



Limited Heritage Study  
for the  
**Rural City of Horsham**



Andrew Ward 1998



**LIMITED HERITAGE STUDY  
for the  
RURAL CITY OF HORSHAM**

February 1998

**Acknowledgment:**

The assistance of the Horsham Historical Society is gratefully acknowledged in the preparation of this document.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A review of the cultural heritage of the Rural City of Horsham was completed in November 1996 as a part of the Strategy Plan being undertaken at that time by TBA Planners Pty. Ltd. The review identified places of potential cultural significance at Dadswell's Bridge, Dooen, Horsham, Jung, Lah-Arum, Longerenong Agricultural College, Natimuk, Noradjuha, Nurrabiel, Quantong, Toolondo, Vectis and Vectis South and Wonwondah North and Wonwondah East. The greatest numbers of places were in Horsham and Natimuk and Council commissioned TBA Planners in May, 1997 to undertake a Limited Heritage Study of some places in Horsham, Natimuk and Dooen as a part of the work involved in the preparation of the new Planning Scheme. Andrew Ward was retained by TBA Planners to undertake this task.

The Limited Heritage Study has evaluated the significance of all of the historic areas identified in the 1996 Review as well as a number of individual places. It confirms that the following areas have cultural significance for the Rural City and should be protected in the new Planning Scheme:

- The Wilson/Firebrace/Pynsent Streets Central Area (Horsham),
- The Dooen Road Residential Area (Horsham),
- The Natimuk Road Residential Area (Horsham), and
- The Natimuk Historic Area.

The Study also finds that the following individual places have cultural significance for the City and should be protected in the new Planning Scheme:

- Millar Drinking Fountain, May Park, on the Dimboola Road, Horsham,
- Former Wimmera Shire Offices, Firebrace Street, Horsham,
- "White Hart" hotel, 55 Firebrace Street, Horsham,
- T and G Building, corner McLachlan and Firebrace Streets, Horsham,
- RSSILA Building, McLachlan Street, Horsham,
- "Leamont", 27 Natimuk Road, Horsham,
- "Como Lodge", 83 Natimuk Road, Horsham,
- Horsham Historical Society and Legacy Rooms, 33 Pynsent Street, Horsham,
- St. Michael and St. John's School, 10 Roberts Avenue, Horsham,
- Former Police Station, 24 Roberts Avenue, Horsham,
- Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre, corner Roberts Avenue and Urquhart Streets, Horsham,
- Masonic temple, 31 Urquhart Street, Horsham,
- "Dooen" hotel, Wimmera Highway, Dooen and
- Former general store and Post Office, Wimmera Highway Dooen.

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of Victoria on 6.3.1997 were used in evaluating the significance of each place. These criteria form Appendix A of this report.

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The following additional conclusions arise from the completion of the Limited Heritage Study:

- There are additional places within the Rural City that should be assessed so as to ensure its heritage has been comprehensively addressed. Although the 1996 review lists many of these sites, it is understood that there may be others not yet brought to Council's attention. A second study should be commissioned to complete the Heritage Study.
- A heritage advisory service should be established to assist Council and the community in the management of its heritage. This is especially necessary in the heritage areas where decisions should not be taken which will have an adverse effect on them. The documentation in this report distinguishes between the important buildings, the contributory buildings and those which are not significant, but technical advice will be required to assist all parties in identifying appropriate actions for each place. In Natimuk, and to a lesser extent Horsham, there are important opportunities to recover the past appearance of buildings by reconstructing verandahs and other elements and by stabilizing existing structures. Public works should also be undertaken that will retain early fabric and be sympathetic with the historic character of each place.

## 2 HISTORIC AREAS: HORSHAM

### 2.1 Wilson/Firebrace/Pynsent Streets Central Area

#### 2.1.1 Historic Background

European settlement at the site of Horsham commenced with the establishment of a police station to the north of the Wimmera River during the 1840's. The site of the station was on the flood plain of the river immediately to the south of the present intersection of Hamilton and Darlot Streets. The first court case on record is dated 20.10.1847 whilst the name for the settlement at Horsham was in general use about this time. George Langlands and his family arrived in June 1849 and established a store on what was to become lot 1 on the north-east corner of Hamilton and Darlot Streets. Within a year there was also an inn and Langland's customers included the nearby station owners, travellers especially including those bound for the Victorian goldfields and workers at the stations. He acted as the postmaster, dispatched locally produced wool, hides and tallow to British markets. The brick store which served as his base survived until a fire in 1960<sup>1</sup>.

The rectangular grid of streets marking the central area bounded by Hamilton, Darlot, Baillie and McPherson Streets and defined today on the north and east sides by the Western Highway was surveyed in 1849 with the two north-south streets being Firebrace and Urquhart. The inn was situated centrally within this area to the east of the present "White Hart" hotel. There was a pound, several huts and a large paddock with the police station nearby. The six sections occupying the south-west corner of the grid were subdivided into ten allotments each in anticipation of their sale whilst the remainder were unsubdivided. The map clearly demonstrates that the centre of activity in early Horsham was in this corner where Langlands had his store, near to the police station.

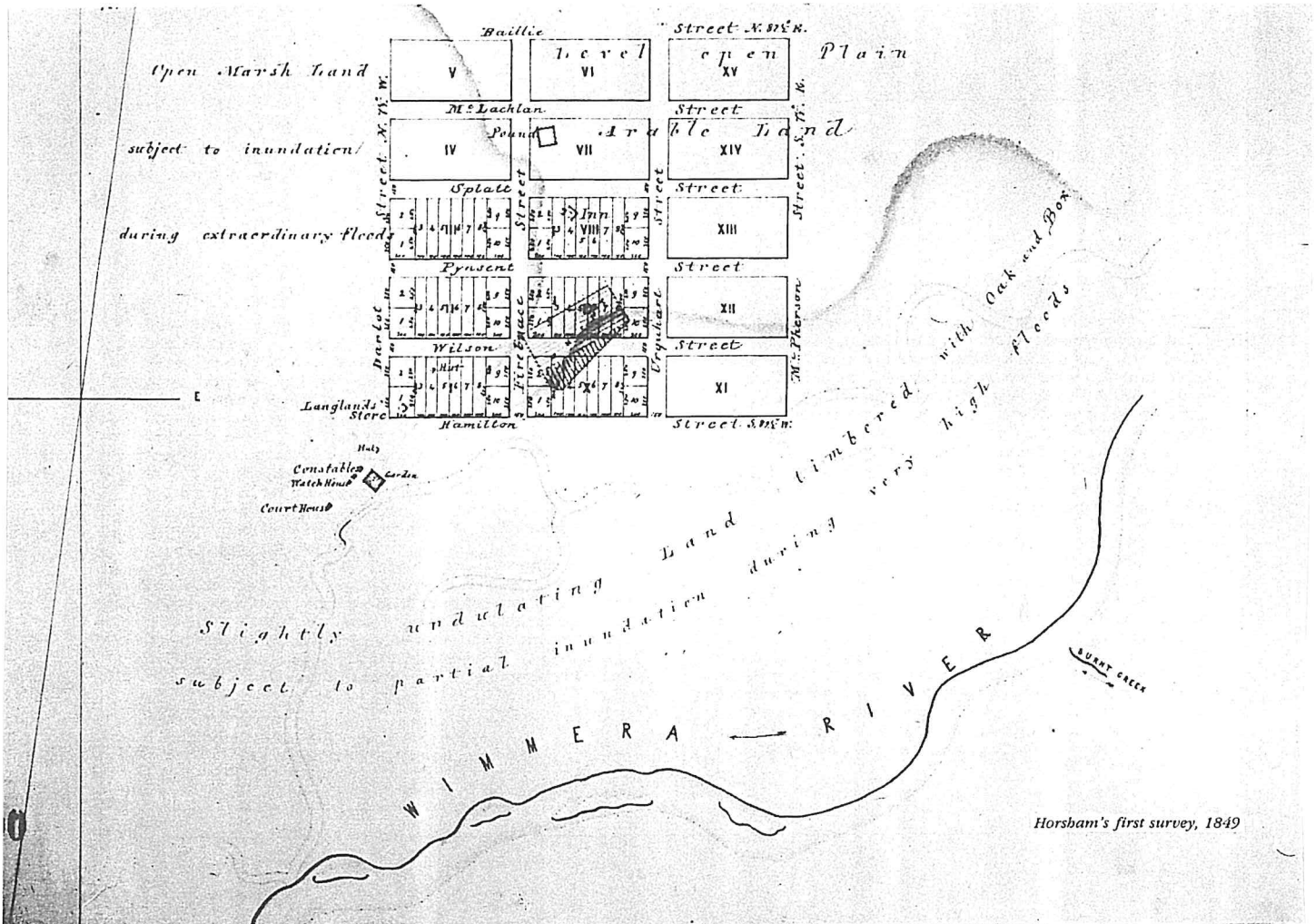
The impetus for the consolidation of Horsham as the service centre for its region came with the 1869 Land Act which threw open all of the unalienated land in the colony. Selection in the Wimmera commenced around Horsham in 1872, the district population jumping from 600 to 20,000 between 1874 and 1879<sup>2</sup>. The Horsham District Roads Board had met in Horsham from as early as April, 1862<sup>3</sup>. It was supplanted by the Shire of Wimmera the following year and by the Borough of Horsham in January, 1883. Firebrace Street had become a well defined public thoroughfare by that time. It accommodated the post office and Government offices (built 1876, demolished 1969), the Shire offices (demolished 1936), several banks including the State Savings Bank, the Bank of New South Wales, the C.B.C., the E.S. and A.C., and the C.B.A. (all now demolished). There were hotels and shops, the street drains had been pitched and young street trees planted outside the bank at the Pynsent Street corner. Street lamps were located at the intersections. Early views depict a street dominated by imposing

<sup>1</sup> See Brooke, B., and Finch, A., *A Story of Horsham A Municipal Century*, City of Horsham, 1982, pp.5-10 for an account of Horsham's founding years.

