

‘VICTORY’ HOUSE

742 Geelong Road, Canadian



Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

Victory House at 742 Geelong Road, Canadian is Significant. Elements which contribute to the significance of the place are:

- Victory House (dwelling) constructed c.1906 with c.1925 alterations (roof and verandah)
- Mature Cypress hedges
- Areas of archaeological potential associated with the c.1882 Hardy residence, the 1906 residence, garden elements and outbuildings.

How is it Significant?

Victory House at 742 Geelong Road, Canadian is of local historical and associative significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it Significant?

‘Victory’ house is associated with goldmining in the Canadian Gully of Ballarat Goldfield. The original dwelling on the site (a miners’ residence) was constructed prior to 1889 on a miner’s right for R.G Hardy, and the later dwelling ‘Victory’ was constructed c.1906 for James Wong Chung, manager of the adjacent You Hing mine (also known as Woah Hawp Canton mine between 1182-1896 and 1903-1915). The Canadian Gully, where the subject land is located is one of the earliest and richest areas within the Ballarat Goldfields, established in 1852, it experienced several successive waves of intense alluvial mining from the 1850s followed by deep lead quartz reef mining from the 1860s. The Edwardian dwelling ‘Victory’ and its smaller predecessor were both constructed within a productive goldmining landscape, surrounded by other miner’s residences, also built on miner’s

rights. The substantial Cypress hedge planted on the north, east and southern boundaries at the front of the house is contemporary to the date of Victory, and is the only surviving element of what was an intensively planted garden at the front of the house. The hedge served numerous functions, essential for providing privacy, reducing dust and noise associated with the mining landscape and providing a microclimate conducive to a successful garden. . While it is known that many Chinese made their homes temporarily and permanently on the Ballarat Goldfields, 'Victory' House is one of the only known surviving residences to be associated with Chinese involvement in quartz mining in Ballarat.(Criterion A)

The place has strong associations with the Wong Chung family, who built the c.1906 residence and held the property within the family for over 100 years (until 2008). The Wong Chung family (James Wong Chung, his wife Margaret and their six children) moved to the subject site in 1903 after James Wong Chung was appointed Manager of the adjacent Woah Hawp Canton Mine, having been working at the mine for several years. The family initially moved into the small miner's cottage located on the site, building the Edwardian dwelling in 1906 with winnings from the 1902 Melbourne Cup, won by 'The Victory', which the house was named after, as evidenced in the lettering of the transom above the front door. The Wong Chung family made a strong contribution to the local Chinese and broader Ballarat community, particularly in the Twentieth Century. James Wong Chung, as well as being the manager of the nearby Woah Hawp Canton Mine from 1902-1914, also worked as an interpreter for government, assisting and advocating in legal and other matters relating to members of the Ballarat Chinese community. The Wong Chung family were actively involved in the trade's union movement in Ballarat, with family members serving as the Presidents of the Textiles Union and Railways Unions, lobbying and advocating for worker's rights through their involvement in the Ballarat Trades Council for several decades. The house served as a meeting place for the Ballarat Chinese community in the early to mid-twentieth century. It is of local historical significance as an example of a residence which has housed six generations of the same Chinese family who contributed substantially to the local cultural and political life of Ballarat. It is of interest as a local social and cultural hub for the Chinese people of Ballarat in the early to mid-twentieth century. (Criterion A)

'Victory' house has the potential to contain historical archaeological features, deposits (including sub-floor) and artefacts associated with the construction and occupation of the former miner's residence (occupied by Edward Hardy c.1882-1889), although the structure is no longer extant. This physical evidence is not currently visible or understood, is of historical interest and could yield information through detailed investigation. 'Victory' house itself (c.1906) has high potential to contain archaeological evidence relating to the occupation period by the Wong Chung family (c.1906-2012). This includes demolished outbuildings, wash closets, garden features and fence lines. This physical evidence is not currently visible, is of historic interest and could yield information through investigation. Documentary evidence and oral history indicate that there may be a nineteenth century miners hut concealed under the modern fibre cement sheeting to the north west of the main house. The visible evidence does not suggest that the outbuilding dates from the nineteenth century, however destructive actions such as removing internal and external cladding may have the potential to reveal information through investigation and this information would be of historical interest to the City of Ballarat. (Criterion C)

Victory House has strong associations with Ballarat's Chinese community, which is comprised of those who are descended from, or have associations with Chinese migrants who settled in Ballarat. The Canadian Gully was the principal area around which Chinese miners were working

during the peak operations of the Ballarat Goldfields. The first Chinese miners established camps in the Canadian gully in 1852, and by 1855 there were an estimated 5,000 Chinese people working and living in the area, increasing to 10,000 by 1858. There were at least six distinct Chinese camps within the area, first associated with alluvial gold mining, and later associated with the Chinese owned and operated You Hing/Woah Hawp Canton mine. The association goes back over several generations and relates to the influential Chung family who opened their home to their home as a regular informal and formal meeting place for local residents of Chinese and mixed cultural backgrounds at a time when racial prejudices in the broader community often led to suppression of language, culture and traditions. The association is demonstrated by the numerous oral histories, local stories and publications which recall the large and small gatherings of the Chinese community held at the place over time, and the continuing importance of the place to Ballarat's Chinese community, expressed by sections of the Chinese Community in Ballarat (Criterion G)

Description

'Victory' house (c.1906) is a modest single storey double fronted weatherboard house built in the Edwardian period, altered to incorporate the current corrugated iron clad gable roof and integrated brick porch c.1925. A modest later timber skillion kitchen (c.1933) is set to the rear of the dwelling, and two overpainted brick chimneys survive to the rear, one associated with the original building and another on the 1933 skillion addition. A third (internal) brick chimney is located to the western portion of the building. A small addition covers the northwest verandah and steps leading from the skillion at the rear.



Figure 1 Facade 'Victory' house



Figure 2 View to the Mullock Heaps of the Woah Hawp Canton mine at the rear of the site

The dwelling is set on a large allotment which is located immediately east of the former Woah HaWP Canton mine site, evidenced now by remnant mullock heaps and disturbed ground, and remnant fruit trees. The dwelling addresses Main Road to the east. Substantial Cypress hedges are located on the north, east and southern boundaries, and a centrally arranged pedestrian gate is set into a modern but sympathetic timber picket fence. A gravel path leads from the pedestrian gate to the front of the dwelling, and the allotment is largely grassed.



