

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name Château Doré
Address 303 Mandurang Road MANDURANG **Grading** 2008 Local
Building Type Vineyard/Winery
Assessment by Context Pty Ltd



Recommended Heritage Protection VHR No HI No PS Yes

Designer / Architect Buick, J **Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)
Vernacular

Maker / Builder Pallet, G

Integrity

Altered

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

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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 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 Mandurang

The area around Mandurang was initially known as the Sheepwash, so named for its situation on Sheepwash Creek. The township emerged for the provision of services to outerlying farms, and postal services to Melbourne commenced in prior to 1900. By the late 1870s, several vineyards, as well as a steam tannery and ginger beer manufacturing plant were in operation in the vicinity of the town.^[7]

By the late 1800s, the citizens of Mandurang had established state schooling facilities, as well as several churches. Surrounding farmers were largely focussed on the production of hay for the Sandhurst market, though development of new technologies undoubtedly changed the way in which farming was carried out. Mandurang largely avoided the glow of the gold rushes, and was predominantly a farming community well into the 1900s.

History of Château Doré Winery, 303 Mandurang Road, Mandurang

Jean Theodore De Ravin planted his initial vines at Sheepwash in the 1860s, and established the Château Doré winery in 1866. The house at the property was built circa 1861 and the grounds gradually developed with the addition of a cellar and pressing room, stables and buggy room in 1866. De Ravin was one of a number of migrants who had come to the Bendigo district to try their luck on the diggings, but after a number of failed attempts, De Ravin rightly saw that there was great potential for establishing a successful a business in produce.^[8]

De Ravin hailed from France, and had travelled extensively as a salesman abroad before coming to Australia. He landed at Melbourne in 1853 and spent short stints at McIvor, Castlemaine and Eaglehawk before settling in the Bendigo district. De Ravin's initial venture was to establish a market garden on just over two acres of land he acquired at Sheepwash. The business expanded in the form of a partnership with John Billman and John Hargreaves, and the addition of a herd of dairy cows. Billman planted 500 vines which he had imported from Adelaide and De Ravin followed suit by planting an

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initial tenth of a hectare of vines on his land. Besides his expanding vineyards to eight hectares of vines De Ravin also planted an orchard on his property. [9]

De Ravin was a prominent member of the local community, and stood as a member of the board of directors on no less than forty mining companies. His large family was well known in the district, which undoubtedly contributed to the success of his establishment.[10]

Château Doré was devastated by the *Phylloxera vastatrix* epidemic in 1893 and despite the fact that no evidence of the pest was not found on De Ravin's vines, the law demanded they be uprooted. The winery suffered a further setback in 1901, when an excise officer acting under the prudence of the *Wines Adulteration Bill* contaminated an estimated £5,000 worth of De Ravin's wine with salt.[11]

The Château Doré vineyard was re-established in 1975 by Ivan Grose, the grandson of Jean Theodore de Ravin. Works have included replanting the vines and the conversion of a large storeroom to a reception room.[12]

The current owners hold extensive documentary records of the property and the De Ravin family.

[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] Whitworth, Robert P. (1879). *The Victorian Gazeteer and road guide: containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the colony*, Melbourne, F. F. Bailliere, p. 287.

[8] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 54.

[9] Hewat, Tim (1983) p. 54.

[10] Hewat, Tim (1983) p. 54.

[11] Hewat, Tim (1983) p. 54.

[12] Bendigo Wine: Bendigo Wine Makers *Château Doré* www.bendigowine.org.au/wineryDetail.asp?ID=19, accessed 24/02/2009

Secondary sources

Bendigo Wine: Bendigo Wine Makers *Château Doré* www.bendigowine.org.au/wineryDetail.asp?ID=19, accessed 24/02/2009

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

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Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.0 Transforming the land

4.4 Farming

Description

Physical Description

Château Doré is an extensive group of sandstone winery buildings built in several stages from the 1860s to the 1890s. The original buildings were designed by a Mr Buick of Bendigo and the contractor was George Pallet.[1] Extensive cellars are below both stages of the buildings. The building now consists of three gables built as the original structure and a transverse gable built in the 1893 [2]. A small structure covers the external stairs to the cellars and there is a blacksmiths shop (now converted to toilets) and a buggy shed.

The sandstone walling is offset with brick dressings to the windows, including the circular windows in the gable ends . The interior has flagging to the floors and contains the original roof structure of trusses. In the front gable evidence remains of the earlier timber shingle roof although this is now covered with corrugated iron.

Also on the site is a house dating from 1860s. This has undergone renovations and is of secondary interest. The verandah was built in 1992 to the design of Architect Michael Hughes together with the red and cream brick porch that serves as a foyer to the reception room [3]. The whole complex is set in landscaped grounds with a number of old trees, and those planted approximately 40 years ago. These include peppercorns, a pecan nut and olive trees which are thought to have been planted in the 1800s. [4]

[1] De Ravin diary held by the owners Ivan and Jan Grose

[2] Information from present owners, Ivan and Jan Grose

[3] Information from present owners, Ivan and Jan Grose

[4] Information from present owners, Ivan and Jan Grose

Physical Condition

Good

Conservation Policy

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Guidelines (Specific)

The following specific conservation actions are recommended, should the opportunity arise:

Consultation of the many historical records held by owners would be valuable should any works be prepared to these buildings.

Comparative Analysis

Château Doré is one of several stone complexes in the study area built for processing grapes and making wine. It may be compared with Grieffenhagens in Patons Road, Axe Creek.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Château Doré Winery, including all the fabric of the large sandstone buildings of c.1860, and c. 1890, house c.1860, former blacksmith's shop and buggy shed, adjacent grounds including the peppercorn, olive, pecan nut trees and vineyard is significant.

How is it significant?

The Château Doré Winery is of local historical, social, technical and architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

Château Doré Winery is historically significant as an example of a range of agricultural industries that were introduced into Victoria by European immigrants, and fostered as a result of gold mining. The winery is also of historic significance for its long association with the settlement of European vigneron in the region. The De Ravin family, originally from France, are associated with the site from its inception in the 1860s to re-establishment by descendant Ivan Grose in 1975. In particular the winery is notable for its association with founder Jean Theodore De Ravin. De Ravin, together with John Billman and John Hargreaves, saw an opportunity to provide the gold diggings with local produce. De Ravin was also a prominent member of the local community, and was associated with more than forty mining companies.

The replanting of vines at Château Doré Winery is also important for its contribution to an understanding of an ongoing tradition of grape growing in the Bendigo region and the setbacks associated with the *Phylloxera vastatrix* outbreak in nineteenth century Victoria. *Criterion A*

Château Doré is of aesthetic significance as a rare and substantial group of winery buildings. Although the verandah and red and cream brick porch at the front are recent additions in complementary style, the original buildings, which date from the 1860s, are in good condition. Originally built of local sandstone with a timber shingle and later corrugated iron roof, the large group of stone buildings is architecturally and aesthetically significant as a substantial and distinctive winery complex. *Criterion D*.

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The Château Doré Winery is also of scientific (technical) significance for its demonstration of nineteenth century agricultural and wine making infrastructure. *Criterion F*

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

Criterion D Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

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

Criterion G 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 their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

Yes

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 303 Mandurang Road, Mandurang 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 the whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'