<sup>2</sup> Garden, D., *Victoria A History*, Nelson, 1984, pp. 159-60.

<sup>3</sup> Brooke, B. and Finch, A., *op. cit.*, p. 13.

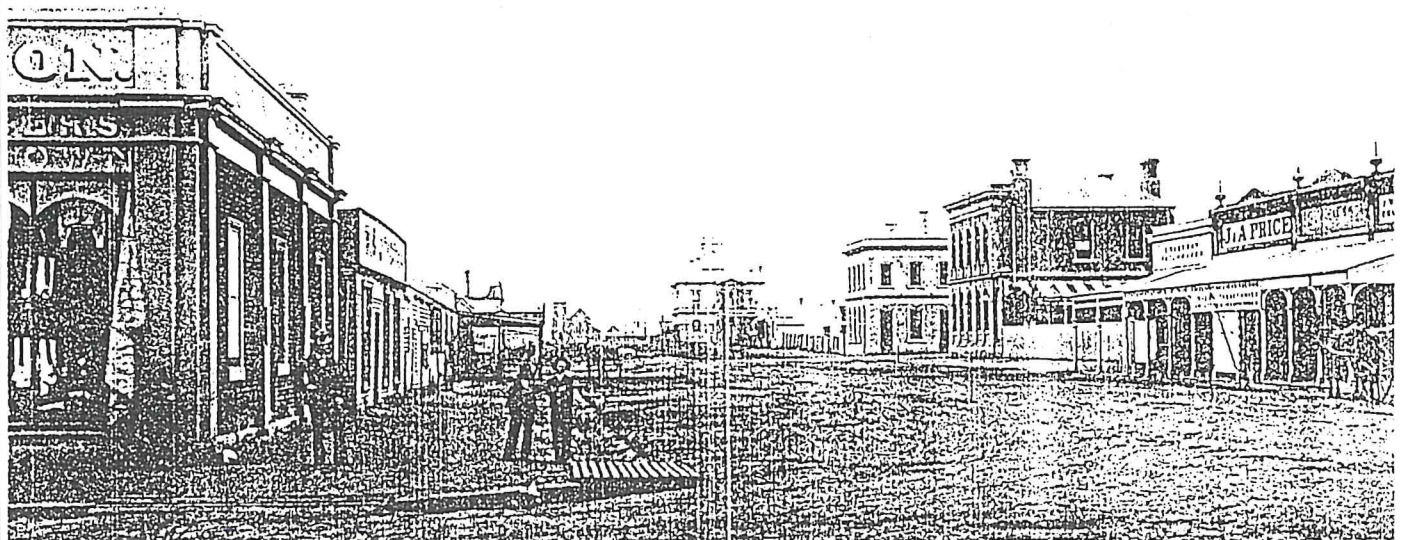
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above: Source: Brooke, B., Finch, A., *A Story of Horsham: A Municipal Century*, City of Horsham, 1982, facing page 9.

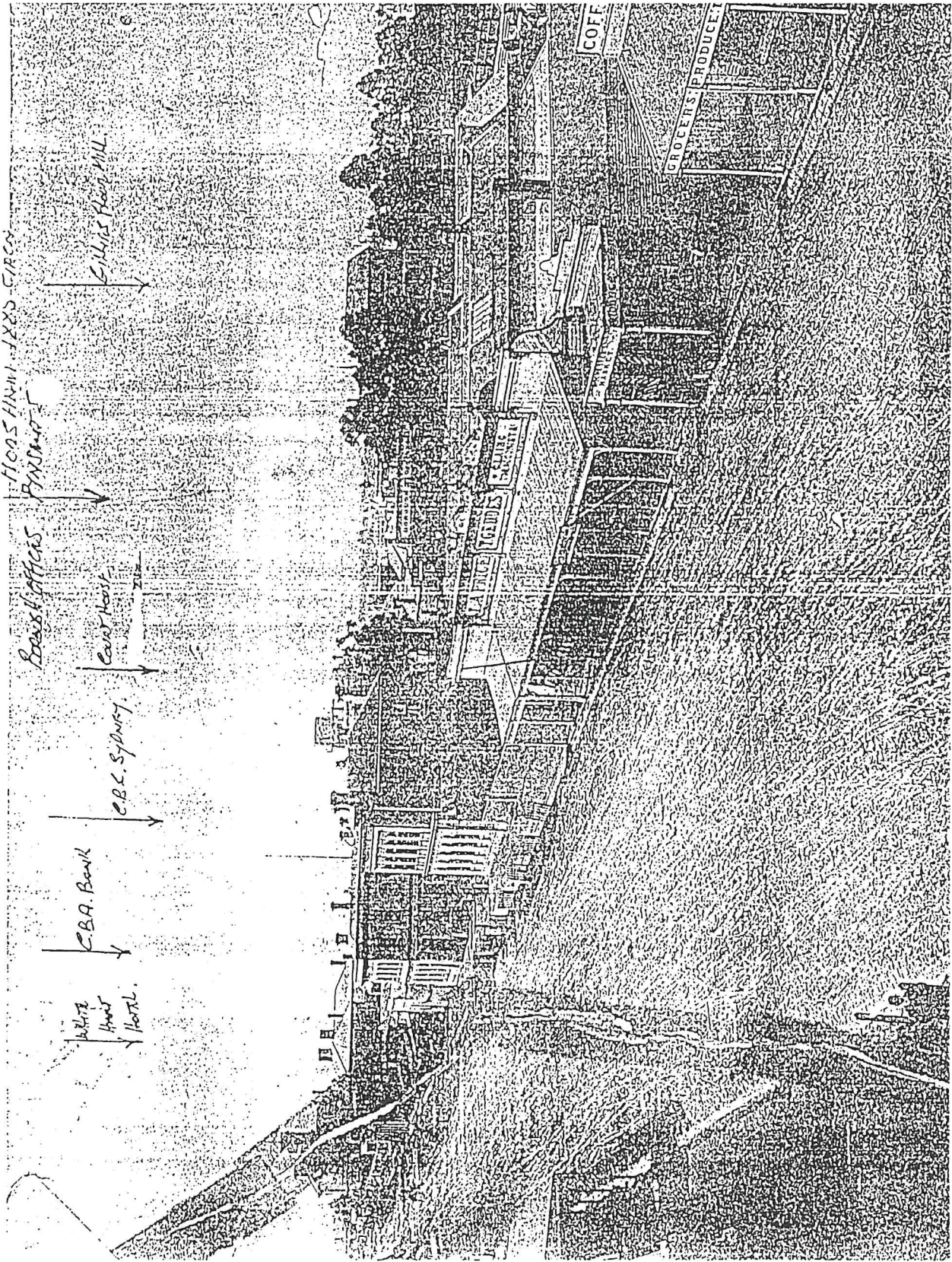
below: Firebrace Street, looking north from Wilson Street with the "Union Store" at right. Notable public buildings on the right (from left to right) are the post office, Shire offices, C.B.A. bank and C.B.C. bank.

Source: Horsham Historical Society Inc.





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A similar view taken after the construction of the "Royal" hotel in 1881.  
Source: Horsham Historical Society Inc.

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Renaissance Revival public buildings with the spaces between filled by single storeyed brick and timber shops with decorated parapets and the business names of their proprietors displayed with customary Victorian forbearance. It was an elegant and unified architectural composition that had been created in no less than fifteen years.

The commercial centre of Horsham, though concentrated in Firebrace Street, extended into the surrounding streets. The Bible Christian Church was in McLachlan Street (demolished 1967), the court house was in Splatt Street (Roberts Avenue) (demolished 1967), and John Gillie's flour mill (c.1873, now demolished) occupied land to the east with the Wesleyan Church alongside. At the north end of Firebrace Street St. Johns Church of England (rebuilt) had a commanding view from as early as 1877. There were hotels, other than those in Firebrace Street, located prominently on street corners and Wilson Street, on the main route to Natimuk, now serving as the Wimmera Highway, was a popular location for hotel proprietors. There were more hotels in Wilson Street than any other thoroughfare. They included the "Royal" and the "Criterion" which dominated the Firebrace Street corner from as early as 1881 whilst further west the "Bull and Mouth" the "Commercial", the "Shamrock" and the "Farmers Union" each attended to the needs of travellers and citizens alike. The original Borough Council offices of 1886 and hall occupied the site of the present town hall.

Authors Brian Brooke and Alan Finch in their history of Horsham give a detailed account of the premises on the west side of Firebrace Street between Pynsent and Wilson Streets in 1911:

*"The next block was just as crowded, seventeen businesses between Pynsent and Wilson streets beginning with the Exchange Hotel, renamed from the Railway eight years earlier. Arthur Ricketts ...was beside the Exchange, neighbour to fruiterer Giovanna Spolidora... Joe Puls had his stock and station agent's office where farmers could negotiate loans at the lowest terms. Les Palmer and Lewis Smith had their architect and surveyor office between Pul's and Reg Grant's dental surgery. The Union Bank was close to the centre of the block...Richard Appleton, 'the distinctive tailor', (and)Lea's Boot Palace appealed to the need to be up to date...Charles Rennison and Son was well north of the intersection with Wilson street but all the property from Rennison south would be part of the Langlands emporium by the 1940's."*

Today, J. Pul's "Austral Buildings" of 1908 survive at nos.102-110.