Figure 3 View from front verandah - gravel path, front garden and Cypress hedges



Figure 4 Rear of dwelling and rear yard taken from Mullock Heaps to the rear associated with the former mine

The façade of the dwelling is clad in mock ashlar timber cladding, and symmetrically arranged with original double hung timber sash windows flanking an early 6 panelled timber door set within a typically Edwardian timber frame with glass sidelights and a with a blue rectangular transom with the word 'Victory' spelled out in cream coloured lettering.



Figure 5 Early front door and surrounds with 'Victory' lettering

The gable roof (replacing the earlier hipped roof and bullnose verandah) dates from c.1925 integrates the skillion verandah and brick porch with timber decking. The entire roof is clad in short sheets of corrugated iron and is in good condition. The porch (also c.1925) is skillion in form, with exposed rafters, supported on paired timber posts and brick piers. The three original brick chimneys survive, with the two to the rear having been overpainted. The original kitchen for the dwelling (a modest skillion to the rear with attached brick chimney) was originally separated by a breezeway but has been reclad and integrated into the remainder of the dwelling.

The dwelling retains its original windows on all elevations and is highly intact.

There is a small detached rectangular outbuilding with skillion roof to the north west of the dwelling. The structure is clad in fibre cement sheeting. Evidence of former buildings (in the form of concrete slabs) are evident in the rear yard along the western boundary and to the rear of the house.



Figure 6 View to outbuilding north east of dwelling from rear yard, also showing c.1933 skillion kitchen and brick chimney.

Integrity

The integrity of the place is very good. The cultural heritage values of the place can be easily read in the extant fabric. (September 2022).

Intactness

The intactness of the place is good. After 1925 the roof line was altered to form a single gable roof, with the original bullnose verandah and lace ironwork removed. In 1932-33, the kitchen block was demolished, and a skillion roofed kitchen was added to the house. There have been some changes to the internal configuration of the house. The northwest outbuilding is clad in modern fibre cement sheeting. (September 2022).

Condition

The condition of the house is good. (September 2022).

History

Ballarat

The Ballarat region has been the home of the Wadawurrung People for tens of thousands of years. In 1837 the first Europeans came to the area. In 1851 the first publicized discovery of gold was recorded and a gold rush began. As news reached the world, Ballarat gained an international reputation as a rich goldfield, and there was a huge influx of immigrants, including from Ireland, China, Europe and North America gathering in a collection of makeshift towns around the creeks and Hills.

Canadian Gully

Canadian Gully, located in Canadian, is one of a series of gullies emerging from the White Horse Ranges. Canadian Gully was first mined in 1852 and contained some of Ballarat's richest gold discoveries. The rich Canadian gold lead, mined from 1852, was reputedly named after a man called Canadian Swift. The lead ran southwards, east of Canadian Creek where it crossed the Buninyong Road, branching into lesser leads as it passed by Sovereign Hill. The richest section of Canadian Lead was near today's Ellsworth Street, which formed the municipal boundary between Ballarat City and Buninyong Borough (later Buninyong Shire), putting part of Canadian in both municipalities. Rich as it was in gold, Canadian was not well regarded. Buninyong Road north of Ellsworth Street was at times a morass, and in the south of Golden Point there was a lepers' camp. As a result, families in Canadian had no local school, and children were sent to the Eureka Street, Golden Point, and Richards Street schools (*Victorian Places* 2015).

Chinese involvement in mining

Canadian was the focus of mining in Ballarat by Chinese. After gold was discovered in September 1851, Chinese miners arrived from 1852, with between 2,000 and 5,000 on the Ballarat goldfield by 1855. In 1858 the Chinese population reached its peak of just under 10,000 individuals, of these only two were women. About 50 per cent lived in the township of Ballarat, clustered in six Chinese camps, located at Golden Point, Red Hill, Canadian, Eureka and Little Bendigo under the supervision of W H Foster the 'Chinese Protector' for the Ballarat area (Couchman, 2013). Two Chinese temples were constructed, the first in 1857, and from early 1856, a Chinese- English newspaper was printed by Robert Bell, an Englishman on the goldfields, and a Chinese leper camp was established (*ibid.*).

By the late 1850s Chinese people comprised 20% of the adult male population of Victoria and about 25% of the population in Ballarat (Serle, 1963:320).

Most Chinese miners who arrived on the goldfields took up alluvial mining: extracting gold by dredging deposits from waterways. This technique only required a moderate upfront investment and offered relatively quick returns. As the gold rush progressed, the easily extracted shallow gold disappeared, and miners and investors created companies to fund the expensive infrastructure for underground mining. Chinese people rarely established or owned such companies as underground operations required up front capital for machinery such as steam engines, and many Chinese people preferred to keep their finances liquid to send remittances to China and fund any return home.

Quartz mining was a longer-term proposition which required specialized skills and provided slower returns over time, which also accounted for less investment in this type of industry by Chinese

However, three Chinese-owned companies operated underground quartz mines in Ballarat from the 1860s (kyi, 2004: 168). The earliest was the Hong King Mine (registered 1861) with a syndicate of 25 Chinese investors. The Woah Hawp Canton Mine (registered 1882), adjacent to 'Victory' house, was exclusively owned by Chinese investors for a period of 19 years. The Woah Hawp Hong Kong Mine (registered 1884) also had wholly Chinese investors. These companies were established and operated in the context of legislation which progressively restricted Chinese involvement in mining.

Legal restrictions on Chinese mine labour and ownership

In 1881, a law was introduced in Victoria prohibiting Chinese labour in European-leased mines (Cronin, 1982:127). This did not affect the Chinese-leased mines, which could hire European and Chinese labour. Historian Ralph Birrell notes that provisions in the 1897 *Mines Act* made it difficult for Chinese people and companies from owning mine leases (Birrell, 1998:89). The combined effect of the 1881 and 1897 laws mean that it became progressively more difficult for Chinese people to be named lessees and labourers in Victoria's gold mining industry, particularly in quartz mining.

