

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name House
Address 6 Mitchell Street HEATHCOTE **Grading** 2008 Local
Building Type House
Assessment by Context Pty Ltd



Recommended Heritage Protection VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)
Vernacular

Maker / Builder Unknown

Integrity

Altered

History and Historical Context

History of Heathcote

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.

Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party explored the area in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Mitchell was impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of the country,

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and named the area around Port Phillip *Australia Felix*.^[1]

Much of land around Heathcote was dominated by a series of pastoral runs established from the 1830s. Henry Munro took up an extensive tract of land in early 1838 which was later subdivided to form *Campaspe (Coliban Estate)* and *Spring Plains Stations*.^[2] By 1850, there was no available land remaining in all of northern Victoria.^[3]

The discovery of gold at McIvor Creek in 1852 changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. 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.^[4] Hotels were big business in any gold rush town a spate of hotels were established in Heathcote before 1860 including the Mt. Ida Hotel, the Union Hotel, the Camp Hotel, the Prince of Wales Hotel, the Lake Hotel, the Victoria Hotel and the Rodney Hotel.

The government camp was established at Heathcote in 1853. By 1858 Heathcote boasted a permanent postmaster and a daily mail service to Melbourne. A camp doctor had been stationed at Heathcote quite early on, and by 1853 a further five private doctors had expanded options for those in need of medical treatment.^[5] The Heathcote Hospital was built in 1859.

Assistant Surveyor Phillip Chauncey surveyed the town site of Heathcote prior to the first land sale at Heathcote on the 24th January 1854.^[6] A total of eighty seven quarter-acre blocks were auctioned at the Police Office in the government camp.^[7] Much of the early development in the township was clustered around High Street.

The Heathcote and Waranga District Roads Board was established in October 1861.^[8] Heathcote became a borough in 1863, and its council enlarged to nine members.^[9] The district survived until 1863, when Waranga and Heathcote became separate entities.^[10] The Shire of McIvor was proclaimed in the Victorian *Government Gazette* in December 1864. It was not until 1892 that the Borough of Heathcote officially amalgamated with the Shire of McIvor.

The Heathcote National School opened in 1853. The School was a private facility, and enrolments were known to fluctuate periodically, as itinerant prospectors' quest for gold pressed them to move to new rushes and new finds. Educational facilities were expanded in the 1860s with the opening of denominational schools by the Church of England, the Catholic and Methodist Churches. In 1873, compulsory free and secular primary education was legislated by the Government and the Heathcote Common School No. 300 opened, only to close by the mid 1860s.^[11] The South Heathcote State School opened in April 1874.^[12]

Towards the end of the 1870s, the initial spark of the gold rushes had faded and changes in the agricultural industry were brought on with the 42nd Second Section of Grant's Amended Land Act of 1865, which prompted the acquisition of smaller holdings by a number of residents in the district. As well as dairying and , farming enterprises, tobacco crops and vineyards were planted in the area. There were also three flourmills in operation in Heathcote by the 1880s.^[13] Grazing, agriculture and dairying remained mainstays in the Heathcote community and the significant pastoral estates in the region flourished. Much of the produce from farming was sold in and around Heathcote which, as it continued to expand, proved a viable market. A Chinese market garden had been established by Kit Foo in 1868, on ten acres of land on the west side of Wild Duck Creek. ^[14]

The railway from Bendigo to Heathcote officially opened on the 1st October 1888.^[15] Development of the railway was of benefit to farmers in the district and allowed the diversification of their markets, as well as more efficient transport of imports into the community, and generally increased profitability. Livestock yards built at the station in 1890 were of further advantage to the farming community.^[16]

After the turn of the century, development of Heathcote continued. Between 1910 and 1913 the Licensing Board enforced the de-licensing of many of Heathcote's numerous hotels. War broke out on the 4th August 1914 and a total of fifty one

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men from Heathcote served. The Second World War had an equally devastating impact on Heathcote. Air spotting posts were established in Heathcote, and the government acquired some 15,000 acres of land at Puckapunyal which was set aside as a military training camp.

In November 1994, the Shire of McIvor was restructured and part of its area, including Heathcote, was transferred to the City of Greater Bendigo.

History of House, 6 Mitchell Street, Heathcote

The house at 6 Mitchell Street was built on land that was granted by the Crown to G. B. Shakespear on the 13th of July, 1857. At the time of his acquisition of allotment 3 of section 20 in the township of Heathcote, he also acquired allotments 1, 2, 4, 17, 18 and 13, giving him ownership of a small parcel of interconnected lots at the end of Mitchell Street, and abutting the McIvor Creek.[17]

George Bee Shakespear(e) was a butcher, meat wholesaler and mining investor and was a member of some prominence of the local community of Heathcote. He was elected a member of the first municipal council for Heathcote, which was established in September 1859, and remained in this position until his resignation in 1863.[18] He was also a trustee of the ground of the Heathcote hospital.[19] Despite his solid reputation, Shakespear(e) went insolvent in the 1860s, said to be a factor contributing to his resignation from the Heathcote Roads Board.[20]

Rate books indicate that Shakespear(e)'s land was developed as a single parcel, and that by February 1864, Edwin Field was rated as the occupant of a 'house, garden and land' with a net annual value of £60, which had been constructed on allotments 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 of section 20 in the township of Heathcote.[21] It is probable that the residence had been constructed considerably earlier than 1864.

Edwin Field was one of the four men who opened up gold production in the area, and with Peniston Coster, Alan Coster and William Youle, lodged a claim with the Rewards Commission with regard to a find they had made in 1864.[22] The area around the find went on to develop as Costerfield, as Edwin Field and the Coster Brothers established the Costerfield Gold and Antimony Mining Company.

