

Andrew Ward

Architectural Historian

Millar Drinking Fountain

May Park on Dimboola Road

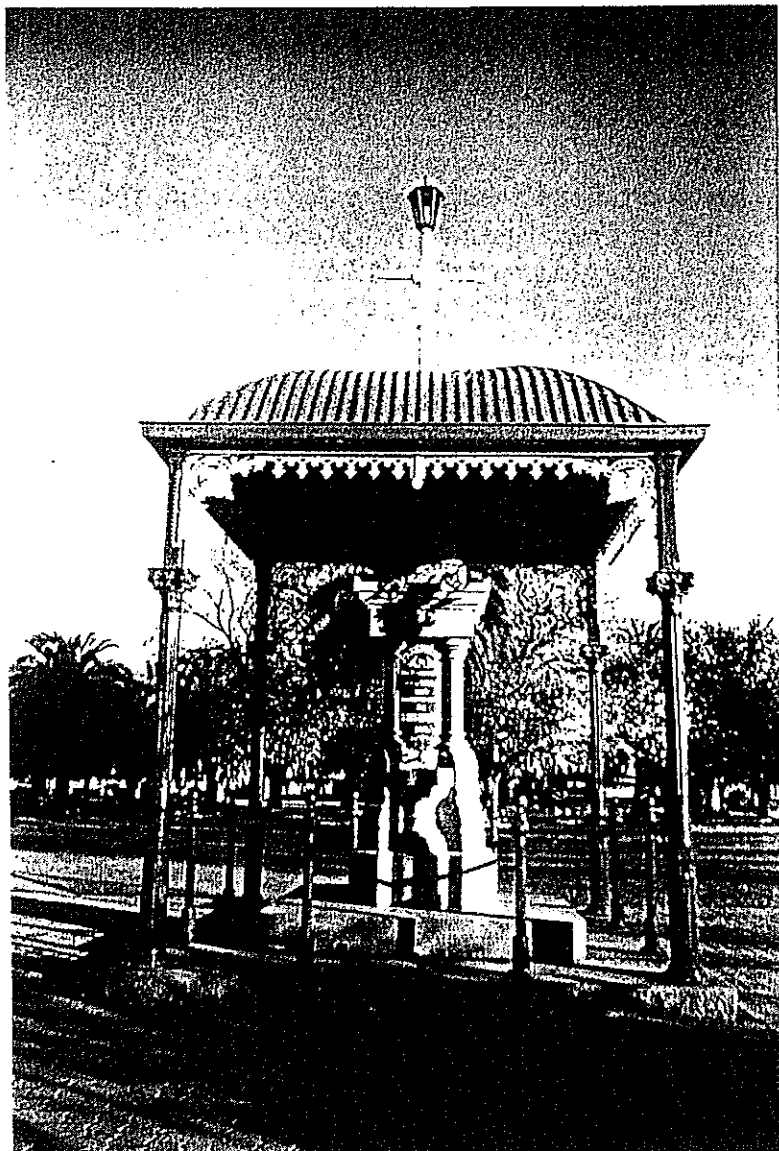


Photo: 1997

Existing Registrations:

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

History: Samuel May and James Millar established their Wimmera foundry in 1874 manufacturing agricultural implements for the region and interstate eventually closing during the 1970's. James Millar was a councillor between 1894 – 1897, 1900 – 1903 and 1904 – 1910. He was a mason, a member of the Manchester Unity Friendly Society,

Andrew Ward
Architectural Historian

president of the Working Men's College council, and trustee for the town band, the fire brigade and the Methodist Church. A generous benefactor, he donated the pipe organ to the Methodist church and the drinking fountain at the corner of Firebrace and Wilson Streets in 1901. He died in September 1910. The drinking fountain was subsequently relocated to May Park and its canopy restored.

Description: A Classically inspired granite drinking fountain with central drum in black granite with pink granite colonettes and base and upper section in grey granite. The monument is surmounted by a reconstructed cast iron canopy and lamp and placed on a stepped bluestone base. The inscription reads: "*Presented to the Borough of Horsham and surrounding district by James Millar JP 1901*".

Integrity: Medium **Condition:** Sound

Comparative examples: This structure is unique in Horsham and presumed rare at the State level on account of its canopy.

Significance: The Millar drinking fountain is important for its capacity to demonstrate past practices in civic design, having been erected initially at the principal business intersection of the City as an ornament and public utility (Criterion C). It is also rare (Criterion B) and important locally for its links with James Millar, iron founder, councillor and benefactor (Criterion G).

References: Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982 p.101.

Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 2/98