
Axedale Catholic Cemetery



32569 Axedale Catholic Cemetery



Axedale_Catholic_Cemetery
img02

Location

2050 Mclvor Highway, AXEDALE VIC 3551 - Property No 227799

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO53

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Axedale Catholic Cemetery, on Cemetery Road and Mclvor Highway, established by Reverend Dr. Henry Backhaus in 1866, including the stone wall surrounding the cemetery.

How is it significant?

The Axedale Catholic Cemetery is of historic, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

Historically, for its associations with Rev. Backhaus, who was the first Catholic priest for the goldfields and later the Vicar General for the newly formed Diocese of Sandhurst, as well as a substantial landowner in the Axedale district. Backhaus purchased the land for use as a Catholic Cemetery with his own funds; it remains a private facility. Also as tangible evidence of the large Irish Catholic population in Axedale from the 1860s, attracted by the gold rushes. This chapter of Axedale's history is recorded in its headstones. (Criterion H, A)

The fact that Axedale has a Catholic Cemetery is highly unusual and demonstrates both the wealth and influence of Dr Backhaus, and the depth of the sectarian divide in Axedale.(Criterion B)

Aesthetically, for demonstrating the art of the stone mason in the memorials, many of which date from the 1870s. Also for the stone wall around the cemetery - demonstrating the art brought by new emigrants from their home countries. (Criterion E)

Axedale Catholic cemetery is still in use and as such has social significance to the Axedale community. (Criterion G)

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Greater Bendigo - Former Shires of Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2008; |
| Construction dates | 1866, |
| Hermes Number | 32569 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Axedale Catholic cemetery is located on the outskirts of the town and adjacent to the Axedale General Cemetery. It is rare to find two cemeteries close together and in particular one that is reserved for the exclusive use of Roman Catholics. The Catholic cemetery is notable for its stone wall encircling the place. This may have been constructed as a dry stone wall however the stones are now mortared into place. The manner in which this is done indicates that it may have been a later addition. The cemetery contains many graves and monuments, including a small stone mausoleum.

Physical Conditions

Good

Integrity

High

Historical Australian Themes

8 Building Community Life.

8.6 Marking the phases of life.

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/>