

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Shelter		
Address	75 Mitchell Street AXEDALE	Grading	2008 Local
Building Type	Pavilion		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		



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

Architectural Style Federation/Edwardian Period
(1902-c.1918) Carpenter Gothic

Maker / Builder Unknown

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 Axedale

The plan of the township of Axedale, with its characteristic crescent ends, was laid out circa 1856. Axedale was included in the district of Mandurang and under the control of the Strathfieldsaye Roads Board. Patrick Drake had built the Campaspe Hotel in 1855, and by 1865, the district had developed to the extent that it was able to support a further six hotels.^[7] Goldfields were typically rough and lawless places, and hotels were big business in their midst. Patterns of settlement continued to reflect the status of Axedale as a centre of support for surrounding farm lands and mining pursuits, and by the 1860s, there were some 500 residents.^[8]

Axedale was proclaimed a district on the 20th August 1861, and then a Shire on the 25th September 1866.^[9] Much of the population of Axedale was of Irish origin, and tensions between Catholics and Protestants were articulated through the establishment and development of separate facilities for both religions. Facilities in the town were established to cater for, or became associated with, either the Catholic or Protestant communities, so much so that Axedale duplicated its cemeteries, hotels and schools in order to cater for both sectors.^[10]

Religious facilities were first established in Axedale with the opening of the St. Mary's Catholic Church in Axedale in 1862. The Catholics also ran a school from the Church, catering for the children of waves of settlers that continued to arrive in the area. By the end of the 1860s, pressure from the Common School Committee led to their acquisition of Crown Land, that was gazetted as the site for the Axedale Common School in 1869. The school opened in 1871.^[11] Alongside the establishment of religious and educational facilities was the construction of the Axedale Police Station, which opened in 1866.

The rich soils of the Campaspe River allowed for the continuation of farming as a mainstay for the area. Alongside the maintenance of agricultural and pastoral pursuits, residents of Axedale developed other industries. Napthali Ingham established a bluestone quarry on his land in the 1860s, and a further quarry was opened in by Riley, Brazier and Nelson

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in 1905.[12] Vineyards and orchards were important developments in the district.

Development of the district and its industries were further enhanced with the construction of the railway from Bendigo to Heathcote, which opened in 1884. The railway was vital means of connecting a number of small towns in the district. The station at Axedale was opened on the 1st October 1888, and continued to be serviced until its closure during the Second World War.[13]

In the 1930s, construction of a weir at the Campaspe River was commenced, though work was suspended at the height of the depression.[14] Proximity to Lake Eppalock, constructed in 1960-65, also proved a source of employment for the town.

The marked development of the region culminated in the decision in 1994 to amalgamate the Shire of Strathfieldsaye with nearby Shires to form the City of Greater Bendigo.

History of Shelter, 75 Mitchell Street, Axedale

The shelter at 75 Mitchell Street was built on part of land that was set aside as the Axedale Race Course and Recreation Reserve. The racecourse was established in 1854, prior to the survey of the township of Axedale, and regular races were held there from that time.[15] A Race Club was formed in Axedale in 1861, which was responsible for the facilitation of races at the course, a task that was achieved with a modicum of success despite the frequent disbanding of the association.[16]

Improvements were made at the Axedale Racecourse between 1896 and 1897, and included the clearing and grubbing of the some fifty acres of land inside the track and fencing the course in its entirety. The works were financed by £5 debentures at 5% interest and the John Craven rent for grazing rights over the land.[17] The racing club, however, collapsed in financial disarray, and the course was taken over by the McIvor District Racing Club.[18]

In 1914, architect William Beebe designed a grandstand that was erected at the Axedale Racecourse, shortly before two World Wars prompted an extended hiatus from racing. The shelter at 75 Mitchell Street was probably built in conjunction with the erection of the grandstand.

Besides racing, the ground was also used as a general sports facility, and was host to car racing and cricket games at various stages.[19]

[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.

[3] Spreadborough and 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). Bailliere's Victorian Gazeteer and Road Guide, F. F. Bailliere, Melbourne, p. 17.

[8] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), Accent on Axedale, Axedale, Victoria, p. 8.

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[9] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), p. 21.

[10] Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo, p. 10.

[11] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), p. 16.

[12] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), p. 21.

[13] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), p. 28.

[14] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 115.

[15] Randell, J. O. (1885), p. 320.

[16] Randell, J. O. (1885), p. 320.

[17] Randell, J. O. (1885), p. 323.

[18] Randell, J. O. (1885), p. 323.

[19] Community Consultation, Axedale.

Primary sources

Community Consultation, Axedale.

Whitworth, Robert P. (1879). *Bailliere's Victorian Gazeteer and Road Guide*, F. F. Bailliere, Melbourne.

Secondary sources

Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo.

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

Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee (1970), *Accent on Axedale*, Axedale, Victoria.

Randell, J. O. (1885). *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 Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock weir*, Hermes entry 6482

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

9. Shaping cultural and creative life

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9.1 Participating in sport and recreation

Description

Physical Description

75 Mitchell Street is a shelter shed with high pitched gable roof with the gable ends clad in weatherboard. Edwardian style vertical timber strapping is used on one gable end but is missing from the other. A small cross gable is on one side. All gable ends are decorated with finials. Beneath the roof the shelter is partially built in with a corrugated iron clad structure containing toilets and a storage shed. The timber structural posts have triangular brackets. It is probable that the toilets were added later, and the original building was completely open in the form of a picnic shelter.

Physical Condition

Fair

Conservation Policy

It is recommended that should the storage shed and the toilets no longer be required, that they be removed and the structure returned to being open.

Comparative Analysis

There are no comparable structures in the study area.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Shelter at 75 Mitchell Street Axedale, including all the fabric of weatherboard building is significant.

How is it significant?

The Shelter at 75 Mitchell Street Axedale is of local historical, social and aesthetic significance for the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The Shelter at 75 Mitchell Street Axedale is historically significant for its associations with the history of horse racing in the former Shire of McIvor. The shelter is a surviving example of an early twentieth century racetrack structure. It is of social significance as it reflects the role that racing played in the sporting and social history of Axedale, and the need to provide comfortable facilities at the racecourse. *Criterion A*

Although it has been adapted with the addition of a storage area, it is aesthetically significant as an elegant pavilion with architectural refinements of gable end strapping and finials and a steeply pitched roof. *Criterion D*

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75 Mitchell Street has rarity value as the only building of its type identified in the study area. *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*

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

Yes

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

None Specified

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the shelter at 75 Mitchell Street, Axedale, be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown below. The extent of registration is defined by a map.