George Ryan's "Union Store" was located on the north-west corner of Firebrace and Wilson Streets. He had bought these premises as the best business site in Horsham in 1884<sup>4</sup>. Imposing brick and stuccoed premises with expansive glass shop fronts facing Wilson Street, they were later to be protected by a timber posted verandah with cast iron lace spandrels. The locale became known as "Ryan's Corner" and had been given further grace by the construction of the James Millar fountain in 1902 at the centre of the

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p.83.

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Wilson Street, east of Firebrace Street, showing the surviving Renaissance Revival buildings in this area alongside Langlands and Co's. store, which also survives, during the 1920's.

*Source: Brooke, B. and Finch, A., op. cit., p.22.*

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intersection. This place recalls the manner in which nineteenth century business centres evolved, the notion of a corner being a place for people, in contrast with contemporary circumstances wherein busy street corners – and this intersection is no exception – are the very places which people avoid. Nevertheless, the intersection remained crucial to the identity of Horsham and following the purchase of these premises by Langlands' emporium c. 1932, it becoming known as "Langland's Corner" until 1976 when the Wimmera's largest department store closed its doors.

Horsham was a busy centre during the years leading up to the 1929 depression. The "Locarno", built to a design of Ernest Keogh, architect, in 1918 as the "Wimmera Coffee Palace" and taking on its role as the hotel "Locarno" in 1928, was symptomatic of an era that is eloquently recalled today by the many substantial homes of the period. The Horsham Theatre was opened in 1929 with seats for 1,100 patrons and Pynsent Street was advertised as Horsham's "bright Broadway"<sup>5</sup>. It was a successor to the surviving Victoria buildings "Picture Hall" in Wilson Street. The twenties also witnessed the establishment of the motor industry, represented in Pynsent Street by the premises of Wilson Bolton at nos. 47-49.

Following the depression the face of Firebrace and Wilson Streets continued to change with the opening of the new town hall and municipal offices designed by C.N. Hollinshead in 1939. As motor transport took over from the horse and buggy, road space became increasingly scarce leading eventually to the removal of the Millar drinking fountain from its position of pre-eminence at "Langlands' Corner" in 1947.

The streets of the commercial centre were to be transformed by the era of post war redevelopment, marked especially by the demolition of Horsham's most important nineteenth century public buildings during the 1960's. The removal of posted verandahs during the same period, though common throughout the Metropolis and its provincial centres, also assisted in the irreversible defacement of the City's streets. Demolitions within this Precinct included the loss of the Bank of New South Wales building at the north-east corner of the Wilson Firebrace Streets intersection, the A.M.P. building and the C.B.C. bank at Pynsent Street.

### **2.1.2 Description**

This area today, though impoverished by the loss of important buildings, is noteworthy for the extent to which the City's early buildings have survived, especially when compared with other street blocks within the 1849 grid.

Wilson Street retains its historic role as a venue for the City's hotels with the vast expanse of the "Royal" overlooking the Firebrace Street intersection. Nearby is the "Locarno", of a later date and highly distinctive on account of its picturesque symmetry and boldly treated façade. Other hotels are the "Commercial" opposite, and the "Bull and Mouth" further to the west. The "Victoria Buildings" Picture Hall is in the Edwardian period Free Style and demonstrates the importance of Wilson street as a place of

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<sup>5</sup> The *Times*, 23.6.1929 in Brooke, B. and Finch, A., op. cit., p. 151.

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entertainment during the post Federation period whilst the town hall itself is a reminder of this continuing tradition. Further to the east across Firebrace Street are two rare surviving Renaissance Revival buildings of architectural distinction whilst alongside them is the store of J. Langlands and Company, now defaced but retaining its simple pedimented parapet as a sign of its age and origins.

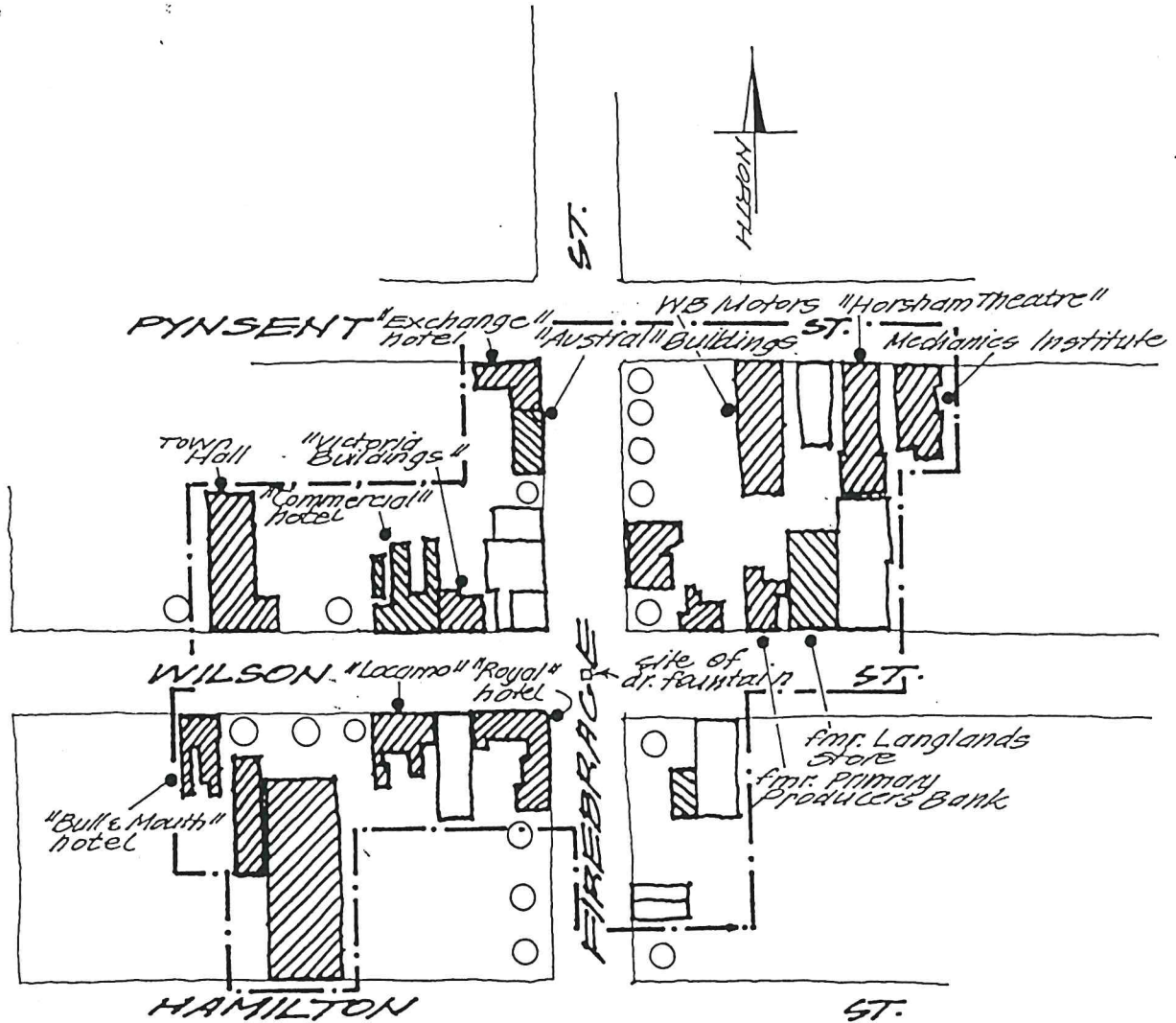
Firebrace Street retains Langlands' buildings, which are of a recent date but recall the importance of this store in its last years of trading. To the north are the "Austral Buildings", a two storeyed terrace of shops, alongside the "Exchange" hotel of 1935. South of Wilson Street and concealed from view are the stables of the old "Criterion" hotel.

In Pynsent Street, the evidence of Horsham's growth during the first half of the twentieth century is clearly evident with the Classical Revival façade of the Mechanics Institute, erected in 1909, Wilson Bolton's distinctive motor garage in the Edwardian Free Style and the more conservative Horsham Theatre alongside.



The "Royal" hotel at the corner of Wilson and Firebrace Streets (1997)

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Legend:

- Important Place
- Contributory Place
- Not important Place
- Boundary of Area

The Wilson/ Firebrace Pynsent Streets Central Area 1997

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Firebrace Street looking north from Wilson Street at the location known variously as Ryan's Corner and Langland's Corner. Langlands Store, closed in 1976, is at the left.



The "Exchange" hotel at the corner of Firebrace and Pynsent Streets with the "Austral" buildings alongside.

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Wilson Street, looking east from the "Bull and Mouth". The "Locarno" is in the middle distance and the "Royal" at the far end of the block.

### **2.1.3 Significance**

The Wilson/Firebrace/Pynsent Streets Central Area is culturally important for its ability to demonstrate aspects in the growth of Horsham's commercial centre from the 1880's and earlier (criterion A). These aspects include the establishment of Wilson Street as the prime location for the City's hotels from at least the 1870's (the "Commercial") and its continuing dominance during the inter-war years with the opening of the "Locarno" in 1928. They include the development of the intersection as the focus of Horsham's business centre, known for many years as Ryan's and later Langland's Corner. Pynsent Street recalls the halcyon years of Horsham's theatre going decades when it was referred to as "Horsham's bright Broadway" (criterion G), taking over, presumably, from Wilson Street where the "Victoria Picture Hall Buildings" survive. The former National Bank (1871) is important also as an early building in the area recalling Horsham's many similar bank buildings now demolished (criterion B). Finally, the town hall and former municipal buildings are valuable in their capacity to demonstrate the growth of local government services and civic amenity during the pre-World War II era.

