

## Identification and location

**Name of place:**

**Other Name**

**Address**

**Place Identifier**

**Heritage Significance:**

**Creation date(s):**  **Map (Melway)**

**Boundary description**

**Local Government Area:**

**Ownership Type:**

## Description

**Site Type**

### Physical Description

This the older of two grandstands on the west side of the reserve. It is built from reinforced concrete with panelling along the front balustrade and decorative motifs along the back of the stand. It has a steel framed roof, with gable expressed trussing, corrugated iron roof and timber plats for seating. The timber entry stairs have been modified and a number of service boxes and light fixtures added to the building.

### Condition

### Integrity

### Context

The stand is beside another more recent example which is nevertheless related in form and scale. The two structures stand out in the largely single storey residential area because of their bulk and the associated vacant land of the reserve. The reserve frontage to Raleigh Road has a public hall and war memorial which add to the public structures in the immediate precinct making this the civic centre of Maribyrnong village.

### Threats:

## History

The variety of reserves within the City of Maribyrnong derive from a number of sources. Some early recreational reserves were granted by government, such as the current Whitten Oval, which was originally a botanical reserve at Footscray, but was used as a quarry for some time before becoming a sports ground for cricket and football, especially after the Footscray Football Club was formed in 1883. Yarraville Gardens was also reserved early, in 1859, although it, too was used as a quarry and later as a nightsoil dump and not developed as gardens until the early twentieth century. At Braybrook, what is now part of Pennell Reserve was gazetted as a cricket and recreation reserve in 1876, although the eastern half of the reserve appears not to have been officially added until 1921 { Barnard, 2000}.

Other reserves were achieved by citizen or council action. Footscray Park was created when the VRC planned to sell land on the Footscray side of the Maribyrnong River for subdivision in 1908 and local citizens urged the Footscray Council to buy the land. The State Government and Footscray Council combined to purchase the land from the VRC, which sold it at a reasonable price. A citizens' committee and then, for many decades the curator, David Mathews, worked to create the wonderful botanical gardens that are there today. At Maribyrnong in the early twentieth century local residents, perhaps inspired by the Essendon River League across the bridge, worked to create a recreation reserve at the Maribyrnong Bridge and a boulevard on a very small part of the land that had been set aside as a recreation reserve in the Maribyrnong Park Estate of the 1880s { Barnard, 2000}.

Maribyrnong's recreation reserve in Raleigh Road was achieved during the 1920s. Local residents built a hall at the reserve in 1927. After World War Two a grandstand at the reserve served both the local cricket club and the youth club and was also used by the Speedway, which constructed a race track on the reserve { Barnard, 2000}.

The foundation stone of this grandstand was laid 6 June 1935 by Cr Pridham who was president of the reserve committee and could be assumed to have had a major influence on the construction of this grandstand. Other committee members included WH Dale (q.v.), HJ Morter, HF Cox, JC Morrison, B Randall, H Rix, and Alf Ravenhall (secretary). The engineer in charge of the design was H Robinson and the builder, A Dickson. The grandstand and oval have been the venue for a number of sporting events over an extended period and provide a focus for the sporting life of the Maribyrnong locality.

The name Pridham was well known in the area with the Pridhams skin scouring complex nearby in Evans St. Braybrook. W. Pridham began in the 19th century as manufacturers of tallow, fertilizer and sausage casings in an area of Braybrook with a concentration of

such noxious industries. It also produced meat meal and neat's-foot oil for export. W. Pridham became president of the Braybrook Shire { Vines, 1999}. Pridham served the community in a number of ways including the membership of the committee set up after World War One to establish the Prince Edward Hospital in the district { Lack: 234}.

The local publication 'Forging Ahead' (1947) said this of Pridham and his company: 'For more than half a century W Pridham P/L have been leading manufacturers in Braybrook and its products have gained world wide renown... Mr W Pridham set operations in motion and he and a man and a boy as his assistants. Three years later, Mr W Pridham, the present managing director, joined in and from this foundation has a risen a thriving and important Australian industry'.

### Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme:

PAHT Subtheme:  Local Theme(s):

### Cultural Significance

The Pridham grandstand is significant to the City because:

- it is one of the oldest sporting structures in the City (criterion B2);
- it is a public building of relatively long standing in the community with consequent long associations with sporting activities (criterion A4, G1) ; and
- it is associated with William Pridham (the president of the reserve committee who commissioned it), a major figure among the early 20th century industrialists in the City (criterion H1) .

### Comparative Examples:

The grandstands and sporting structures remaining in the City are generally of a later date with only the altered Yarraville Oval grandstand being from a similar period.

### Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register:

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

Other Heritage Listings:

Planning Scheme Protection:

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted?:

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

## Recommendations:

Conserve and enhance the grandstand's fabric from the 1930s, with enhancement including reinstatement of missing original elements, colours and finishes.  
Conserve the public view of the conserved fabric and the context, particularly as seen from the sports ground.  
Promote the continuing original use of the place and its amenity.  
Continue or encourage historical research into the place and provide public access to the findings.

## Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

*A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.*

long associations with major sporting activities in the City

*B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.*

it is one of the oldest sporting structures in the City

*G1 Importance as places highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.*

it is a public building of long standing in the community

*H1 Importance for their close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, state or region.*

it is associated with William Pridham (the president of the reserve committee who commissioned it), a major figure among the early 20th century industrialists in the City.

historical significance    architectural significance    social significance    scientific significance

## Documentation

### References

Forge P/L, 1947. 'Forging Ahead';  
Vines, G. 1999. Living Museum of the West industrial database;  
Foundation stone;  
Lack, John. 1991 'A History of Footscray';  
Barnard, 2000 Project 1 Environmental History.

Further work required:  
Local newspaper reports of F.ST 6.6.1935 (not found);  
Council committee minutes;  
Reserve file.

## Data recording

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone,  
Braybrook and Tottenham)

**Assessed By:**

**Assessed Date:**

Historic Places - Non-industrial places in former City of Sunshine (Maribyrnong, Maidstone, Braybrook and Tottenham)

