

INCORPORATED PLAN

BENDIGO RACECOURSE

1-75 Racecourse Road, Ascot

March 2014

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1.0 Introduction

This incorporated plan applies to Bendigo Racecourse at 1-75 Racecourse Road, Bendigo. The place has been recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. The extent of the proposed Heritage Overlay applies to the area bounded by Heinz Street to the south, Racecourse Road to the east, Andrew Street to the west and the southern extent of Bendigo Golf Club to the north (Figure 1).

The site has operated as a racecourse since 1864. It is a site where the ongoing use of the place is a factor in its heritage significance. As is typical of sporting and recreational venues, Bendigo Racecourse has evolved over time. This evolution is demonstrated in the varied character and age of the buildings and landscaping at the place.

The purpose of this document is to describe the elements of significance at the subject site, and to exempt certain works from the requirement for a planning permit under Clause 43.01 in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. In doing so, the intent is to support the ongoing operations of the Bendigo Racecourse, which includes hosting a number of annual events requiring temporary structures and facilities.

2.0 Statement of significance

The following statement of significance for Bendigo Racecourse is from the heritage citation for the place prepared for the White Hills and East Bendigo Heritage Study (2014).

What is significant?

The Bendigo Racecourse complex at 1-75 Racecourse Road, Ascot, including the Grandstand, Lienhop Lodge, Manfred Room, the course itself and associated landscaping, is of significance.

How is it significant?

The Bendigo Racecourse complex is of historical, aesthetic/architectural, social and associative significance.

Why is it significant?

The Bendigo Racecourse complex is of historical significance for its long and early association with the sport of horse racing in Victoria and Bendigo. Opened in 1864, the racecourse has been in operation for almost 150 years on this site. The site is also of interest for its use by the military as a training camp for recruits during both World War I and World War II.

The complex is a fine and representative example of a regional racecourse which includes all of the elements that would typically be found at such places, including the course itself, grandstand and other related buildings and structures.

The place as a whole is aesthetically significant for demonstrating the visual qualities associated with grassed horse racing tracks, including the numerous mature native and exotic trees in the landscaped setting.

The Bendigo Racecourse complex is of social significance. Horse racing is one of the oldest sports played in Greater Bendigo, with the first races on the Bendigo goldfields held in 1854. The Bendigo Cup remains a popular horse racing event; the Victorian public holiday for race day is observed locally for the Bendigo Cup Day, not the Melbourne Cup.



Figure 1 Bendigo Racecourse: the extent of the area recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay is indicated

The 1902 grandstand is of individual historical and architectural significance as a large and substantially intact example of a Federation era grandstand which incorporates notable cast iron detailing. It is of interest for its association with local architect Ernest J Keogh, who in partnership with Austin designed a number of hotels, shops, offices and a citizen club in the Bendigo area, and also worked for the Catholic Diocese in Bendigo. Ernest Keogh was later joined by his son and they continued to undertake work for the Catholic Diocese in Bendigo, and elsewhere, from the 1920s.

2.1 Elements of significance

Buildings and public areas at Bendigo Racecourse are concentrated to the south-west of the race track. This area includes a number of significant buildings and landscape elements, including exotic trees. There are areas of native vegetation to the east and south of the race track; while no trees of individual significance are identified in these areas, they do contribute to the treed character of the site they are not considered of heritage significance/.

The numbering system adopted for the list of significant buildings/elements below corresponds with Figure 2 (detail of public areas) and Figure 3 (the whole racecourse site).

- Building/element 1, The Grandstand (1902): A substantial red brick structure with raked seating and service areas and function spaces below. The grandstand is generally intact externally, including the hipped and gabled roof supported on iron trusses, balustrade (timber rail and cast iron lace) and timber seating plats.
- Building/element 2, Lienhop Lodge (1899): Single-storey painted weatherboard pavilion comprising a series of conjoined but distinct building forms.