## **2.2 The Dooen Road Residential Area**

### **2.2.1 Historical Background**

The Dooen Road, providing the main link between Horsham, Dooen and Murtoa, was reserved from sale when the grantees including J.S. Bowden, G. Langlands, J. Newman



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and others took possession of their extensive holdings on either side from the mid 1850's. The North-Western Railway from Murtoa was opened as far as Horsham on 5.2.1879 and it occupied the land along the north side of the road until rounding a curve into the station yard, as it does today, to the north of Palk Street. The residential land on either side was presumably vacant at that time, the appearance of the houses today suggesting that development did not get underway until the first decade of this century. By this time the wide road reservation and its status as a major line of approach to the Borough was attracting some of its more prestigious houses. By 1910 there were seven weatherboard houses and one brick house on the south side and at least three weatherboard houses on the north side<sup>6</sup> between the railway and Baillie Street. They included "Springfield", the home of James Petrie, the draper, which survives at no.19 and Norman Turner's house at no.17, both on the north side. On the south side, houses which survive from this period include Arthur Rodger the politician's house at no.16 and Samuel Bleakley the farmer's house at no. 46. Some growth was sustained during the next decade and by 1926<sup>7</sup> there were fifteen houses on the south side of Dooen Road between Baillie Street and present no. 60 whereas there are some twenty-one premises there today. On the north side, there were twelve houses between Baillie Street and "Glen Logan" (1926) comparing with the eighteen premises along this frontage today. One early view<sup>8</sup> shows that there was originally a central avenue bordered by a plantation along the Dooen Road with narrow roads on either side.

A similar residential development pattern occurred in Palk, McPherson, Searle and Harriett Streets where they are located in the Area, all of the houses being of timber construction.

### **2.2.2 Description**

Today, the Dooen Road continues to be distinguished from other major roads by its width, there being two wide central lanes as well as parking lanes bordered by wide nature strips and the fences and hedges of the houses which overlook it. It lacks the distinctive treatment of a nineteenth century or Edwardian period boulevard but retains the sense of spaciousness so characteristic of the major ornamental thoroughfares of these periods.

The houses imparting architectural distinction to the area are predominantly of the post Federation and inter war periods and are collectively important for their opulence, spacious grounds and high levels of integrity. The Dooen Road, and to a lesser extent its intersecting streets, appear to have been highly valued by the community as a residential location, the houses from both periods bearing witness to this formative consideration. Most notable, having regard to its spacious and prominent location but also including its garden and freely interpreted Romanesque manner is "Glen Logan", at the Palk Street corner. Built by the Boltions in 1926, it occupies a crucial situation in the Dooen Road area, being the first grandiose property that one encounters upon arrival from the east. As

<sup>6</sup> Entries in Rate Book, made 12.12.1910.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, made 7.1.1926.

<sup>8</sup> Brooke B. and Finch A., op.cit., undated view, p.265.

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such it foreshadows other houses to come and in this way helps to confirm one of the most important civic themes of the City. "Glen Logan" faces "Penzance" at no. 50, a large Californian Bungalow set well back from the public domain and approached by a sweeping driveway. Like its neighbour, "Penzance" bears testimony to the importance of American domestic architectural influences during the formative years of the Area.

Elsewhere, the houses are typically smaller but by no means ungenerous in their garden settings and shady verandahs, examples from the Federation period making an important contribution. The other streets which make up the area are not dissimilar although the larger villas are absent. Nevertheless, "Greyholm" in McPherson Street is an important house in the Californian Bungalow style, made especially valuable by the survival of its unpainted rough cast walls, once so characteristic of the period.



The Dooen Road, looking south-west from Palk Street (1997).

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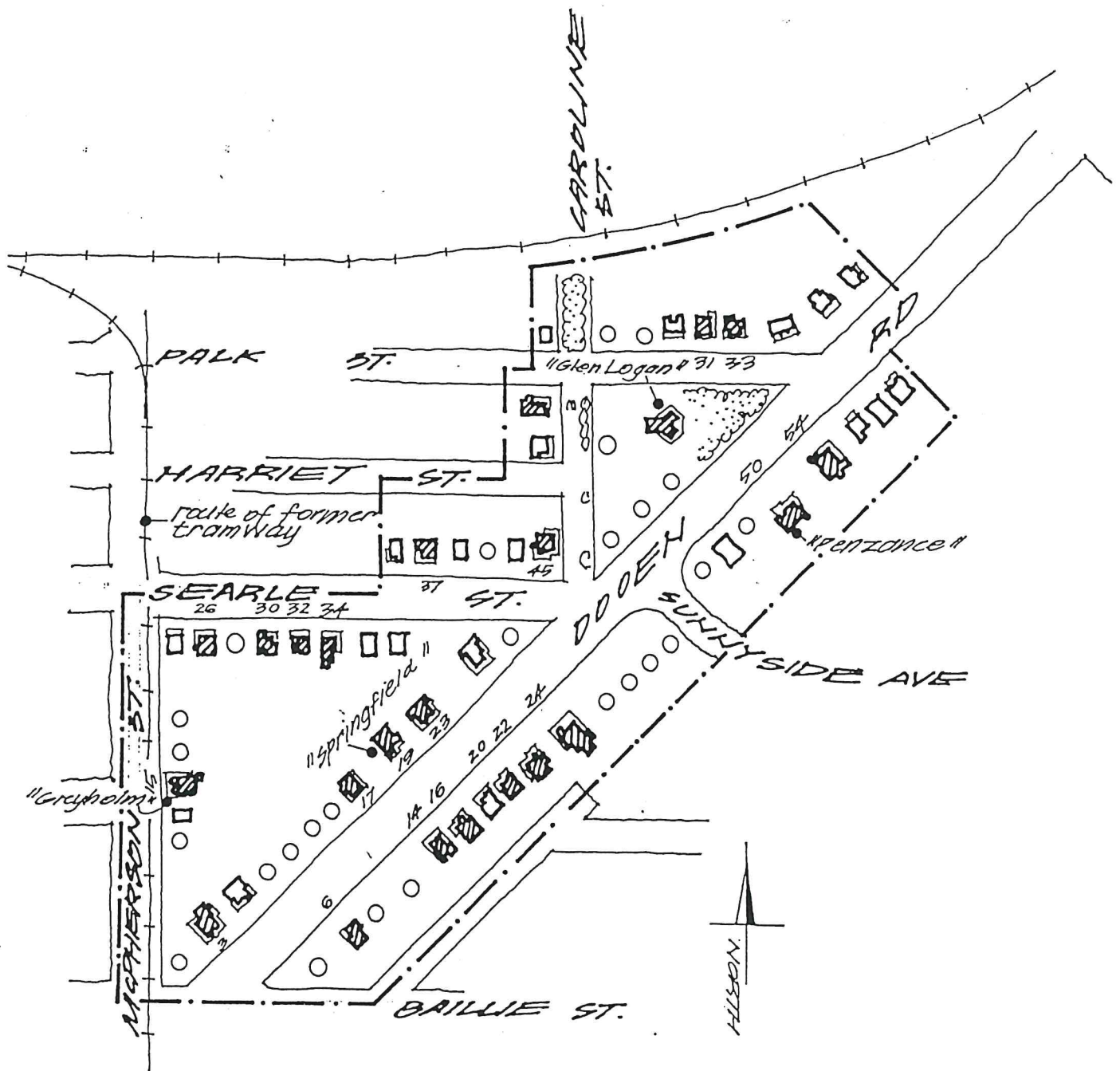


34 Searle Street



"Glen Logan"

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Legend:

-  Important Place
-  Contributory Place
-  Not important Place
-  Boundary of Area

The Dooen Road Residential Area (1997)

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"Greyholm", McPherson Street



"Penzance", Dooen Road

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### **2.2.3 Significance**

The Dooen Road Residential Area is culturally important for its ability to demonstrate aspects in the growth of Horsham's residential areas (criterion A). This importance is characterized by the manner in which the Area and the Dooen Road in particular attracted a sufficiently large number of the Borough's most prestigious houses from the first decade of this century until the mid nineteen twenties to establish its most sought after residential enclave. Today, the Dooen Road Area imparts identity to the City of Horsham as a whole and is noteworthy for its architectural values and the garden settings of its post Federation and inter war period houses. It is important also as a gateway of distinction to the City.

## **2.3 The Natimuk Road Residential Area**

### **2.3.1 Historical Background**

To the east of Bennett Road the land which faces the Racecourse and Recreation reserve across the Natimuk Road was purchased from the Crown by J Wilson. To the west, the land on the north side was acquired by J.M. Darlot and A. McLachlan. To the south, all of the land between Bennett Road and Drummond Street was purchased by the Wilson brothers. James Darlot was an early overlander and in partnership with Archibald McLachlan leased a run of some 100,000 acres that included the site of Horsham. They subsequently purchased the freehold of several allotments including the land facing the Natimuk Road.

Residential development, however, was not to follow for many years and when it did, it would appear to have been attracted to this address for reasons similar to those prevailing earlier at Dooen Road. The thoroughfare was a very wide one, wider in fact than the Dooen Road where it opened out into the Reserve at its eastern end. It was also situated on the "High Road" into town and had the added advantage of being near the Recreation Reserve. In spite of these considerations, though, development did not begin until the early nineteen twenties. Only then were the weatherboard houses at nos. 59, 61 and 63 commenced<sup>9</sup>. On the north side, Willan Schmidt's weatherboard house at no.6 was in existence prior to 1921. The highly original home of John Frounce at no. 2 had been built by 1926 along with the weatherboard houses at nos. 12, 16, 22 and 38. Further development followed during the second half of the decade by which time the majority of houses imparting character and significance to the Area had been built.

It was not until the next decade, however, that "Como Lodge", - the last of the big houses, which was to affirm the social status of the Natimuk Road as a residential area of standing in the community, was built. It was the home of W.J. Thornley, cordial manufacturer, and the family's choice of an architectural style – that of the English Domestic Revival – is a sign of its comparatively late date. Natimuk Road was to see

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<sup>9</sup> Rate Book: 1920-21.

