

## DAWSON'S CASH STORE (FORMER)



Dawsons Cash Store (former, 2020)



Dawson's Cash Store (former, 2000)



image242

### Location

23 STANLEY STREET, TOORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

### Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

### Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

### Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

#### What is significant?

The former Dawson's Cash Store, at 25-29 Stanley Street, Toora, built in 1911-12 is significant. The brick Federation corner shop with splayed corner has a unique curved timber framed, sheet metal parapet depicting a pair of whales with raised tails meeting at the splayed corner. There is also a later extension on the Stanley Street elevation, with a parapet and building to provide a side vehicle entry and outbuilding. Other key features include:

- Wide street verandah on both Stanley and Gray Streets
- Original timber shopfronts and double panelled door at corner
- Low brick stall Skylights to both stores

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant. The extension of the building on the Stanley Street end is significant as it may be the original residence from the domestic entry style.

**How is it significant?**

**The former Dawson's Cash Store at 25-29 Stanley Street, Toora is of local historic and aesthetic significant to the South Gippsland Shire.**

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, the brick shop was constructed in 1911-12 to be a 'cash store', run by Ms Susan Dawson. It is possible that William Dawson constructed the store, as he was a local contractor, constructing many local houses including 16 Welshpool Road, Toora (see TO-WE-016). In 1923, the store was sold to the Great Southern Cooperative and became the Cooperative's Toora store, selling household and farm goods. The former Dawson's Cash Store demonstrates the development of Toora and illustrates the importance of Toora as a growing commercial community during the height of the local dairy industry. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the former Dawson's Cash Store is on visually significant corner in the heart of the commercial centre of Toora. This, combined with the substantial size of the building, its unique and extravagant parapet and its close proximity to other locally and regionally significant buildings such as the former Union Bank of Australia (see TO-ST-030), makes it a local landmark within the community. This building makes a significant contribution to the character of Stanley Street and Toora. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1911, 1911, 1911,
Other Names	Former Great Southern Cooperative Store, Former Great Southern Cooperative Store, thematic,
Hermes Number	31016
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Dawson's Cash Store at 23 Stanley Street, Toora is a large brick Federation corner store with a splayed corner and an extravagantly curved timber framed parapet and a wide street verandah on both street frontages. The store is extended at the Stanley Street side by a second space at a higher floor level. The parapet then extends further to cover a side vehicular entry and an outbuilding on the building line. There is a corrugated iron storage shed in the rear yard.

The most notable feature of the building is the parapet, which is sheeted in metal. It commences in both directions from a tall raised corner panel with a curved top, in something like the classical depiction of whales with their raised tails against the corner panel, before levelling out to the end of the building. The design of the verandah encompasses both the corner store and the second section. This suggests that either both were built concurrently or that the parapet was a later addition. The second section may have been the original residence, because the entry is of a domestic form. The verandah is straight roofed and splayed at the corner with stop chamfered posts. It steps up at the second section to the north. Other significant elements include:

- Original timber shopfronts with a low brick stall and double panelled doors at the corner.
- The arched door opening with sidelights to the second shop. This is the domestic element which suggests that it was the entry to the original residence, which was replaced by the second shop or extension of the main store.
- Vertical board end infills to the verandah.
- Skylights to both stores.

*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/>*