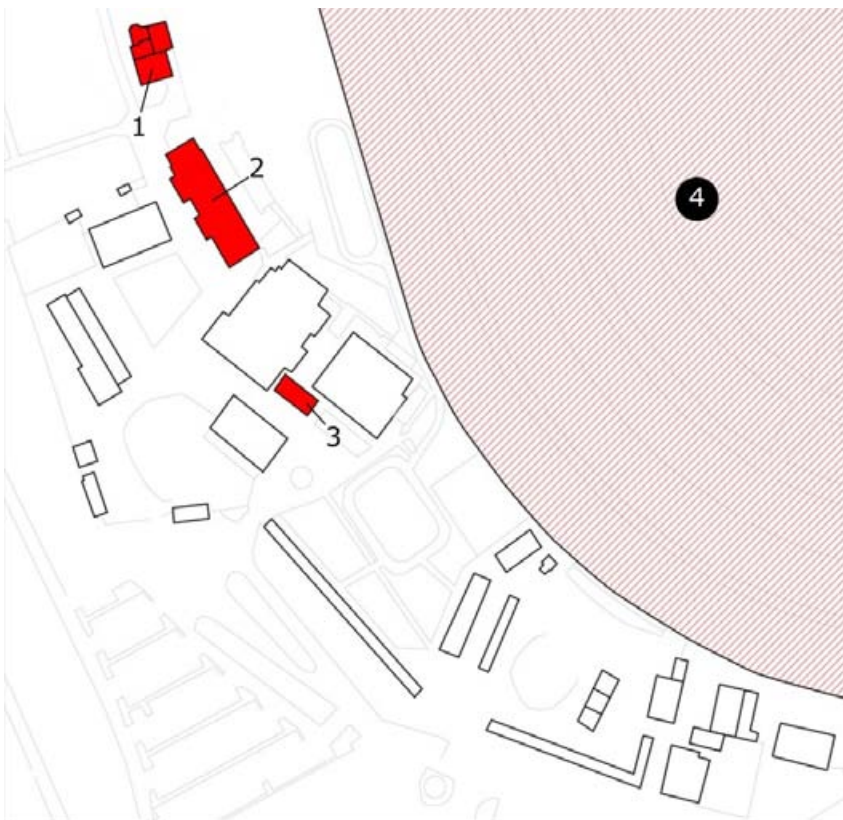


Figure 2 Detail of the public area to the south-west of the race track: elements of significance are indicated

- Building/element 3, Manfred Room (c. 1900s): single-storey Federation-era building of painted weatherboard with a pitched roof clad in corrugated sheeting.
- Building/element 4: The race track.

2.2 Permit exemptions

Pursuant to Section 43.01-2 of Clause 43.01 'Heritage Overlay' of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme:

No permit is required under this overlay:

- For anything done in accordance with an incorporated plan specified in a schedule to this overlay.

Accordingly, no planning permit is required for the following works within the subject site:

Buildings

- Demolition or removal of buildings which are not identified as elements of significance in this incorporated plan (Section 2.1, above).
- External and internal alterations to buildings which are not identified as elements of significance in this incorporated plan (Section 2.1, above).
- Additions to buildings/elements which are not identified as elements of significance in this incorporated plan (Section 2.1, above).
- Internal alterations to Lienhop Lodge, the Manfred Room and the service areas to the ground level of the Grandstand which do not impact on the external appearance of these buildings/areas.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of all infrastructure associated with the race track itself and the operation of the course.

Temporary events

Bendigo Racecourse hosts a number of events, including the annual Bendigo Cup (which attracts crowds of up to 10,000), other race meetings, the Caravan Leisure Fest and weddings. Major events typically occur over one or two days, and involve periods of setting-up and removing temporary structures.

Temporary structures typically required for major events include:

- Marquees and tents (lightweight structures) and furniture
- Catering facilities
- Portable toilets
- Generators
- Signage
- A 'kids zone' including inflatable play equipment (Bendigo Cup)
- Additional car parking

Temporary structures are located within the area to the south-west of the race track, particularly:

- The area to the west of Lienhop Lodge (serviced by brick-paved pathways)
- The area between the 1902 Grandstand and the mounting yard

- The track-side area to the north of Lienhop Lodge

All works (including but not limited to those identified above) associated with temporary events are exempt from a permit under the Heritage Overlay other than for where these involve physical works of any kind to the exteriors Buildings 1-3.

3.0 Permit requirements

A permit is required under the HO provisions of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, as identified at Clause 43.01-1, for all other works and subdivision not identified above.