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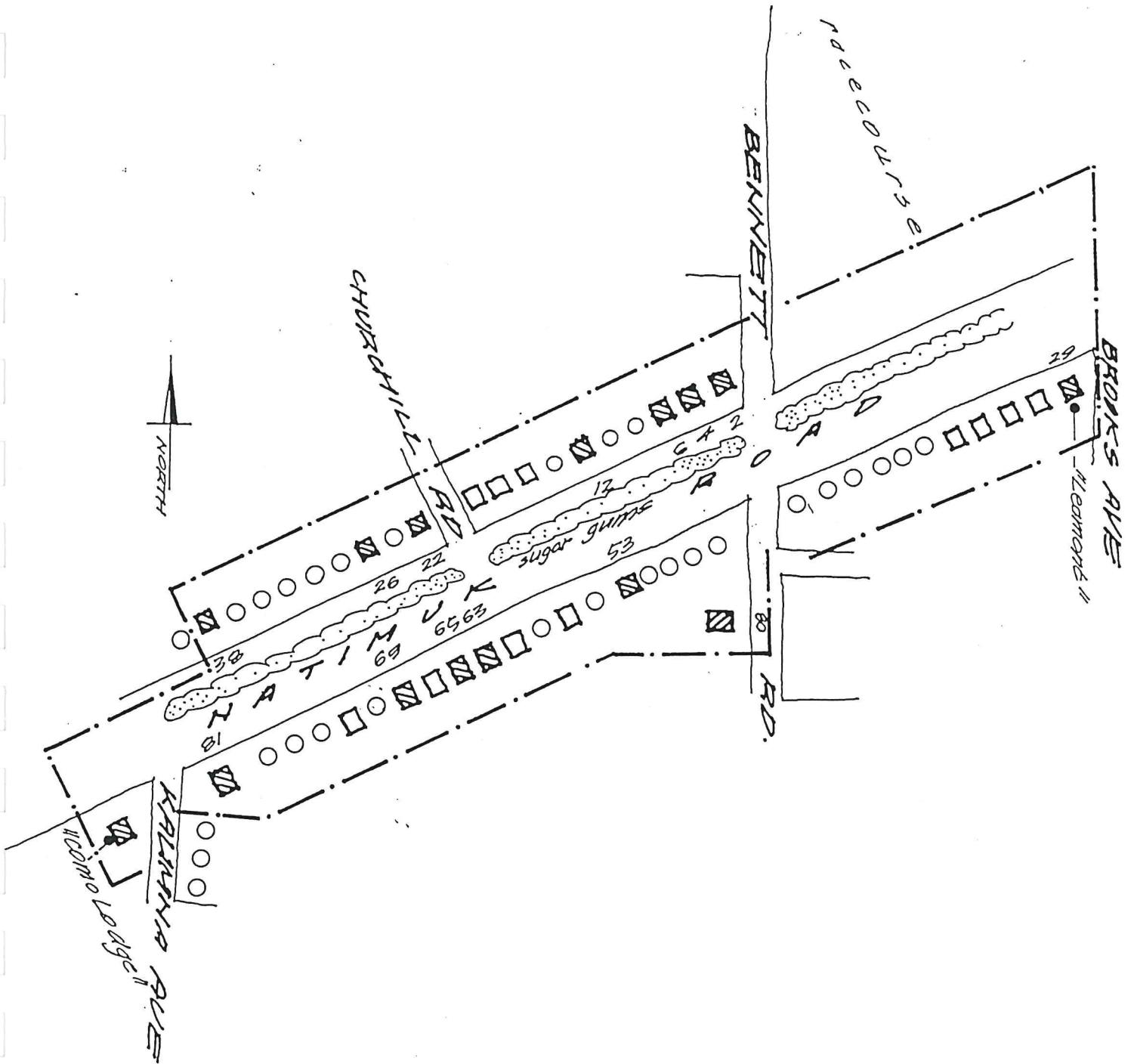
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more houses built during the post war era but it is to the inter-war years that one must look to appreciate its special character.

### **2.3.2 Description**

It is the wide landscaped western approach to Horsham which is the Natimuk Road's greatest contribution this city and the one to which the home builders of the inter-war years were sensitive. Its architectural character is distinguished by the level of sophistication and stylistic diversity of the houses which can be readily seen from the public domain. These qualities are strengthened by the mature garden settings, the hedges, crimped wire fences and gates and occasional stone fences. The majority of contributory houses are in the Californian Bungalow style, the examples at nos.27, 53 and 81 and no. 80 in Bennett Road just off the main avenue being amongst the most noteworthy. The Arts and Crafts era is well represented at no.6 and most eloquently and unusually presented at no.2. Finally, it is "Como Lodge" which makes a special contribution, not only in terms of its prominence and situation at the western approach to the Area, but also as a flamboyant example of the English Domestic Revival style as it was popularized during the inter war years. Here the half timbered upper level walls, the rustic weatherboards and clinker bricks are hallmarks of the style which gained ground during the nineteen thirties at the expense of the other styles represented in this Area.

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Legend:

- Important Place
- Contributory Place
- Not important Place
- Boundary of Area

The Natimuk Road Residential Area (1997)



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The Natimuk Road, looking towards the city from Hillary Street with "Como Lodge" at left.



"Leamont", 27 Natimuk Road

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Architectural Historian



2 Natimuk Road



"Como Lodge"

**Andrew Ward**  
Architectural Historian



81 Natimuk Road

### **2.3.3 Significance**

The Natimuk Road Residential Area is culturally important for its ability to demonstrate aspects in the growth of Horsham's residential areas (criterion A). This importance is characterized by the manner in which the Area attracted a sufficiently large number of the Borough's most prestigious houses during the inter war period to establish a most sought after residential enclave at a time when the Dooen Road area was becoming built out.. Today, the Natimuk Road Road Area imparts identity to the City of Horsham as a whole and is noteworthy for its architectural values and the garden settings of its inter war period houses. It is important also as a gateway to Horsham of distinction

### **3 NATIMUK HISTORIC AREA**

#### **3.1 Historic Background**

The township of Natimuk has its origins in the survey of Eastone Johnstone of August, 1875. The location that he chose followed an earlier survey nearby and it appears that it reflected the existence of a store by the creek banks on which teamsters were in the habit of camping. The central area of nearby Horsham had been surveyed some 26 years earlier. But it was during the mid to late 1870's and the early 1880's that the rural holdings surrounding the township were sold off in lots mostly just over 300 acres in area. Collectively they were to provide a resident population that needed a township at hand to supply them with goods and process their grain. A railway was to pass nearby, on the run from Horsham to Noradjuha in 1887. The nearest station was East Natimuk and the line to Natimuk was not to follow until 1890 with an extension to Goroke in 1894.

As early as 1875 or 76 Bretag and Kuse, who were to bid successfully at the land sales in 1879 for rural holdings, had built their flour mill at Natimuk<sup>10</sup> and John Wilson opened his store there in the following year. It is thought that the Schmidt family's house at no.5 Schmidt Street, made partly in pise, dates from this period. It survives as the oldest house in Natimuk. Heinrich Sudholtz opened the first hotel which he called the "Natimuk" in 1876. It was burnt down in 1881 and rebuilt in 1884 in stone and brick. Delicensed immediately prior to the Second World War it remains in a prominent position at the corner of Schmidt and Main Street. The surviving "National" had a similar history to the extent that it was built in 1877, burnt down in 1891 and rebuilt the following year in its present form.

Natimuk's most important industry, however, was its foundry, located alongside the Colonial Bank and established in 1879. It achieved its greatest output of strippers, winnowers and wagons in 1894. The greater number of its implements was exported by rail and the partners, Beard and Sisson, also had foundries at Dimboola and Nhill. The Natimuk foundry also manufactured cast iron verandah posts for the streets of Horsham but it eventually fell victim to competition from the larger centres, closing its doors in 1910. It is recalled, however, by the surviving shed at no. 84 Main Street. Other industries in Main street included Thomas Jelbart's coach factory, sold to H.C. Woolmer who relocated the business to Schmidt Street in 1908. It is understood this building was on the site of the surviving "Natimuk Motor Garage" at the Station Street corner.

By the late 1880's Natimuk was entering its most prosperous years. There were wheelwrights, a saddler, bootmaker, building contractors and tradesmen, storekeepers, a baker and a post office, the present building symbolizing something of the town's view of itself when it was opened in 1890. The railway station was also opened in 1890 along with the new brick school building which became the senior school classroom. The courthouse, now the home of the Arapiles Historical Society, was opened in July of the following year. And so it was, in the years leading up to the bank crash of 1892, that

<sup>10</sup> Lockwood, A., *Natimuk...now 125* Wimmera Mail Times (1997), p.8.

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Natimuk gained its most imposing public buildings. They were to be scattered along the length of Main Street, however, with the result that although their collective impact is lessened, it could be argued that architectural interest is thereby maintained over the length of the principal thoroughfare.

The railway was in many ways symbolic of the town's continuing prosperity for it was here that the district's wheat was stacked prior to its transfer to seaboard markets. When the flour mill facing the station finally burnt down in 1920, Noske's, Bunge's, Kimpton's and Darling's employed buyers there before dispatching the grain to points east. Natimuk was to recover from the 1890's Depression, the Mechanics Institute building of 1909 bearing witness to the district's continuing prosperity. The surviving National Bank building had been opened the previous year and a contract for a new station building was let in October, 1910<sup>11</sup>.

