FORMER HENRY FARREL'S HOTEL

Location

MURCHISON STREET MIA MIA, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7823-0081

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	Certificates of title indicate that the hotel is likely to have been built around 1872, around the time that the land was granted to James Egan. The hotel is believed to have fallen into disuse around 1916 when the second hotel keeper Thomas Dwyer died.
Archaeological Significance	The site is of historical significance as an early hotel for the Mia Mia area.
Hermes Number	191780
Property Number	

History

The following is an extract from Former Shires of *Mcivor and Strath/ieldsaye Herhage Study - Stage* 2. *prepared* by *Context Pty Ltd 2009*

History and Historical Context

History ofthe 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 Fefix.[* I]

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** ofAxedale **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 t imes. 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 ofAxedale, Strathfieldsaye, Eppalock, Mandurang, Sedgwick and Lye11.(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 Mia Mia

Mia Mia was originally known as Miami and developed in conjunction with the settlement at Heathcote. The small postal township developed in conjunction with the land around it, **that was gradually taken up for agricultural and pastoral pursuits. Mia Mia shared in some of the benefits of the gold rushes, and a number of mines were established** in the vicinity of the town. The industry provided for the establishment of a number of hotels, which found the **majority of their clientele in association with the mines. The town was laid out just prior to the first iand sales, which** occurred in 1860.

History of Henry Farrel's Hotel, Heathcote - Redesdale Road, Mia Mia

The ruins of Henry Farrel's former hotel are located on part of Allotment II of Section 13 in the Township of Mia Mia (originally the Parish of Spring Plains), which was granted to James Egan on the 27th February 1872. Egan sold to Thomas Dwyer on the 25th March 1885. Dwyer is listed as a hotel keeper in the t itles records, and it is assumed that he built the hotel soon after acquiring the land. Dwyer died in 1916, and the hotel probably fell into disuse and disrepair after this time.[7]

[I] Randell, J. O. (1985). *Mcivor:* A *History* of *the Shire and* the *Township* of *Heath cote,* Shire of Mcivor, p. I.

[2] Spread borough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters,* Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 150

[3] Spreadborough & Axedale (1983), p. 31 .

[4] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters,* A History of *the Shire* of *Strath/ieldsaye,* Shire of Strathfieldsaye,

Victoria, pp. I I - 12.

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

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

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/