By the late nineteenth century, the mining industry was waning in Ballarat and the Chinese turned to alternative employment, with many becoming market gardeners. Gardens were established along the Yarrowee Creek running from north to south Ballarat (Couchman 2013).

Eventually, due to the decline in the number of new Chinese residents arriving in the area after the introduction of the 1901 *Immigration Restriction Act*, the Chinese community began to decline. The Chinese temple and associated Kuomintang Hall fell into disuse and much of the early Chinese camp was removed to make way for a sports reserve. However, families of joint European-Chinese descent and the next generation continued to be active in community activities with their descendants living in the area today (Couchman 2013).

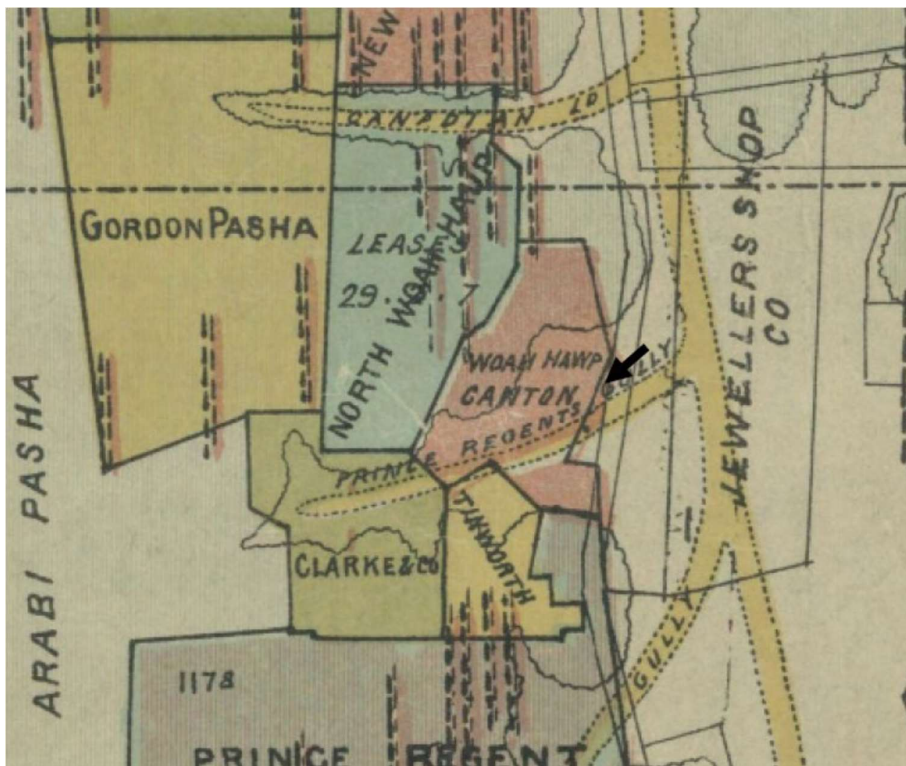


Figure 8 "Victory" house approximate location (identified with black arrow) as part of Mining Division 3 of Ballarat. It is on the edge of the Woah Hawp Canton gold mine (Source: Allan nd, PROV)

A large fire in 1896 destroyed machinery, plant and other surface works at the Woah Hawp Canton, where, in that year, all miners, except for 13 Europeans, were Chinese (*Argus* 7 April 1896:3). The mine was operated as the Sun You Hing from February 1897 (*Ballarat Star* 17 February 1897:4).

As mentioned earlier, in March 1897 the plant of the old South Woah Hawp company was auctioned and sold to J W Chung for £270 for removal to the Woah Hawp Canton mine (by then named Sun You Hing), where that plant had been destroyed by fire (*Ballarat Star* 27 March 1897:2; *Weekly Times* 3 April 1897:36). This shows that James Wong Chung was involved in the mine at this time.

The owner of the Woah Hawp mine from May 1897 was the newly registered no-liability You Hing Quartz Mining Company (*Argus* 21 May 1897:8 and 10 July 1901:8). The mine manager of the You Hing in 1898 was Edward Hardy. Hardy left this role in July 1899 (*Ballarat Star* 7 November 1898:2; *Advertiser* 26 July 1899:4). In 1900, George Hardie became the manager (*Ballarat Star* 19 October 1900:2).

In July 1901, it was reported that, after 30 years of being owned and worked by Chinese, the You Hing quartz mine, formerly known as Woah Hawp Canton, had passed into the hands of Europeans, having been purchased by H Patterson of Melbourne and Allan Bowler of Scarsdale (*Argus* 10 July 1901:8; *Gundagai Independent* 3 July 1901:4; *Ballarat Star* 1 June 1901:8). The mine was put up for sale again in October 1901 and placed on the English market in 1902, after which time it was owned by a syndicate of Chinese and English shareholders (*Argus* 30 October 1901:11; *Australasian* 22 March 1902:43; *Argus* 2 September 1902:5).

In 1902, in a report on the find of a 120-ounce nugget of gold at the You Hing mine, it was stated that James Wong Chung was the manager of the mine (*Advertiser* 5 September 1902:6). By April 1903, the mine's name had changed to Woah Hoap Canton (*Ballarat Star* 8 April 1903:6). It appears that James Wong Chung was the manager until c1914. The mine continued to operate until at least 1915 (*Geelong Advertiser* 19 July 1915:2).



Figure 9 Woah Hawp Canton Mine Ballarat, c1880-1900. (Source: Fraser, c1880 -1900, SLV)

Other 'Woah Hawp' Mines in Ballarat

At least six other gold mining companies adopted the name 'Woah Hawp' for their mines in Ballarat, some near the Woah Hawp Canton (see list below).

- 1) North Woah Hawp Mine (established 1883)
- 2) South Woah Hawp Mine (established 1889)
- 3) Woah Hawp No.2 Mine (established 1905)
- 4) Woah Hawp Central Mine (established 1905)
- 5) Woah Hawp Consols Mine (established 1909)
- 6) Tower Hill Woah Hawp Mine (established 1909).

