

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DUNKELD HERITAGE PRECINCT

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenelg Highway DUNKELD

STUDY NUMBER: 406

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

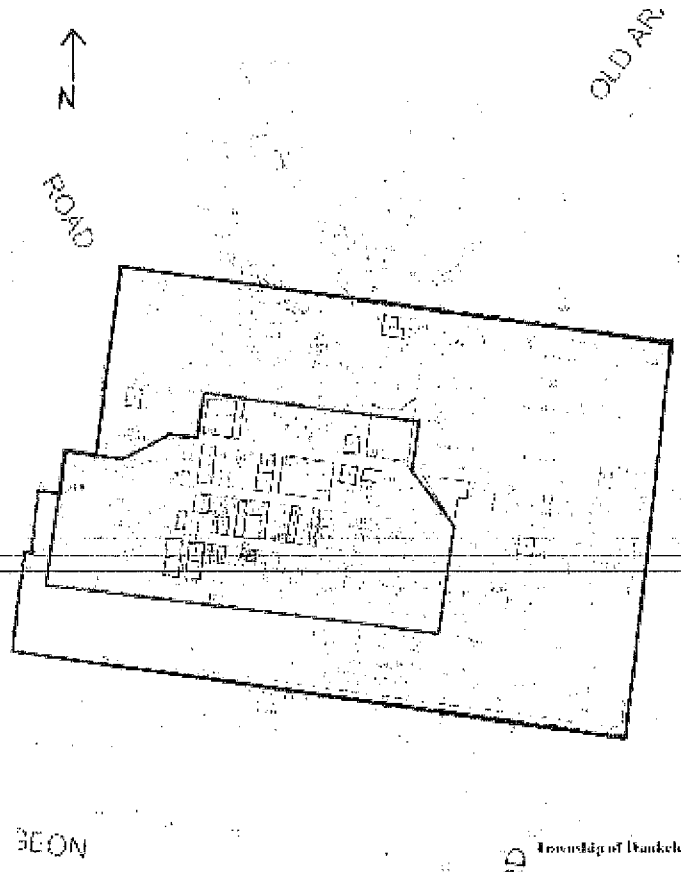
PRECINCT: Dunkeld

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 433J; VicRoads 229; located on the Glenelg Highway and on Back Creek, immediately south of Mount Abrupt and Mount Sturgeon approximately 30kms north-east of Hamilton

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Dunkeld Heritage Precinct: Red = Heritage Overlay

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and infrastructure constructed before 1954 including not only the places specifically identified as typical or outstanding examples of their type, but also those which contribute in a minor way. 2. All the land, both public and private, which is included within the precinct boundaries defined by the red and green lines on the plan of the Dunkeld Heritage Precinct.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The township of Dunkeld is laid out in a standard grid with Back Creek flowing diagonally through the centre from south-east to north-west before it joins the Wannon River. The main street is Parker Street, or the Glenelg Highway. When the railway went through in the mid-1870s it was aligned with the south side of Skene Street, three blocks to the south of Parker Street.

List of Contributory Buildings

Timber House (Federation style), 98 Martin Street, Dunkeld
Timber Cottage, 101 Martin Street, Dunkeld
Cottage, 104 Martin Street, Dunkeld
Timber Cottage, 108 Martin Street, Dunkeld
Timber House, 114-116 Martin Street, Dunkeld
General Store and Residence, Parker Street, Dunkeld
Dunkeld Garage, Parker Street, Dunkeld
Woodburn's Store, Parker Street, Dunkeld
Woodburn's Residence (2nd), Parker Street (next to Royal Mail), Dunkeld
House (Late Victorian), Parker Street, Dunkeld
Brick Well, Parker Street, Dunkeld
Timber House (Federation style), 107 Wills Street, Dunkeld

HISTORY:

The great explorer, Major Mitchell passed close by the future site of Dunkeld on his return journey to Sydney in 1836. He had discovered and climbed Mount Abrupt on the 14th of September having rested for some time at nearby Lake Repose. He also named Mount Sturgeon, by which name Dunkeld was first known. The reports of his discoveries in the area he called "Australia Felix" led to a land rush of squatters from Van Diemen's Land, the "Overstraiters", and from New South Wales, the "Overlanders". Squatting runs were taken up from the late 1830s and, after difficult times in the early 1840s, the runs consolidated to a pattern of land holding that lasted, more or less, for at least the next 25 years.

The position of Dunkeld was important strategically because, as well as being located on the easy and important east-west route pioneered by Major Mitchell, it was the setting off point from the south to either the Victoria Valley or, via Hall's Gap, the area around Ararat and Stawell. It was not long before an inn was established where the roads met at the crossing of Back Creek.

The history of Dunkeld as a township can be traced from the establishment of Robertson's Woolpack Hotel in 1845. Andrew Templeton was the licensee of the Woolpack Inn in the early 1840s but "left for Melbourne" in 1847 so he may have been the A. Templeton who led the gold escorts from Mount Alexander to Melbourne in 1851 (Marriott, 166 & 172; Garryowen, Vol. 2, 805). The establishment appears in 1842 on one of the earliest maps of the Western District as "Templeton's Inn" and again in Ham's Map of Australia Felix published in 1847 and again in 1849.

The town was surveyed and formally gazetted in 1861 but the first land sales were held in 1852. It is a classic grid plan with sections divided into ten allotments of one-quarter acre each and streets one chain wide. The streets, as was the usual custom, were named after the first occupants of the town, such as Andrew Templeton who owned the first inn, and local squatting identities, such as Stephen G Henty of Warrayure, William Skene of Grange Burn No. 1 and Kanawalla and Hugh Glass of Mount Sturgeon.

