

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

<b>Name</b>	ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH		
<b>Address</b>	10 Drake Street AXEDALE	<b>Grading</b>	2008 Local
<b>Building Type</b>	Church		
<b>Assessment by</b>	Context Pty Ltd		




---

<b>Recommended Heritage Protection</b>	<b>VHR</b> No <b>HI</b> No <b>PS</b> Yes
--	--

<b>Designer / Architect</b>	Beebe, William	<b>Architectural Style</b>	Victorian Period (1851-1901)
<b>Maker / Builder</b>	Unknown		

### Integrity

High

### 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*.<sup>[1]</sup>

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

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]

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.[3] 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.[4]

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.[5]

## 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.[6] 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.[7]

Axedale was proclaimed a district on the 20th August 1861, and then a Shire on the 25th September 1866.[8] 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.[9]

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 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.[10] 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.[11] 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.[12]

In the 1930s, construction of a weir at the Campaspe River was commenced, though work was suspended at the height of

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

the depression.[13] Proximity to Lake Eppalock, constructed in 1960-65, also proved a source of employment for the town.[14]

The Shire of Strathfieldsaye became part of City of Greater Bendigo in 1994.

## History of St. Paul's Anglican Church

Despite a strong Anglican presence in Axedale it was not until 1912 that the local community rallied for the construction of a Church. A committee had been formed in 1868 for the purpose of establishing facilities for worship and education, but had disbanded shortly afterwards due to a lack of support.

Architect John Beebe was commissioned to draw up plans for the Church.[15] The foundation stone was laid on June 27, 1913 by Lord Bishop of Bendigo, Bishop John Douse Langley, D.D. The total cost of construction came to the sum of £476.10.[16] Much of this money was raised from various fundraisers including subscriptions, picnic meetings, and concerts.[17]

John Beebe was the son of William Beebe, and both were prolific architects in and around Bendigo. John Beebe was briefly involved in a partnership with William Vahland, and worked primarily on domestic and commercial projects, including the design for the Cold Stores at Rowan Street, Bendigo (1911), additions to the Royal Hotel at Sea Lake (1911) and the remodelling of C. E. Millward's shops in Bendigo (1910)[18]. John Beebe was also responsible for the design of Bendigo High School, which was commissioned in August 1913.[19]

St Paul's was licensed by the Bishop on the 17th March 1914 and officially opened for services on the 22nd March 1914 by Rev Clifton P. Brown, Canon George Watson and Mr W.A Hillard. The church was later consecrated on August 31st 1924 by the Bishop in front of a congregation of 170.[20]

The Axedale district consisted of Axedale, Emu Creek, Junortoun and Spring Gully in 1920 and in 1937 Axedale joined the Heathcote Parish on the request of the Bishop.[21]

A Sunday school operated at the church during the 1920s and in 1963 the old Junortoun church structure was moved to the site and used as a Sunday school and hall.[22]

[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. 31

[3] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria, pp. 11 - 12.

[4] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 18.

[5] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 107.

[6] Whitworth, Robert P. (1879). *Bailliere's Victorian Gazeteer and Road Guide*, F. F. Bailliere, Melbourne, p. 17.

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

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

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

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

Bendigo, p. 10.

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

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

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

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

[14] Heritage Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock Weir*, Hermes entry 6482

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

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

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

[18] Miles Lewis Architectural Index, State Library of Victoria.

[19] Bendigo Senior Secondary College, (2006)*Time Capsule*, Available:  
[www.bssc.edu.au/applications/public/centenary/time\\_capsule/timecapsule.html](http://www.bssc.edu.au/applications/public/centenary/time_capsule/timecapsule.html), site accessed 19/02/2009

[20] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee, *Accent on Axedale* (1970), p. 12.

[21] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee, *Accent on Axedale* (1970), p. 13.

[22] Centenary and Back to Axedale Committee, *Accent on Axedale* (1970), p. 13.

## Secondary sources

Bendigo Senior Secondary College, (2006)*Time Capsule*, Available:  
[www.bssc.edu.au/applications/public/centenary/time\\_capsule/timecapsule.html](http://www.bssc.edu.au/applications/public/centenary/time_capsule/timecapsule.html), site accessed 19/02/2009

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.

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

Miles Lewis Architectural Index, State Library of 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

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8 Building Community Life

8.1 Maintaining Spiritual Life

## Description

### Physical Description

St Paul's Anglican Church was designed in the Primitive Gothic style and built in 1913 and is a very late example of this style. It resembles a number of churches in the study area but is unusual for the roof ventilators which are more commonly seen on school buildings of the period. Variations in building materials are evident across the Bendigo region and St Paul's, like St Mary's and St Andrew's, are all of the local bluestone from the Axedale quarry. The stone is squared and coursed and decoration is confined to brick dressings around the door and window openings, and a label mould above the entry door. The windows have diamond pattern leaded glass. The site comprises the church and a weatherboard hall (removed from Junortoun) linked by a roof to a small timber building close to the church.

### Physical Condition

Good

## Conservation Policy

None Specified

## Statement of Significance

*What is significant?*

St Paul's Anglican Church to the extent of the 1913 stone building and the weatherboard hall removed from Junortoun are significant. The small toilets/store are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

St Paul's Anglican Church, Axedale is locally significant to the City of Greater Bendigo.

*Why is it significant?*

St Paul's Anglican Church is of historical significance as one of the three remaining churches in Axedale, demonstrating the sectarian divide between Catholics and Protestants. *Criterion A*

The church is of aesthetic significance for its demonstration of the principal elements of the Primitive Gothic style, including the gable roof, pointed arch windows and side porch. *Criterion E*

St Paul's is of social significance for the Axedale community as a place of continuous worship for over 100 years. *Criterion G*

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

---

## 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**

Yes

**Internal Alteration Controls**

No

**Tree Controls**

No

**Fences & Outbuildings**

Yes

**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

No

**Incorporated Plan**

Yes

**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

No

## Other Recommendations

It is recommended St Paul's Anglican Church be retained 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.'