Place history

Miners Right Area no. 5958

The land at 742 Geelong Road is located near the quartz mining area of Canadian Gully. During the gold rush, this land was occupied as residence area number 5958 under a 'miner's right' which allowed mining and the construction of a residence on the same piece of land. Residence areas were first provided for under the 1855 *Mines Act*, which, under a miner's right, allowed mining and the construction of a residence on the same piece of land. With the transition to quartz mining in the 1860s, the *Mines Act 1865* was introduced, which allowed the holder of a miner's right to reside on up to one acre on a goldfields area. The *Mines Act 1890* provided for the maximum residence area and business license of one acre.

A plan of c.1882 indicates there was a building on this land occupied by a Mr. Hardy. It is unclear whether this was the first residence located on the property. The c.1882 plan shows the location of this structure at the front of the block along the main road.⁴ During the 1890s, the miner's right area was registered to Ah King, a Chinese merchant from Melbourne (1892), and Wing Pock, a Ballarat storekeeper (1896). Any nineteenth-century structure which may have been located at the front of the property is no longer extant.

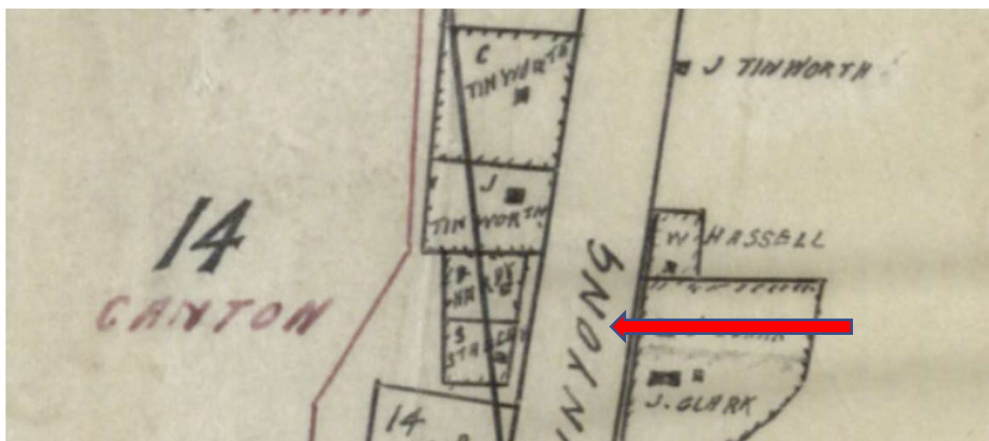


Figure 10 Plan of 112.0.30 applied for on lease under the Gold Mining Leases Regulations by John Moss Davey, App. 606 (c.1882) Red arrow shows location of Hardy's residence.



Figure 11 Plan of 112.0.30 applied for on lease under the Gold Mining Leases Regulations by John Moss Davey, App. 606 (c.1882)



Figure 12 Plan of 112.0.30 applied for on lease under the Gold Mining Leases Regulations by John Moss Davey, App. 606 (c.1882)

Wong Chung Family

Around 1902 James Wong Chung became the onsite manager of the adjacent Woah Hawp Canton Mine, when it was known as the You Sing Mine (*Advertiser* 5 September 1902:6). James Wong Chung was the son of Ah Wong Chung (b. Canton 1840) and Mary Anne Baker (b. County Cork, Ireland 1845) and married Mary Anne Holderhead in 1896. The couple moved to the Ballarat area after the birth of the first six of their twelve children and lived at Linton and Smythesdale for a time. Rate books suggest that around 1903-04 the Wong Chung family moved into an existing building on site. This may have been the Hardy residence shown at the front of the site in the c.1882 plan. It also may have been the northwest outbuilding which, according to a mid-twentieth century plan drawn by a member of the Wong Chung family (see image below), was an old miner's dwelling (Ballinger, 2023:5-7). Presumably the family lived in the structure c.1905-06 during the construction of 'Victory' house. This suggests that it was a structure not on the footprint of Victory House.