During the Great War, a Comfort Fund was established to support the soldiers and in 1921 the rotunda in the plantation opposite the post office was built to wind up its resources. Although the commercial centre is quite lengthy, it is the post office and rotunda which appears to mark its high point today. The construction of a motor garage in Station Street in 1920 was the harbinger of further change marking the advent of the motor car and its impacts on the viability of the small town. The railway withstood competition for many years and when the first "back-to" celebrations were held in 1924, contemporary photographs show that the arrival of the train was probably the busiest event on the programme. But the grain traffic was to prove to be the line's mainstay for many years, the wheat stacks of old being replaced by the present concrete silos in 1940. Later, the Railways Department introduced a rail motor service that called at Natimuk on its route to Goroke but it had been withdrawn by the late 1950's and the line itself was to close to all traffic in 1986. Today, there is no evidence of the station building, its goods shed and railway houses but close examination will reveal the cart weighbridge and the base of a crane at the entrance to the old goods yard.

Amongst the other changes sustained by the commercial centre has been the transfer of the seat of Local Government from Noradjuha to Natimuk. The first Council meeting was held in the Soldiers Memorial Hall in January, 1952 and the surviving offices were built a decade later. They were reduced in status following the formation of the Rural City of Horsham in 1994. The State School was moved to its new site in 1961. The old brick building remains but the timber classrooms at the rear have been removed, the so-called pavilion with its sliding canvas windows going to Geelong as an historical display. It was also during the 1960's that the courthouse was closed.

### **3.2 Description**

The historic centre of Natimuk today has Main Street with its spacious plantations as its spine and a link with the old industrial area associated with the railway along Schmidt Street. At Jory Street the Natimuk Creek is an important scenic precinct contrasting with the urbanity of the principal shopping street. It is the courthouse and the "National" hotel that mark the commencement of the historic area at its eastern approach. They are

<sup>11</sup> See old Plan Room Contract books, PTC records.

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followed by Schurmann's shop (closed), now without its posted verandah but important in the streetscape for its elaborate parapet treatment and timber shopfront. Immediately alongside but concealed from view is an early store. Main Street crosses a tributary to the Natimuk Creek a little further west beyond which are some recent buildings marking the site of earlier shops. It is, however, the short section between Jory and Schmidt Streets that marks the historic centre. Here are the former Colonial Bank and the post office, both monumental late nineteenth century edifices. They face the rotunda in the plantation whilst across the road is a billabong associated with the Natimuk Creek. Its presence is reinforced with gum trees, the juxtaposition of nature with the town's finest buildings imparting a sense of identity to Natimuk that separates it out from other comparable townships. The old "Natimuk" hotel with its stone lined street channel looks on from across Schmidt Street. It, too, is a highly individual building in these parts, with its combination of local stone and brick dressings. There is a number of small shops between Schmidt and Sisson Streets along with the Natimuk and District Soldiers Memorial hall and some early houses. The shops are bordered by a pitched channel which helps maintain their turn of the century context. There is an air of history about them due not only to their high level of integrity but also to their emptiness. At Sisson Street the old foundry building at no. 84 faces the plantations. As one proceeds west, the number of early houses begins to predominate until the plantation finishes abruptly and the Wimmera Highway opens up a vista of Mount Arapiles. Here also is the old school and the former teacher's house alongside.

Schmidt Street is of special interest for it provides a link with the site of the railway and the industries with which it was associated. Here is the Motor Garage, the old power house of 1927 and the site of the railway station and flour mill. The small timber building was the office of Newton and Miller, carriers, who no doubt were strategically positioned to cash in on traffic generated by the railway. The silos and cart weighbridge are signposts pointing to the location of the old station buildings. "Flowerdale", the very early home of the Schmidt family faces the now defunct Motor Garage building. Today, this industrial backwater can be easily overlooked yet it has so much to say about the township's economic base, from the beginnings of settlement until the Second World War.

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Main Street, looking east from Schumann's shop to the "National" hotel (1997).



The post office and former Colonial Bank building with plantations and rotunda in the foreground.

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The Natimuk Creek at the back of the former Shire offices.



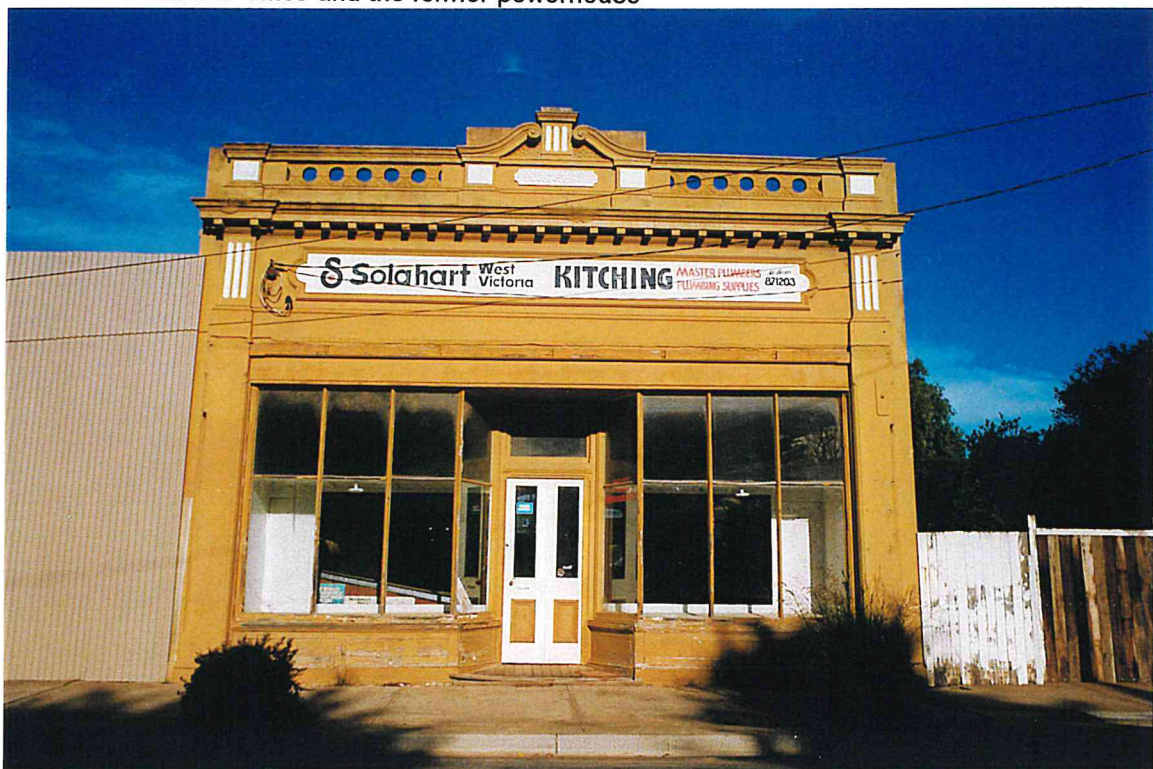
"Flowerdale"



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Newton and Millers' office and the former powerhouse



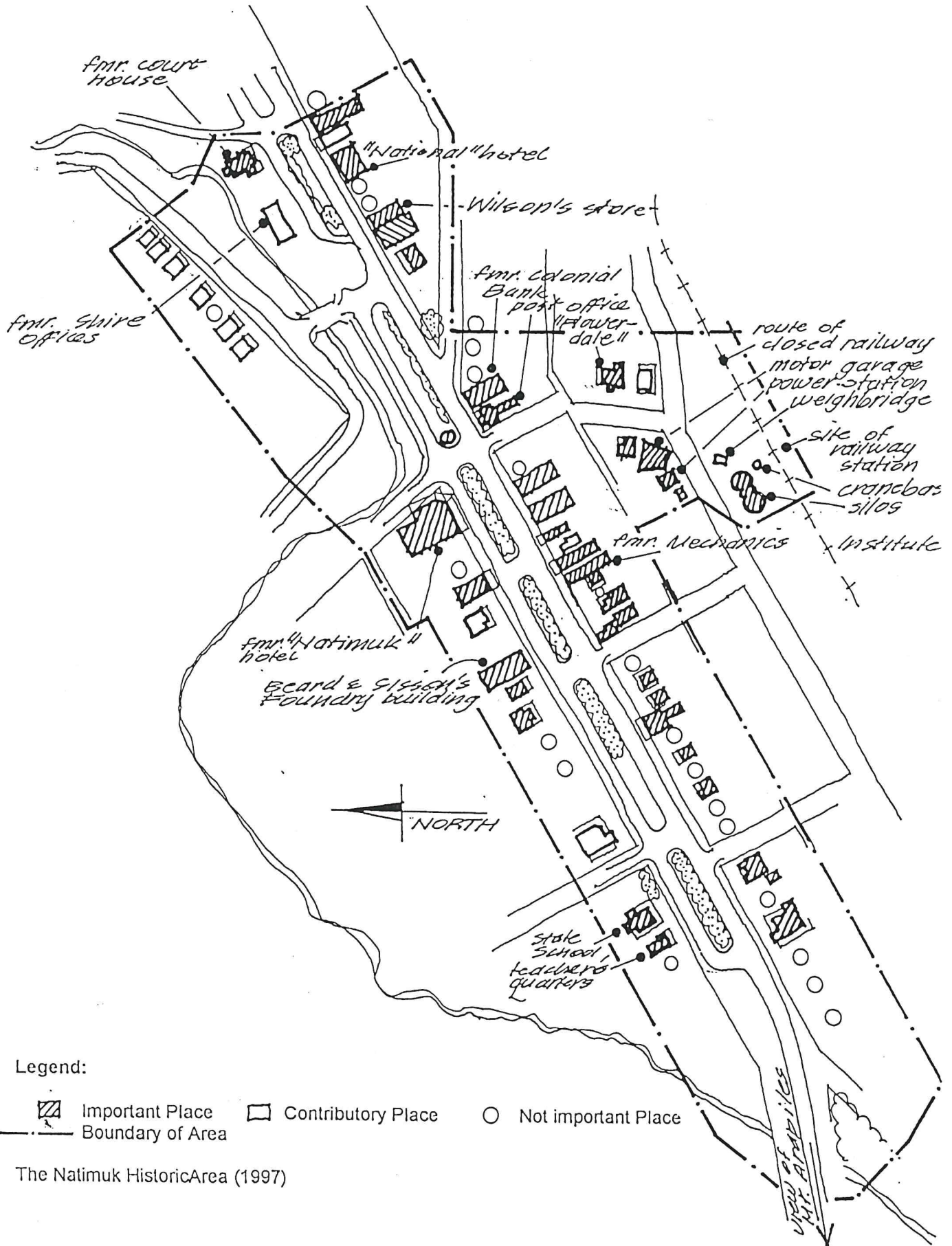
Schurmann's shop (closed)

