CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Marydale		
Address	2270 McIvor Highway AXEDALE	**Grading**	2008 Local
Building Type	Homestead Complex		
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

High (outbuildings)

Altered (house)

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 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 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 Marydale, 2270 McIvor Highway, Axedale

'Marydale' was the name given to the homestead established as part of the Axe station, which was a 67,000 acre portion of Campaspe Plains licensed to A. Jennings and George Playne in 1840. 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.[15] Marydale station was established circa 1845, and the station developed over time with outbuildings constructed to meet the needs of the station as they arose.

The 'Marydale' homestead and outbuildings are located on portion B in the Parish of Axedale, that was granted by the Crown to Robert Ross on the 19th November 1855. Ross selected a 320 acre allotment under his pre-emptive right and paid £320 for the land.[16] Ross was probably responsible for the construction of the homestead and some of the outbuildings on his land, but some may have been built prior to the Crown grant of the property. Old law research notes indicate that Ross took out a mortgage over his property (which at that stage covered 640 acres) in September 1855, several months prior to the Crown grant.[17] The mortgage was probably a means of raising funds to finance construction on his land, and this was likely to have been when the homestead, and some of the outbuildings, were constructed.

Robert Ross sold a portion of the allotment to William Heffernan and J. Crowley in 1856, who held the land as tenants in common. Crowley transferred the entirety of his portion to Heffernan in 1866, who was thereafter the sole owner of the property.[18]

Heffernan was both an entrepreneur and publican. He ran the Shamrock Hotel in Bendigo as well as other businesses. Heffernan may have been involved in business activities with Michael Costello, who was a very successful investor and owned several parcels of land in the region.[19]

The property was held by the Heffernan family until at least the 1880s. Marydale developed as a prosperous farming property due to its proximity to the Campaspe River, and has been owned by the Roberts family since the 1970s.

[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 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.

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

[16] Research notes for old law search application 18464.

[17] Research notes for old law search application 18464.

[18] Research notes for old law search application 18464.

[19] McGill, William, *Axedale Station,* in Randell, J. O. *Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria,* Burwood, 1982, Vol. II, p. 401.

Primary sources

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

Information from the current owners, John and Ros Roberts October 2008.

Secondary sources

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

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

Gladwin, Frances (1997), *Axedale Cemetery: historical report*, the author, Axedale, Victoria.

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

Victoria.

Mitchell, Barbara (2005). On the Creeks: Early Life at Strathfieldsaye in the Valley of the Three Creeks - Axe, Emu and Sheepwash, Barbara Mitchell, Bendigo, 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 Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock weir,* Hermes entry 6482

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.0 Transforming the land

4.1 Living off the land

Description

Physical Description

Marydale is an extensive pastoral property with the entrance located at the bridge over the Campaspe River at Axedale. The property includes extensive river flats bordering the Campaspe and a long tree lined avenue of red gums and elms leading to the group of buildings including the homestead, machinery shed, workshop, schoolhouse and other buildings. The homestead is set in an established garden containing a summerhouse. The garden includes many exotic trees including palms and elms.

The homestead which has been extensively renovated and extended during the ownership of the Roberts family, is apparently built over and around an early house, but there is no external evidence of this remaining.[1]

The summerhouse in the garden is of an octagonal design with a steeply pitched roof clad in terra cotta tiles. A nineteenth century photo of the garden in possession of the owners shows the summerhouse in its present location.

The farm outbuildings are built with unusual design influences, although of rectangular, gable roofed form they display an unusual attention to detail such as the pigeon or dovecote in the gable ends of the large machinery shed. The windows are all multi-paned and are set with architraves into corrugated iron cladding. All the cladding is of short sheets.

The schoolhouse is of particular interest as an unusual one-off design with a steeply pitched roof with extended eaves and a half gable feature. The multi-paned sash windows are of an unusual design and the interior is apparently lined in western red cedar lining boards. [2]

The whole farm complex has very high aesthetic value derived from its setting, avenues of trees, timber gates, well maintained buildings of unusual design influence and grouping of buildings around a central driveway area adjacent to the house. The homestead is of lesser interest due to its contemporary extensions.

Marydale may be compared with Mt Camel Station at 770 Heathcote Rochester Road. This is also a pastoral property from part of a large squatting run, and is the only other large pastoral property in the study area.

[1] Information from the current owners, John and Ros Roberts October 2008

[2] Information from the current owners, John and Ros Roberts October 2008

Physical Condition

Excellent

Conservation Policy

None Specified

Comparative Analysis

There are no comparable places in the study area. Marydale is without peer in its collection of three farm buildings, school house, garden and summer house.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The farm complex Marydale comprising the corrugated iron farm oubuildings, timber schoolhouse, homestead garden, nineteenth century summerhouse, elm tree lined driveway and timber driveway gates is significant. The homestead and garage adjacent to the homestead is not significant.

How is it significant?

Marydale is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

Marydale is historically significant as part of the former Campaspe Plains and Axe stations that once comprised 67,000 hectares from Axedale to the outskirts of Bendigo. It is one of the earliest properties established in the study area and has associations with the Heffernan family of the Shamrock Hotel in Bendigo. *Criterion A*

Marydale is of aesthetic significance for its unusual grouping of farm outbuildings all of which are designed in a simple but picturesque manner. The large machinery shed is highly unusual with the pigeon or dove cotes built into the gable ends. There is an unusual degree of detail and uniformity of the outbuildings all of which are clad in painted corrugated iron with timber architraves and timber framed windows.

The schoolhouse is of particular interest for its unusual design, steeply pitched roof, multipaned windows and timber detailing. The driveway and area between the farm buildings is significant for its trees including elms and red gums, and ornamental timber gates. The summerhouse is rare in the study area, not otherwise associated with other farm complexes where utilitarian buildings predominate. The garden setting of the summerhouse and homestead is significant for its mature trees. *Criterion E*

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	Yes
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	Yes
Incorporated Plan	Yes
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the outbuildings at Marydale, 2270 McIvor Highway, Axedale 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 defined by a map. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'