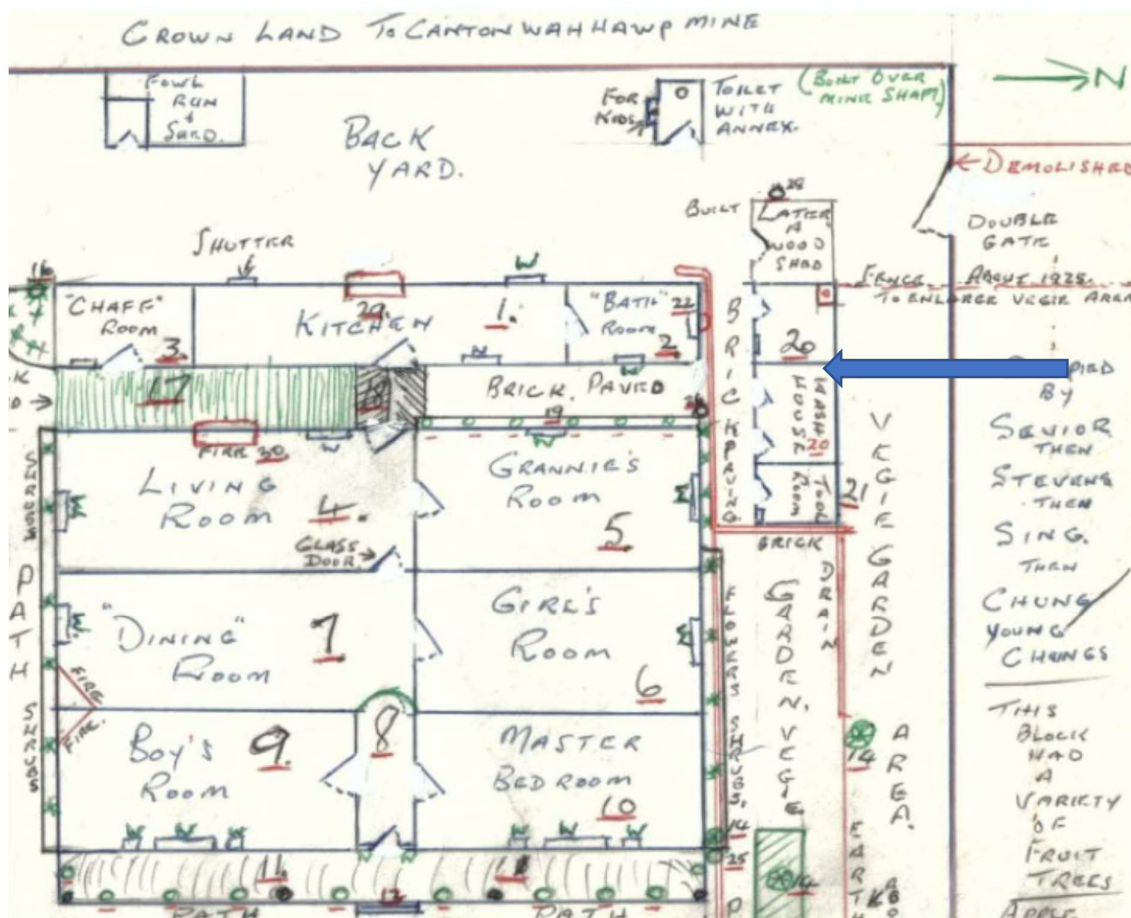


Figure 13 Hand drawn map of 'Victory' House as it was in c.1920 and key to the map both by Charles Chung. (Source: Bindy Trembath, 2022) Blue arrow shows location of Structure 20, described as 'Wash House – Old miners dwelling, later partitioned)

'Victory' House and the earlier building on site

By 1906 a new residence was built for James Wong Chung under the miner's right. The Rate Books for 1905-1906 list James Wong Chung as occupying a house and land in Canadian with an increased NAV of £20, indicating that improvements to the site had been undertaken between 1905 and 1906 (RB 1906-07). The house was named 'Victory' and was paid for with the proceeds of the family's win on 'The Victory' the horse which won the Melbourne Cup in 1902 (Chung 1983).

After 'Victory' house was built, it appears that the original building on site (described in the Rate Books as 'a hut' in addition to 'a dwelling') was occupied by James Wong Chung's parents who moved from Linton (see 'Associations' section below). The earlier building was, according to Wong Chung family oral history later adapted for use as a wash house and remains on site today as the northwest outbuilding (see figure 4 above). There is no visual evidence in the form, external and internal cladding and flooring to suggest that the building dates from the nineteenth century, although further physical investigation may reveal evidence of an earlier structure beneath existing cladding.

In 1909, 1920 and 1923, the subject property was described in the rate books for those years as 'a dwelling and hut' on a miner's right occupied by James Chung with a NAV of £15 (Rate Books 1909-10, 1920-21 and 1923-24). The 'hut' referred to in this description is likely the former miner's

residence, shown on the map in Figure 4, which was later adapted by the family for use as a wash house (Bindy Trembath 2022).



Figure 14 A photo of the Chung home in 1907-08, with Mabel Wong Chung and her siblings, Martin and Lillian. (Source: Bindy Trembath 2022)

James Wong Chung died on 4 March 1925, his assets included the residence area under a miners right with a weatherboard house of six rooms. No mention is made of any outbuildings or other features. The original roof form and verandah evident in figure 5 (above) were replaced with the current gable roof after 1925 due to severe leaking around flashing (Charles Wong Chung, undated site map and key).

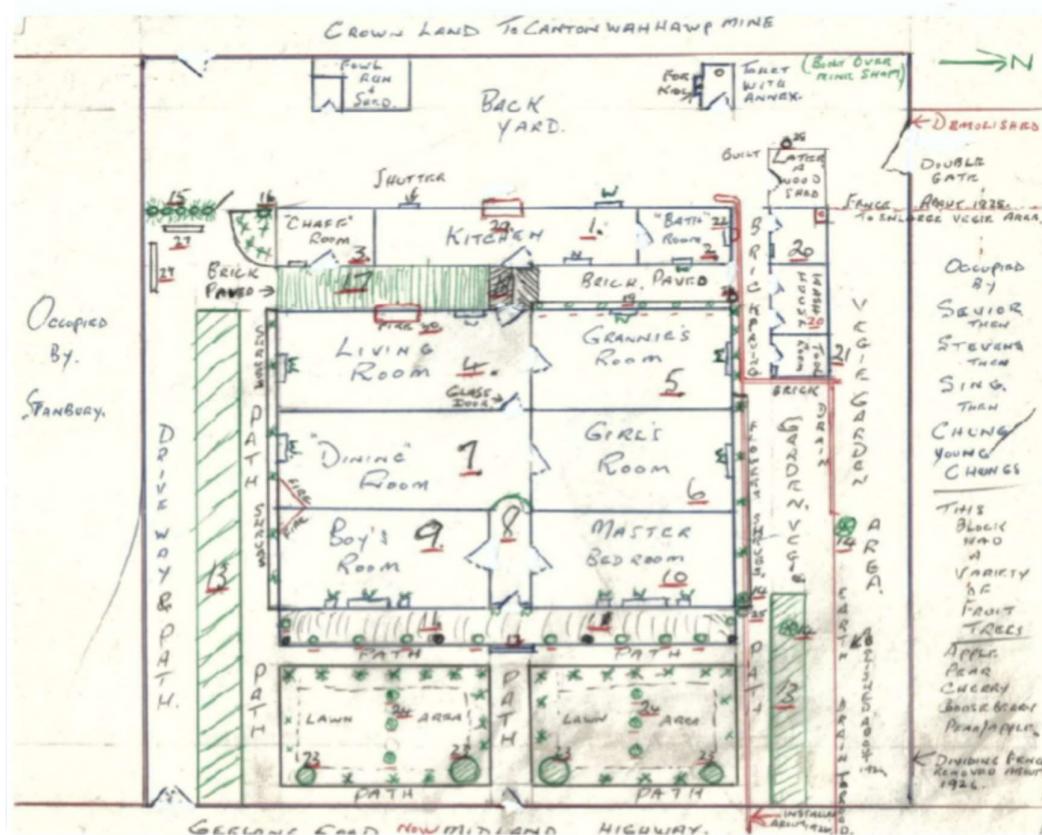


Figure 15 'Victory' House site plan and key c. 1920 drawn by Charles Wong Chung, transcribed by Robyn Ballinger and Bindy Trembath, 2022.

