of the hotel is painted in shadowed lettering across the whole of the timber parapet. The timber front verandah is post supported with a frieze made up from curving fretwork. The hotel and verandah extend to the west with a gabled section over a substantial doorway, presumably to the residence. The plan of the hotel indicated by this photograph is very similar to that of the existing building.

While the façade of the present building is clearly from the 1920s according to its style, forms and materials, there are behind the front wing several much older structures associated with the hotel. These include a brick wing along the eastern boundary and a timber wing in the centre of the complex. The style, forms and materials of these structures suggest a date as early as the mid 1860s but they are probably slightly later.

It seems likely that the position of the hotel changes, probably as a result of the arrival of the Ararat-Hamilton railway in 1877. It is possible that McLennan built the brick wing, which still survives, then and that he even shifted his timber building. His niece or cousin (and later his wife), Jessie McLennan assumed the role of postmistress when a new post office was built. In any case, the hotel appears to have prospered as a result of its position opposite the railway station.

There is confusion about the next publican because a Thomas Ferguson held a licence granted by the Warrnambool Licensing Court from December 1887 and December 1888 for the Glen Thompson Hotel at the same time that Alexander Frederick McLennan held a licence from the Chatsworth District of the Terang Licensing Court for Mac's Glenthompson Hotel. These are very likely to have been the same premises. Alexander McLennan continued as licensee until at least 1891. The relationship between the two McLennans is not certain, but it is thought that they were either cousins or Uncle and Nephew. John McLennan died in 1907 and Alexander died in 1928. Both are buried in the Glenthompson cemetery.

The present hotel may have been designed by the Ballarat architect, T E Molloy. He was associated with the Ballarat Brewing Company.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.12 Feeding people
3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages
3.22 Lodging people

CONDITION:

The building is in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity to the 1920s front wing. Fair degree of integrity to older sections at rear.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?
Mac's Hotel is located on the north side of Station Street between Bell and McLennan Streets in the centre of the township of Glenthompson. The hotel has been at the hub of Glenthompson since it was built by John McLennan in the 1870s. The facade of the hotel clearly dates from the 1920s, although there are much older structures behind the facade. The hotel presents as a single storey symmetrical red brick building, built to the property line with a hipped main roof with terra cotta tiles and three decorative half timbered gables. The interiors have been altered by the removal of some internal walls and minor details. Ceilings, joinery and other decorative details do survive. Service rooms which have been altered exist at the rear including two much older wings, one timber in the centre and one brick on the eastern boundary. It is possible that the hotel was designed by a Ballarat architect, T. E. Molloy, who was associated with he Ballarat Brewing Company.

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The hotel survives in fair condition, and retains a high degree of integrity to the 1920s front wing, and a fair degree of integrity to older sections at rear.

How is it significant?
Mac's Hotel is of historical, architectural and social significance to the township of Glenthompson and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?
Mac's Glenthompson Hotel is of historical significance as a demonstration of how those businesses which were located close to the rail line were able to monopolize the trade and workers associated with the railway in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The hotel is of further historical significance for its association with John McLennan, possibly the most important figure in the history of early Glenthompson, and for its association with the McLennan family over many decades. It is an important remnant of an earlier, more prosperous period in the history of the township of Glenthompson, reflected in its location adjacent to the railway. Mac's Hotel is of architectural significance as an example of an intact 1920s facade on a hotel. It is of social significance for its continuing role in the provision of accommodation, food and other services to the travelling public over more than 130 years.

COMPARISON:

035 Black Horse Inn (Former), 66 Whyte Street, Coleraine
014 Coleraine Hotel, Whyte Street, Coleraine
266 Royal Mail Hotel, 102-108 Parker Street, Dunkeld
212 Junction Hotel, Brown and McNicol Streets Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt   **ASSESSMENT DATE:** 29/05/2002

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR ☐ **Include in RNE** ☑ **Include in Local Planning Scheme** ☑

No Recommendations for Inclusions ☐

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	Mac's Glen Thompson Hotel		
	Mac's Hotel and Adjacent Store		
Hope Henry	Glenthompson History	1954	1-3
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	