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Post Office

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### **3.3 Significance**

The Natimuk central area is culturally important for its capacity to demonstrate aspects of a remote nineteenth century wheatfields township (Criterion D). They include:

- The township plan with its broad main avenue and spacious plantation.
- The prominence given to public buildings in the main street, including the school, post office, mechanics institute and courthouse.
- The juxtaposition of imposing Italianate and vernacular buildings with the winding course of the Natimuk Creek.
- The linkages between past industry and the now closed railway line.
- The depth of history revealed by the buildings, which commences with what are understood to be the oldest store and the oldest house in Natimuk and extends to include the principal buildings of the township as well as its more recent though less urbane shops and amenities.

These insights are enhanced by the high level of integrity of the surviving buildings and public works, including pitched street channels.

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<b>4 DATA SHEETS: Horsham</b>
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**Millar Drinking Fountain**

May Park on Dimboola Road

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Photo: 1997

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

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**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,

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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.

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**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

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

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**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).

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

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**Former Wimmera Shire Offices**  
Firebrace Street, Horsham



Photo: 1997

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

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**History:** From the date of the first Meeting of the Road District in 1862 until 1875 the Court House had been used for all Board and Council meetings. However it soon became apparent that the Council must acquire a permanent home. This current site was purchased for one hundred pounds became the home of the first Wimmera Shire Office building, erected in 1875. It was one of the most imposing buildings in Horsham at the time. The land at the rear was used originally for a depot to store materials and stable the Council's horses. It was later used in many ways, including an open air theatre and a sporting stadium. A leadlight and stained glass window with ornate timber surround, a memorial to Horsham and district First World War soldiers was installed in 1921. In 1937 the Shire Office was demolished, and the site redeveloped. Shops and new Shire Offices were built, with the stained glass window preserved and placed on the council chamber's eastern wall.

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**Description:** A large two storeyed commercial development with understated stuccoed upper level façade characterized by axial symmetry and retaining the former offices and Council chamber of the former Wimmera Shire upstairs. At street level there are shops



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and also the former offices of the Shire. It is understood that the glazed lead lit honour role for the Shire is in situ within the former council chamber.

**Integrity:** Medium      **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:** This building compares with the former Horsham Borough offices and hall of 1938 in Wilson Street but is rare at the State level on account of its origins as a speculative development by the Shire. It does however, compare in this respect with the much earlier development by the former Hotham Town Council of 1876 in North Melbourne.

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**Significance:** The offices of the former Wimmera Shire with their associated street level shops are important for their associations with the evolution of local government in the region (criterion A). The survival of the honour role is especially representative of the building's former role whilst the nature of the development as a speculative venture by the Shire council of the day is rare at the State level (Criterion B).

**References:**

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**“White Hart” Hotel**

55 Firebrace Street, Horsham



Photo: 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

**History:** When the township blocks for Horsham were surveyed, Section 8, bounded by Firebrace, Splatt (now Roberts Avenue), Urquhart and Pynsent Streets, was subdivided into ten lots, each with an area of two roods. Nine of those lots were acquired from the Crown by John Campbell, including lot 2, on the south east corner of Firebrace and Splatt Streets. He held his publican’s licence for his house in Splatt Street c.1849.

By the 1870’s, land in Section 8, was owned by John Gillies. On a centre allotment he built Horsham’s first flour mill c.1873. Ten years later, in March 1883, he opened a hotel on part lot 2 built to the design of his son, Henry Alexander Gillies, an auctioneer, insurance agent and architect. The hotel was named the “White Hart” and John Gillies was the licensee. The NAV was 300 pounds.

At the time of opening, it was reported that the rooms were “large, lofty and well ventilated” and that the second storey was nearing completion. The hotel contained a

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large billiard room and had stabling “unsurpassed out of Melbourne”. A photo in Victoria and its Metropolis, 1888 shows the “White Hart” with its two storeyed iron verandah along both street fronts confirming that the additional floor had been built by that time. This was not the case for the single storeyed eastern section facing Roberts Avenue which received its present additional floor at a later time.

After Gillies’ death in 1898, the hotel was sold to Annie Church. Subsequent owners included the Donovan family (1913) and Carlton and United Breweries (1935). Licensees included William Robinson (1883), Hydro Mort (1912), the Donovan family (1913-1951), Leonard Butler (1951), Clem Righetti (1955-69).

Refurbishment of the hotel took place during the early 1950’s. In 1960, however, the CUB engaged local contractors P. and A. Coutts to carry out major renovations. Although most of the alterations were confined to the ground floor they were extensive. At the same time, the verandah and stables were removed.

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**Description:** A substantially altered two storeyed hotel built in stages and consisting of two clearly defined sections in the Classical Revival manner. Although overpainted, distinguishing elements include the patterns of round arched and segmentally arched openings, the corner splay, bracketed cornice and prominent location on the corner of Horsham’s main shopping street. The stuccoed eastern wing is slightly more complex in its façade treatment, suggestive of its later construction date and consisting of its two stages separated horizontally by a stringcourse and having a surmounting central pediment. Inside, it is understood that the alterations at ground floor level have been comprehensive and have included removal of the original main staircase. The upper level rooms, however, substantially unaltered.

**Integrity:** See above. The two storeyed verandahs have been removed and a small cantilever erected along the Firebrace Street elevation.

**Condition:** Sound.

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**Comparative examples:** There are no stylistically comparable hotels in Horsham. The “Royal” at the corner of Timor and Fairy Street in Warrnambool (pre-1867) adopts a similar fenestration although it has a parapeted façade and the “Albert” in McCrae Street, Bendigo (1873), though much smaller, has lower level arched windows comparing with the “White Hart”.

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**Significance:** The “White Hart” hotel is important as a rare surviving mid Victorian hotel in Horsham (criterion B) which though altered, retains the principal early elements of its façade including the fenestration pattern, hipped roof and corner splay. It is a prominent building in the City’s principal commercial thoroughfare and is socially important not only as a hotel of long standing but also for its connections with the Gillies family (criterion G). Members included blacksmiths, flour millers, hoteliers, a Shire councillor, cemetery trustee and an architect. They were amongst the City’s earliest landowners and businessmen.

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- References:** Hotel File, Horsham Historical Society.  
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century,  
City of Horsham, 1982, pp.10, 29, 108-9.  
Historical Horsham Calendar 1995, Horsham and District Historical  
Society, 1994.  
Town of Horsham, Parish plan, Department of Lands and Survey,  
28.2.1928.  
Horsham Sewerage Plan no.132, c.1927, amended June 1948.

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**T & G building**

Corner McLachlan and Firebrace Streets, Horsham



Photo: 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

**History:** The Parish plan for the Town of Horsham shows the north west corner of Firebrace and McLachlan Streets was part of lot 5 of Section 5A purchased by J.C.L.Bowden and S.B.Bolton on the 11 October 1864. The lot covered an area of just over one acre. Most of Section 5A was subdivided into substantial lots for housing; however, lot 5 fronting Firebrace Street was gradually used for commercial development. By 1927, shops lined the street between McLachlan and Baillie Streets. In 1940, the land

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on the northwest corner of Firebrace and McLachlan Streets was owned by the Temperance and General Mutual Life Society. By April of that year, the Society, known as the T&G, was in the process of erecting a modern reinforced concrete building of three storeys with corner tower; a style which typified all of its buildings. The ground floor provided room for five shops and the Society's offices. The first floor was intended for leasing as office and professional suites and the third floor, also for leasing, was divided into three flats.

The T&G building stood diagonally opposite the old Georgian style post office in 1940. In 1970, the post office was demolished. Although the government owned the building, there was a perception that the clock, installed in 1885, belonged to the city. Cr. Tom Windsor made the statement that "A clock is essential...adds status...(is) a service to ratepayers." The clock was handed over to the City and subsequently installed in the tower of the T&G building, presumably with an altered face. Its mechanism was thereafter operated by electric power.

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**Description:** The T & G building is representative of other Society buildings and, being erected during the Second World War, adopts the then popular style of the European Modernists. The prominent corner tower with stepped pyramidal roof has its vertical dimension emphasized by the fenestration and corner treatments, standing apart from the body of the building which is lower, capped by a parapet course common to the period, has simplified fenestration and is articulated separately. The cantilevered verandah retains its curved corner with the phrase "T & G Corner" in low relief, reinforcing the Modernist character of the building.

**Integrity:** High                      **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:** These include the Society's Melbourne headquarters in Collins Street, now reduced to a façade surrounding a recent building and similar branches in the provincial cities including Bendigo (1925), Mildura and Warrnambool. The Warrnambool example is highly comparable.

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**Significance:** The Temperance and General Mutual Life Society Ltd. building of 1940 is representative of the Society's buildings of the period (criterion D) and a sophisticated example of European Modernism in Horsham, comparing with the Town hall complex of 1938 and the former Pattersons Building. It demonstrates the importance of Horsham as a commercial centre during the War years (criterion A).