1	Kitchen - colonial oven, 2 tables, 1 form, chairs, 2 cupboards, no sink or tap, demolished about 1929 [stated elsewhere as 1932-33], replaced by skillion roof single door with a large ? Hotel type wood stove – new kitchen annexed to main house
2	Bathroom - sink, tap
3	Chaff House – Formerly foster son's living quarters
4	Sitting Room – Open fireplace, table, sofa, chairs, 3 doors, 2 windows
5	Grannies Room – later Jim's room, 2 windows (later divided to form bathroom, store, linen room etc)
6	Girls Room – 2 chests of drawers, wash stand
7	Dining Room – Sideboard, table, armchairs, sofas, corner fireplace, open archway to hall
8	Hallway with Archway, Classic front door, Goatshead knocker, 'Victory' fanlight, amber side windows
9	Boys bedroom – bed, corner fireplace, triple windows, all venetian blinds

10	<i>Main Bedroom – queen size bed with canopy, chest of drawers, triple windows</i>
11	<i>Baltic Pine Veranda – Bull nose roof, cast iron frieze, fluted posts, bamboo blinds</i>
12	<i>Brick and cement steps</i>
13	<i>Cypress row, later trained as hedge (north and south side)</i>
14	<i>Apple trees (3)</i>
15	<i>Large Cypress trees untrained</i>
16	<i>Weeping Willow tree</i>
17	<i>Jasmine and rose covered awning. Brick paved, between main house and kitchen block. Some climbing roses</i>
18	<i>Covered walkway between house and kitchen</i>
19	<i>Benches, tubbed fuchsia, ferns, hydrangeas, geraniums etc.</i>
20	<i>Wash house – Old miners dwelling, later partitioned, brick copper, hessian and paper lined, roof wooden shingles, short sheeted corrugated iron, tubs</i>
21	<i>Tool Room – Garden tools, shoe & boot repairs, chest full of clocks. Part of 20</i>
22	<i>Cast iron sink, the only tap indoors</i>
O	<i>Potted shrubs, ferns, fuchsias, hydrangeas, geraniums, lilies</i>
23	<i>Large cypress trees, later trained [at front] *the lawn area was bounded by shrubs, roses, daphne, honeysuckle, boronia, camellia, lilac</i>
24	<i>Palm trees</i>
25	<i>Garden tap and wooden tub</i>
26	<i>Large water tank</i>
27	<i>Ferns, in shade</i>
28	<i>Elderberry tree</i>

29	<i>Colonial Oven – open fire on top for cooking, fire below for oven. Later, hotel size ‘Lux’ stove after kitchen demolition, later Wellsford slow combustion with hot water (installed c1959)</i>
30	<i>Large open fireplace, later ‘Warmray’, later gas heater. Lighting was by kerosene lamps and candles. Later gas because available. Electricity in 1940</i>
	<i>1920s Dividing fence with Sing’s removed. Jim enlarged our garden area by installing a fence from washhouse to near Mabel’s garage to front fence</i> <i>Jim installed a brick drain to front fence with undergrounding to roadway</i>
	<i>1932/33 Kitchen block demolished and skillion roofed kitchen erected by Quayle on wooden stumps</i>
	<i>1934 toilet built up the back; sewerage installed in 1973</i>
	<i>Because of leaking flashing, some time after the death of James Wong Chung in 1925, the roof line of the house was altered to form a single gable roof, with the bullnose verandah and iron frieze demolished. Charles Chung later reroofed the back part of the main roof and kitchen due to leaks.</i>
	<i>1958 wash house rebuilt</i>

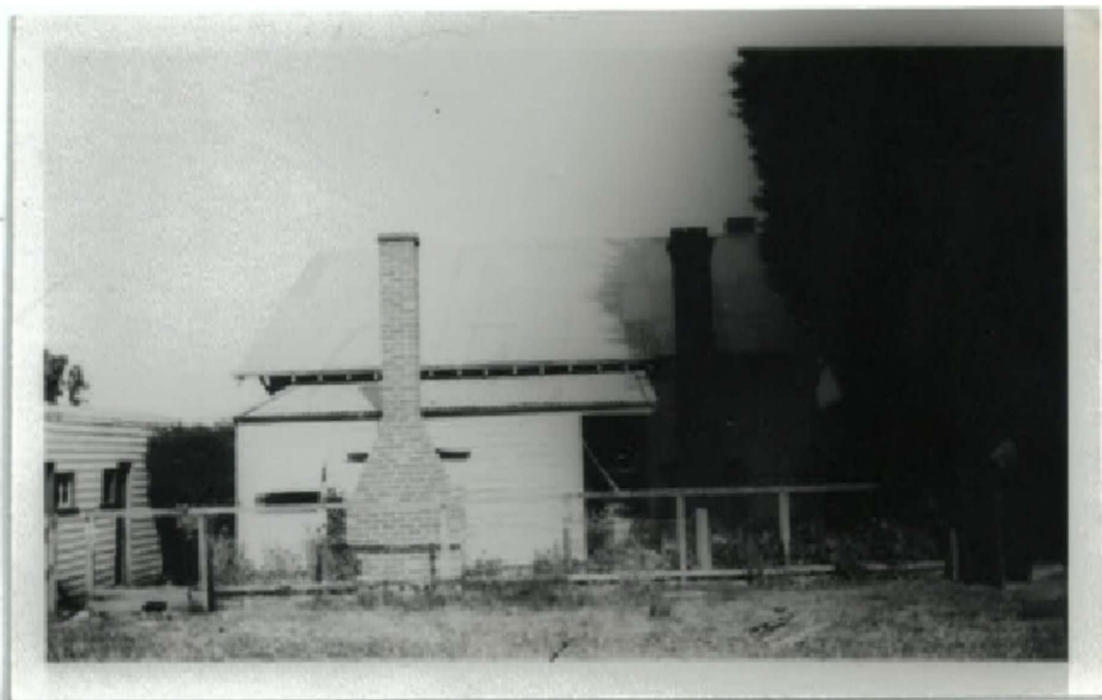


Figure 16 'Victory' House after the alteration of the roofline and addition of skillion kitchen and new external chimney (post c1933). Note skillion/flat roof and weatherboard cladding on adjacent north west outbuilding