More hotels followed, including the Royal Mail in 1855, James Gwyther's Family Hotel in 1863, the Shamrock

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and the Western Hotels on the western side of the town and, much later, Collins' Railway Hotel in 1877. The first store was established on the south-east corner of Parker and Sterling Streets, where the war memorial now stands. Andrew Templeton and his partner, Samuel Woodhead, ran the store. Mrs. Fisher ran the post office from 1852 probably from her own home. A primary school was established in the mid-1850s in a part of Templeton's Inn and, in 1857, new stone buildings were completed, which were replaced by a timber building in 1871 which, with many additions and alterations, continued to be used until it was burnt down in the 1950s. The school was relocated to its present position on the north-west edge of the township.

The Bailliere's 1865 Victorian Gazetteer described Dunkeld in some detail and this provides an important snapshot of the town at the time and is worth quoting at length.

"Dunkeld is a postal township ... situated on a small creek, called the Dunkeld Creek, which runs permanently, but of which the water is slightly saline and unfit for general use; the River Wannon is within a quarter of a mile of the township; mount Sturgeon, the southern extremity of the Grampians range, rises precipitously from that place; a parallel to the mount William range, and to the west the Victoria range; four miles from Dunkeld is a small fresh water lake lying N. and W.; and about 9 miles E. is lake Repose, fresh and nearly dry in summer; at a distance of 7 miles S-W. is lake Linlithgow, slightly saline, and about 7 miles in circumference., the others are much smaller. There is one flour mill, not in operation, but there are vast supplies of magnificent stone of every shade of colour, suitable for grindstones, millstones, and other purposes, to be had in the mountains in the neighbourhood, and would form a fine area for labour if a market could be found for it; the quality is generally acknowledged by judges to be equal, if not superior, to any in the colony; it bears a fine polish, and, in addition to being qualified for facings and other ornamental works in building, it is admirably adapted for monumental sculpture, mantle slabs, &c.; it has stood the test in Melbourne when applied some years since, the cost of carriage being the only drawback to its being extensively used in the metropolis and other places. The district is mostly pastoral; there are a few small farms, but the squatters have purchased all the good land close to the township; there is no mining nearer than Ararat. There is a police station, a public school, and post office; the hotels are-- the Royal Mail, Western, and Gwyther's Family; there is a booking office at Gwyther's hotel for passengers and parcels; ... The population numbers about 390 persons."

A fire devastated the town in 1944. It began at the fellmongery to the north-west of the town.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 2 Peopling Australia

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

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Fair

INTEGRITY:

fair

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The township of Dunkeld, to the extent of its official boundaries, unchanged since its survey in the early 1860s, was an important settlement serving the pastoral interests of the surrounding squatting runs, some limited agricultural development, and subsequent efforts at closer settlement. It is located 30 kilometers north east of the provincial centre of Hamilton. The position of Dunkeld was important strategically because, as well as being located on the easy and important east-west route pioneered by Major Mitchell, it was the setting off point from the south to either the Victoria Valley or, via Hall's Gap, the area around Ararat and Stawell. It was not long before an inn was established where the roads met at the crossing of Back Creek. The first building was the Woolpack Inn, established in 1845 by Andrew Templeton. This was followed by a store run by Templeton and Samuel Woodhead. A postal service and school were established relatively early in Dunkeld. From 1852, a Mrs. Fisher ran the post office from her own home, and a primary school was established in the mid-1850s in a part of Templeton's Inn. By 1857, new stone building was completed, which were replaced by a timber building in 1871 which, with many additions and alterations, continued to be used until it was burnt down in the 1950s. The school was relocated to its present position on the north-west edge of the township. The streets, as was the usual custom, were named after the first occupants of the town, such as Andrew Templeton who owned the first inn, and local squatting identities, such as Stephen G Henty of Warrayure, William Skene of Grange Burn No. 1 and Kanawalla and Hugh Glass of Mount Sturgeon. By the mid 1860s, the town could boast substantial public buildings such as a National School, police station and lock-up, post office, several hotels and a population of 390 people. A Presbyterian Church was also established, representing the strongest Christian denomination in the area. Churches of other denominations were not built until the 1880s, and later churches were constructed in the early twentieth century, indicating the slow population movement into and out of Cavendish. The township serviced the surrounding squatting runs not only in a commercial and mercantile sense, but also for social purposes. The arrival of the railway was important for Dunkeld. The Railway Hotel, built adjacent to the Railway Station is evident of the importance for tourism in the area. The railway supported industries such as saw milling, but was largely used for passenger transport. The town has been influenced by the breaking up of large estates, at the end of the nineteenth century and after the two World Wars. The town's population has declined in parallel with a reduction in other local services. This is a general trend across the state and is due to a combination of factors, not least the decline of the wool industry and an increased mobility.

How is it significant?

The township of Dunkeld is of historical, cultural, social and architectural significance to the community of Dunkeld and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The township of Dunkeld is of historical significance as one of the oldest permanent urban settlements in the Shire, of social significance as the focus for the community in the Dunkeld area. It is and of architectural significance as a planned town including a typical range of buildings including public facilities and utilities, churches, commercial buildings and private residences.

COMPARISON:

- 408 Balmoral heritage precinct Henty Highway Balmoral
- 402 Branxholme heritage precinct Henty Highway Branxholme
- 409 Byaduk heritage precinct Hamilton-Port Fairy Road Byaduk
- 407 Cavendish heritage precinct Henty Highway Cavendish
- 401 Coleraine heritage precinct Glenelg Highway Coleraine

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HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

405 Glenthompson heritage precinct Glenelg Highway Glenthompson

403 Penshurst heritage precinct Hamilton Highway Penshurst

404 Tarrington heritage precinct Hamilton Highway Tarrington

ASSESSED BY: AEN & TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

07-Apr-04

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

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