In 1866 Edwin Field was recorded as both the owner and occupier of the house at Mitchell Street.[23] He had presumably bought it from Shakespear(e) during the previous year. The following year Field and William Youle were both occupying the house, though Field remained the owner, and were listed together as 'mining managers'.[24] Field sold the place to Youle in 1868, which by that stage was recorded as 'house, vineyard etc'.[25] Youle occupied the house with William Stradforth for a period, before vacating the residence and presumably renting it in its entirety to Stradforth, a police magistrate.[26] In 1870 Robert and William Stradforth were recorded as the occupiers of the place, which was still owned by Youle.[27]

By 1871, William Youle was once again residing at the house at Mitchell Street, though Sarah Ann Youle, assumedly his wife, was the owner.[28] William Youle died circa 1886, and Sarah Ann Youle remained the owner of the property as the executrix of his estate. By 1892 Walter Youle was residing there.[29]

By 1903, the residence was owned by N. E. Lewis and occupied by William Bolton, a labourer. The house was at this stage listed with Lots 1, 2, 3, 16 and 17 of section 20, indicating that some portions of the parcel acquired by Field had been sold off.[30] Lewis continued to own the property until his death in circa 1908, and let the place to a series of tenants during this time. He also lived there himself for a period in 1906.[31] Following Lewis' death, George W. Robinson, a printer, continued to occupy the place until circa 1910.[32]

Charles Marshall, a driver in Heathcote, lived at the Mitchell Street residence for a number of years in the 1920s, followed by Lionel B. Lundie in the 1930s.[33]

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- [1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.
- [2] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 1.
- [3] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 8.
- [4] Randell, J. O. (1985) p. 31.
- [5] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 28.
- [6] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 21.
- [7] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 225.
- [8] Randell, J. O. (1985), pp. 79 - 80.
- [9] Randell, J. O. (1985), 35.
- [10] Hall, T. R., *History of the town and district: Heathcote*, reproduced 1985 with permission, p. 7.
- [11] Hall (1985), p. 11.
- [12] Hall (1985), p. 12.
- [13] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 43.
- [14] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 135.
- [15] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 56.
- [16] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 31.
- [17] Plan of the Township of Heathcote, H(74)6, 21/4/1972.
- [18] Randell, J. O. (1985), pp. 72, 79, 80, 104.
- [19] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 159.
- [20] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 233.
- [21] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1864.
- [22] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 21.
- [23] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1867.
- [24] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1867.
- [25] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1868.

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[26] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1869.

[27] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1870.

[28] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1871.

[29] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1886 - 1871.

[30] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1903.

[31] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1903 - 1908.

[32] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1910.

[33] Shire of McIvor Rate Books, 1920 - 1935.

Primary sources

Shire of McIvor Rate Books.

Plan of the Township of Heathcote, H(74)6, 21/4/1972.

Secondary sources

Hall, T. R., *History of the town and district: Heathcote*, reproduced 1985 with permission

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

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

6.0 Building towns, cities and the garden state

6.5 Living in country towns

Description

Physical Description

6 Mitchell Street is a house built in several parts, with gable roofs and parapeted end walls. It is built from brick, although the walls are now painted. The verandah is integral with the roof slope and the roof is clad with Morwood and Rogers patent tilt metal roof tiles. The verandah beam is cut out in an unusual pattern although this may not be the original design. The house consists of two separate wings of similar design at right angles to each other. A recent extension has also been made to the end of one wing. The wings are linked to each other by a verandah. This house has an unusually long rear wing, which may have been used as a stable, where the roof is also clad with Morwood and Rogers tiles. Although gable roofs are common throughout the study area, the end walls forming parapets are less common than eaves with barges. These walls extend forward of the front wall forming wing walls at each end of the verandah. Another unusual, although not unknown feature, is the doorway being off centre to the front elevation.

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Physical Condition

Fair

Conservation Policy

Guidelines (Specific)

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

Further assessment of this house is recommended prior to approving any works that may involve demolition of any part.

Comparative Analysis

6 Mitchell Street is a particularly early and intact brick house in Heathcote. The style is similar to 306 Nankervis Road Mandurang and 23 Wilkinson Road, Sedgwick, which also have end parapets.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The house at 6 Mitchell Street, Heathcote is significant.

How is it significant?

The house at 6 Mitchell Street is of local, historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The house at 6 Mitchell Street is historically significant for its association with G. B. Shakespear(e), a prominent member of the Heathcote community. George Bee Shakespear(e) was a member Heathcote Roads Board and Heathcote Municipal Council from 1859-1863 and trustee of the Heathcote hospital grounds. The house is also important for its association with Edwin Field who was rated as the occupant in 1864. Field and the Coster Brothers established the Costerfield Gold and Antimony Mining Company. Edwin Field owned and occupied the house from 1866-1868. Other owners include mining manager William Youle. Members of the Youle family owned the house until at least 1892. *Criterion A*

The house at 6 Mitchell Street has a number of unusual features including Morwood and Rogers patent tilt metal roof tiles to the front and rear parts of the house. The parapets to the end brick walls are less common than eaves with barge boards. Other important features include the cut out pattern in the verandah beam and unusually long rear wing also clad with roofing tiles. Another unusual, although not unknown feature, is the doorway being off centre to the front elevation. Given the presence of the Morwood and Rogers roofing tiles, it is possible that this house was built prior to 1860, this making it one of the earliest houses still extant in Heathcote. *Criteria D, B*

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria:

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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

No

Fences & Outbuildings

No

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 6 Mitchell Street, Heathcote be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater Bendigo City 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.'