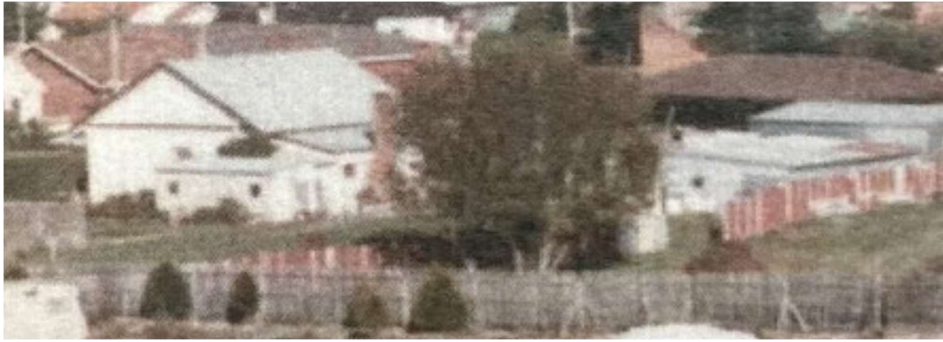


Figure 17 'Victory' House c.1980 showing skillion kitchen and outbuilding

In 1932-33, the detached kitchen block was demolished, and a skillion roofed kitchen was added to the house, and a new brick chimney was constructed to the external wall (Ibid.) During the 1930s Views of 'Victory' house after 1932-33 can be seen in Figure 7. Members of the Wong Chung family continued to live in 'Victory' house until 2007. The house passed out of the family's ownership in 2008 after it was sold. The contents of the house, including heritage objects from the early twentieth century, were distributed among family members.

With the passing of the Land (Residence Areas) Act 1935, the right of occupation of residence areas in Victoria was broadened to include all Crown lands, not only those in mining areas, and administration was placed under the Land Act rather than the Mines Act (ARDC). Under this Act, in 1936 Charles Cecil Chung took over the lease of the residence area on the subject site, along with the lease of the residence area (number 5957) on the adjoining block, Crown Allotment 14D, Section 14 (PROV 1936). The home of Mabel Young Chung, Charles's sister, was located on the latter site.

After Margaret Wong Chung died in 1958, the subject house passed into the ownership of her son Charles Chung.



Figure 18 view of the Chung house in 1986. (Source: Bindy Trembath 2022)

In 1979, boilermaker Charles Chung of 130 Geelong Road, Ballarat purchased the subject site for £1100, and in 1980, purchased the adjoining block (CT:V9344 F700; PROV 1936). A view of 'Victory' house in 1986 can be seen in Figure 8.

Associations

Wong Chung Family

Several generations of the Wong Chung family lived at 'Victory' house for over 110 years. The first family members, James and Margaret Wong Chung moving into the house in 1905-06 after it was built for the family at this time. 'Victory' house provided a regular meeting place for local residents of Chinese background in Ballarat. The Chung house is remembered by family members as a welcoming place where Chinese heritage and culture was celebrated by informal visits and more formal gatherings of up to 200 people of Chinese background on an annual basis.

James Wong Chung was the son of Ah Wong Chung, born in Canton, Guandong, China, in 1840, and Mary Anne Baker, born in Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland, in 1845. Ah Wong Chung and Mary Anne Baker married in 1868 and lived in Linton, and their son James Wong Chung was born in Ballarat West in 1869 (Mick Trembath 2022; 'Mabel Young-Chung Family Tree', Ancestry 2022).

James Wong Chung married Margaret Ann Holderhead from Smythesdale on 17 July 1896. The couple lived at Linton where the first of six of twelve children were born: Mabel (1895), James Francis (1896), Eileen Mary (1898), Robert Leslie (1899), Evelyn Daisy (1900) and Martin John (1902) (Mick Trembath 2022; 'Mabel Young-Chung Family Tree', Ancestry 2022).

In March 1897 it was reported the plant of the old South Woah Hawp mining company had been auctioned and sold to J W Chung for £270 for removal to the Woah Hawp Canton mine (by then named Sun You Hing) in Ballarat (*Ballarat Star* 27 March 1897:2; *Weekly Times* 3 April 1897:36). This shows that James Wong Chung was actively involved in mining in Ballarat whilst still living in Linton.

In c1903 the Wong Chung family moved to the subject site, likely occupying the older residence on site at the time, where 'Victory' house was built in 1905-06. Another six children were born: Lillian Margaret (1904), Thomas William Joseph (1907), Mercy (1909), John Lawrence 'Jack' (1911), Charles Cecil David (1912) and Austin Leonard (1917) ('Mabel Young-Chung Family Tree', Ancestry 2022). In 1904, an obituary notice stated that the funeral of Robert Leslie Chung, son of mining manager James Wong Chung of Plank Road (now Geelong Road), had taken place at Ballarat New Cemetery. Coffin bearers comprised B Chin Hon, F Tung, D Hoe and A Foo, with pall bearers including G Tung, H Tung, F Tung, J Sing, W Mong and A Lee Goon (*Ballarat Star* 12 September 1904:6).

It appears that James senior's parents also lived at the subject site as burial records show their place of residence on their deaths (1908 for Ah Wong Chung and 1917 for Mary Ann Wong Chung) as Plank Road, Ballarat (Mick Trembath 2022). In 1917, an obituary for Mary Wong Chung stated that she was the mother of James Wong Chung, of Plank Road, Canadian. Mary was buried in the New Cemetery at Ballarat. Coffin-bearers included H Cahn, J Sing, W Tack, and Fred Tung. Pall bearers comprised W Martin, W Mong, A Mong and A Gasterstadt (*Evening Echo* 26 January 1917:2). The family recalls the wash house being referred to as 'Granny's' (Bindy Trembath 2022). It is therefore likely that Ah and Mary Ann Wong Chung occupied the original building on site by 1889 as their residence.

