

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Munitions Store	Grading	2008 Local
Address	1-3 Rifle Range Road WELLSFORD		
Building Type	Ordnance Store		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		

Recommended Heritage Protection **VHR** No **HI** No **PS** Yes

Integrity

High

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye

The land around the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor had a long history prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Jaara Jaara people are the original inhabitants of the area.

The area around Port Phillip was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.^[1]

The Port Phillip district was opened up for settlement soon thereafter, and much of the land in the Western districts of Victoria, including the former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye, was subsequently dominated by a series of pastoral runs. Most of the area around the town of Axedale and the numerous small towns in its vicinity was licensed to David Jennings as part of the Campaspe Plains run. The run covered an area of more than 144,900 acres and was populated with an estimated 12,000 sheep. A portion of Campaspe Plains was licensed to A. Jennings and George Playne in 1840 and the 67,000 acre station became known as Axedale. In the coming decade the holders of the license changed a number of times. By the time the leasehold over the land was cancelled in 1865, the run had greatly reduced in size.^[2]

Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. The discovery of gold at Bendigo and the surrounding areas changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. William John Bulling claimed to be the first man to discover gold at McIvor, and he was granted a £400 reward for the find. By 1853, over one hundred prospectors had assembled at Wild Duck Creek in the hopes of striking it rich. This number expanded the following year, and included some 2,000 Chinese immigrants.^[3]

The Strathfieldsaye Road District was proclaimed in the Government Gazette on the 12th August 1861, and encompassed within it the parishes of Axedale, Strathfieldsaye, Eppalock, Mandurang, Sedgwick and Lyell.^[4] The process of election of the board was punctuated by rivalries between Catholic and Protestant faiths, a characteristic of the district which infiltrates much of its history. Strathfieldsaye met the criterion prescribed to become a Shire in 1863, a transition that was

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

officially proclaimed on the 17th September of that year.[5]

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.[6]

History of Guard House [Munitions store], 1-3 Rifle Range Road, Wellsford

The land upon which the guard house [Munitions store] is located is Allotment 365K, Parish of Sandhurst, which covers an area of 100 acres. It was granted to the Commonwealth of Australia on 1 January 1901, and then the Defence Department of Victoria on the 27th February, 1934. The Defence Department used it as a rifle range and it is thought that the brick building was used as a store for ammunition.[7] It is not known when the building was constructed, though it appears to date from before the Defence Department's acquisition of the land.

The land was transferred to the Greater Bendigo City Council in 1996, and then to the Victorian Rifle Association later that year.[8] The range was the home ground of the Bendigo Rifle Club for a number of years, and was later shared by the Victorian Rifle Association, the Bendigo Rifle Club and the Bendigo South Rifle Club.[9]

[1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.

[2] Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 150

[3] Spreadborough & Anderson (1983), p. 31.

[4] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria, pp. 11 - 12.

[5] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 18.

[6] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 107.

[7] Email from Gerry Butler, 27th August 2008.

[8] Certificate of Title, Vol. 5876, Fol. 122.1

[9] Email from Gerry Butler, 27th August 2008.

Primary sources

Certificate of Title, Vol. 5876, Fol. 122.1

Email from Gerry Butler, 27th August 2008

Secondary sources

Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria

Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor

Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Description

Physical Description

This small square footprint building is of unusual design and is built of face brickwork with a single door, no windows and a brick plinth. The roof is almost pyramidal and has small eaves.

Physical Condition

Good

Conservation Policy

Guidelines (Specific)

None specified.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Wellsford Guard House [Munitions Store], at 1-3 Rifle Range Road, Wellsford is significant.

How is it significant?

The Wellsford Guard House [Munitions Store] is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The Wellsford Guard House is of historical significance for its association with land reserved for military purposes and training at the rifle range. *Criterion A*

It is of aesthetic significance as a rare building type, and one that is associated with Defence Department sites only. *Criterion B*

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion A*

Possession of uncommon rare or endangers aspects of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion B*

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion C*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments.

Criterion D

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. *Criterion E*

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period. *Criterion F*

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions.

Criterion G

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history. *Criterion H*

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

None Specified

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the Munitions Store at 1-3 Rifle Range Road, Wellsford be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is defined by a map.