In 1902, James Wong Chung managed the You Sing goldmine, renamed the Woah Hawp Canton mine in 1903 (see 'Associations' below), and was for many years a Chinese interpreter at Ballarat in

service of the government (Age 5 March 1925:15). Much of this work was as an interpreter in court cases which involved fellow Chinese (Horsfield 2020:np). In 1906, the electoral roll listed James Wong Chung as a mine manager living at Geelong Road, Canadian. By 1914, he was listed as a miner living at Canadian (Electoral Roll Subdivision of Ballarat 1906 and Mount Clear 1914, *Ancestry* 2022). This suggests that James Wong Chung's role as mine manager at the Woah Hawp Canton mine had finished by this year.

Photographs of the Chung family can be seen below



Figure 19 LHS: James Wong Chung with his mother Mary Wong Chung (nee Baker), date unknown; and RHS: James Wong Chung, date unknown. (Source: LHS, Bindy Trembath 2022; RHS, Edgington 2022)



Figure 20 The Chung family, from left to right: sons Leonard, John, Charlie, Thomas, Martin and James at the rear; daughters Evelyn, Lillian, and Mercy all kneeling; and daughter Eileen, mother Margaret, and daughter Mabel seated. (Absent Robert, who died in 1904)

A house located on the north side of the subject property was occupied by the Stevens and later the Sings. On the departure of the Sing family the unoccupied house was removed c1917 and Margaret Chung obtained the miner's right and associated residence area for the property. The Chung family used this property as a vehicular access to their backyard and also to enlarge their vegetable garden, with the remainder utilised as accommodation for a horse and cows, and for recreation (Chung 1983).

After James Wong Chung died on 4 March 1925, Eileen, Lillian, and Mercy, who had married, returned home to 'Victory' house. Another sister, Mabel, had married Charles Young Chung in 1919 and moved to Bendigo where Charles Young Chung ran a Chinese herbalist business. Ten children were born, with eight surviving (Bindy Trembath 2022). When Charles Young Chung died in 1932 in Bendigo, at a time that Mabel was expecting another child, Mabel and her children moved to 'Victory' house where Josephine Young Chung was born on 24 October 1932. The family home at that time accommodated 14 people (Chung 1983). Margaret Wong Chung subsequently made arrangements for her daughter Mabel to erect a four-room dwelling on the neighbouring allotment, financed in part by the sale of a player piano for £110 (see Figure 11) (Chung 1983).



Figure 21 Mabel Young Chung standing at the gate of her house which was built next door to 742 Geelong Road, date unknown. The roof of the Wong Chung residence can be seen in the background (RHS). (Source Bindy Trembath 2022)

Son James Francis Chung continued to live at 'Victory' house until his death in 1955 (Argus 26 January 1956:18). After Margaret Wong Chung's death in 1958, the subject residence passed into the ownership of son Charles Chung.

Both Charles Chung and his brother Len Chung were active members in the labour and union movements. In 1938, Charles Chung was elected vice president, with M Cainin, of the Ballarat Branch of the Australian Labor Party (Argus 25 February 1938:4). During his employment at the Ballarat North railway workshops, Charles was also a member of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Railways Union, taking on the role of secretary in 1944-45 (Edgington 2022).

In 1944, Len Chung was elected vice president of the Provincial Division of the Australian Textiles Workers' Union (Age 23 November 1944:6). Len was also president of the Ballarat Trades and Labour

Council in 1965-65, an elected position when the union movement in Australia was very active and one that reflected a level of support and trust (Edgington 2022). Both unions in the 1950s-60s were powerful within the Ballarat Trades Council and the Ballarat community, commanding large workforces and factories in the region. The Textile Workers' Union covered a number of Ballarat mills: the two large woollen mills of Sunnyside and Myers, as well as Hiltons, Morley's and Lucas', together comprising a workforce of thousands. The Ballarat North railway workshop employed over 600 workers in the 1960s (Edgington 2022).

Christine Wicking, daughter of Mabel Young Chung and niece of Charles Chung, remembered her uncles:

Uncle Len was the president of the textiles union; uncle Charlie with the railway union, and they were communists; they were in the Communist Party in Ballarat. And when we were children, they used to bring over all these envelopes they used to give out. It was quite an elite club, the Communist Party. There were doctors and lawyers and quite well-off people as members...They wanted to look after the working man, to bring forward the force of the working man; that the working man had just as much right as anybody. That was their motto of the time: the working man was the main thing of the earth, and made things happen (Cluff 2022).

Members of the Chung family were persons of interest in an investigation into the Ballarat Branch of the Communist Party of Australia undertaken by ASIO. An ASIO file from 1954, obtained and supplied by Ballarat Trades Hall, described Charles Chung as a 'consistent voter for Communist objects', and other female and male members of the Chung family as 'sympathetic to the Communist cause' (Communist Party of Australia - Ballarat Branch ASIO file 1954, Edgington 2022).

In addition to the political roles the Chung family played in Ballarat, from 1905-06 when 'Victory' house was in the ownership of James and Margaret, and later under the ownership of Charles, the Chung residence provided a regular meeting place for local residents of Chinese background, including of mixed heritage, at a time when racial prejudices often led to the suppression or denial of homeland cultural traditions and language (Chung 1983; Mick Trembath 2022). The Chung house is remembered by family members as a welcoming place where Chinese heritage and culture was celebrated by informal visits and more formal gatherings of up to 200 people of Chinese background on an annual basis (Mick Trembath 2022).

Charles Chung owned 'Victory' house until 2002 and died in 2003. In 2002, the subject residence was sold to Kim McCartney (nee Odgers), a great niece of Charles Chung (CT:V9344 F700). Later occupants of the house included Kim McCartney and her children, Jake and Kate McCartney, the great, great nephew and niece of Charles Chung (Bindy Trembath 2022). The house passed out of the Chung family's ownership in 2008.

It should be noted that no investors and company managers named in the *Victorian Government Gazette* were Chinese (Victorian Government Gazette).

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