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2.1928.

Horsham Sewerage Plan no.132, c.1927, amended June 1948.

File, Horsham Historical Society.

Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, *A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century*, City of Horsham, 1982, p.176, 184.

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**RSSILA Building**

McLachlan Street, Horsham



Photo: 1997

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

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**History:** The foundation stone for this building was laid on 22.1.1921. The architect was G.(?) Lucas and the builder W.E. McGregor.

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**Description:** Though extended on both sides, the original Classical Revival building is in situ. The façade is symmetrical and consists of a central round arched window (former entry?) with flanking pavilions in stucco also having round arched windows with exaggerated voussoirs in the manner of the period and surmounting pediments. The body work is in red brick which contrasts with the stuccoed pavilions and dressings generally.

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**Integrity:** High (façade)      **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:**

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**Significance:**

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**Significance:** The Reformed Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia (later known as the Reformed Soldiers League) building is of historic, aesthetic and social importance. It is historically (Criterion A) as a building erected immediately following the First World War and demonstrating the importance of the League at that time. It is aesthetically important (Criterion E) as a rare surviving Neo Classical building of the interwar period in the commercial centre, the symmetry of the design in conjunction with the Romanesque treatment being highly distinctive. It is socially important (Criterion G) as a building valued by the community and for its capacity to recall the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces at different times in the city's history.

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2 1928.  
Horsham Sewerage Plan no.132, c.1927, amended June 1948.  
Wimmera Masonic Lodge file, Horsham Historical Society.  
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982, p. 235-6, 243-4.

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**“Leamont”**  
27 Natimuk Road, Horsham



Photo: 1997

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

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**History:** The land on the south side of Natimuk Road between Rose Street and Brooks Avenue stretching down to the Wimmera River, comprised lots 19 and 20 of Section 4(?), which were purchased from the Crown by J.Wilson. It was subdivided and developed later than the Dooen Road but in time became recognised as a desirable address.

In 1926, George Gardiner, manager for AMP, bought the land at no.27-29 Natimuk Road and had built for his residence in that year a house described in 1929 as “stone, NAV 60 pounds”.

The property was later bought by Jack Bolton who provided the upper level attic storey of the house. In 1996, it was owned by Mrs. Audrey Maybery.

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**Description:** A sophisticated example of the Californian Bungalow style distinguished by its exaggerated horizontality and deeply recessed corner porch with dominant gable ends and limestone piers and balustrade. There is a suggestion of the Oriental in the

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treatment of the piers and main gable end that gives depth to the residence as an example of the Style. Other elements include the principal leadlit windows, limestone front fence, hedge and spacious garden.

**Integrity:** High, attic floor later along with lattice work to gable ends.

**Condition:** Sound.

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**Comparative examples:** Comparable houses in the same style in Horsham include the former Rodda residence at the corner of Stawell and Williams Roads, 53, and 81 Natimuk Road, "Penzance" at 50 Dooen Road, "Greyholm" at 15 McPherson Street and 80 Bennett Road.

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**Significance:** "Leamont" at 27 Natimuk Road is culturally important as a sophisticated example of the Californian Bungalow style in Horsham, reinforcing this City's heritage of similar interwar residences giving it distinction at the State level (criteria D and E). It is also important as a key building in the Natimuk Road historic area and is of interest also for its links with the AMP Society's presence in Horsham, once confirmed by the AMP building of 1916 (demolished) in Firebrace Street (criterion G).

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2 1928.

Horsham, County of Burong, Department of Lands and Survey, undated.

Horsham Sewerage Plan no.133, c.1994.

Borough of Horsham Rate Books: 1925-6, 1929-30.

"Historical Horsham Calendar 1996", Horsham Historical Society.

Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, *A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century*, City of Horsham, 1982, p.178.

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**“Como Lodge”**  
Formerly “Penabrin”  
83 Natimuk Road, Horsham



Photo: 1997

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

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**History:** Lots 9 to 14 of Section 4 on the south side of Natimuk Road were purchased from the Crown by the Wilson brothers. It was a substantial holding running from the road south to the Wimmera River. Around the 1920's, the land was subdivided for housing, however development was sparse until later that decade.

In 1929, Mrs. E. Thornley of Wilson Street owned land with an NAV of 4 pounds in Natimuk Road on the south west corner of Kalimna Avenue. During the 1930's, W.J. Thornley, cordial manufacturer, had built for his residence a large two storey brick house on this site. At that time, the property was known as “Penabrin”. It was enhanced by plantings of deciduous trees and had a sunken garden.

In 1996, the house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Denis O'Brien. It is presently known as “Como Lodge”.

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**Description:** A prominent English Cottage Style two storeyed house with lower level in clinker brick and upper level half timbered recalling Medieval architectural forms. The garage is a projecting element with dormer window enhancing the picturesque massing of the house.

**Integrity:** High, later carport, extensive gardens.

**Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:**

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**Significance:** “Como Lodge”, formerly “Penabrin” of 83 Natimuk Road is important as a large and prominent comparatively unusual example of the English Cottage Style in Horsham (criterion D). It is important also as a key building in the Natimuk Road historic area.

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2 1928.

Horsham, County of Burong, Department of Lands and Survey, undated.

Horsham Sewerage Plan no.132, c.1927, amended June 1948.

Borough of Horsham Rate Books: 1925-26, 1929-30.

“Historical Horsham Calendar 1996”, Horsham Historical Society.

Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982, p.178.

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**Horsham Historical Society and Legacy Rooms**

Former Public Library (1937), Mechanics Institute (1909)

33 Pynsent Street, Horsham



Photo: December 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

**History:** A Mechanics Institute was established in Horsham in 1872. It had two temporary premises before acquiring a site in Firebrace Street for a purpose built institute. The Parish plan for the Town of Horsham identifies the site as lot 10 of Section 3 on the west side of Firebrace Street between Pynsent and Splatt Streets. It had an area of two perches and became the property of the Trustees of the Mechanics Institute on the 9 February 1874.

Between 1872 and 1874, Richard Spry erected a wood building which became the centre of learning and entertainment for the people of the Horsham district. Fire destroyed the building in 1908. It had become inadequate for the needs of the Institute and the fire inadvertently provided impetus to move to a new site to erect a larger, more suitable building.

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The new site was on the south side of Pynsent Street between Firebrace and Urquhart Streets; originally bought from the Crown by George Langlands. In 1908-9, the Institute paid 359 pounds for part lot 6 of Section 9.

At an extraordinary meeting held in the Borough Offices on 22 March 1909, it was decided to appoint the Ballarat based architectural firm of Clegg and Miller to design the new premises. On the 14 May 1909, from twelve tenders received, the committee appointed the contractor D. Armour of Melbourne whose quoted price was 1987 pounds for the new brick building. A billiard room was included. A photo in the Horsham Centenary Booklet 1950 shows the building complete with its verandah.

From its new premises the Institute continued its role in the education and entertainment of the citizens of Horsham. Local and travelling artists enthralled audiences. The most long lasting legacy however was its library services. In 1937, the Institute became the Horsham Public Library and the seeds were sown for a library free to all.

In 1949, the Council took over the library. The building became Council property "with the proviso that it be used for education, cultural, community, artistic and municipal purposes". The library moved in 1968. The following year, the billiard room was demolished. New venues and life style changes meant the hall was not sought so much. Rentals dropped and the Institute as it had been known, died. It had been used variously as a library, dance-class centre, concert hall, cinema and First World War troop-comfort centre. The building has subsequently come alive again as the headquarters for Legacy and the Horsham Historical Society.

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**Description:** A stylistically conservative Edwardian Classical Revival public building, retaining its principal front rooms and having a symmetrical façade with central entry emphasized by pilasters and a surmounting pediment. The whole of the façade is rusticated and the words "Mechanics Institute Estab'd 1872" are in cast cement in the frieze.

**Integrity:** Medium, verandah removed, billiard room, demolished. **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:** Mechanics Institute buildings erected between 1905 and 1915 include Korong (1905), Lakes Entrance (1907), Lascelles (1914), Longford (1911), Mead (1912), Meerlieu (1910), Meredith (1905), Middle Bridge (1906), Mildura (1908), Milford (1907), Ryton (1906), Seville (1912), Silvan (1906), Strezleckie (1906), Sunshine (1908), Toora Tin Mines (1907), Tyrendarra (1914), Whorouly (1907), Acheron (1913), Bayles (1906), Bessiebelle (1909), Binginwarri (1907), Budgerree (1910), Bullarto (1905), Buln Buln (1907), Campbell's Forest (1910), and Dunrobin (1915).

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**Significance:** The Horsham Mechanics Institute building of 33 Pynsent Street is representative of the role of the Mechanics Institute movement in Horsham and has cultural value in this respect (Criteria A and G). It is a rare surviving early public building in the City, post dating the surviving Masonic Lodge of 1885 and pre-dating the

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RSSILA building of 1921 (Criterion B). It forms a group within the Central Area historic precinct with the Horsham Theatre of 1926 and W.B.Motors of 1925.

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**References:** Horsham Centenary Souvenir Booklet 1950, p.58.

Borough of Horsham Rate Book: 1925-6, p.26.

Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century,  
City of Horsham, 1982, pp.141, 147, 180, 190.

Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey,  
28.2.1928.

Horsham Sewerage Plan no. 132, c.1927, amended June 1948.

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**St. Michael and St. John's School**

Former Brigidine Convent

10 Roberts Avenue, Horsham



Photo: 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

**History:** The Parish Plan for the Town of Horsham records lots 4,5,6 and 7 of Section 14 as being reserved for the purposes of the Roman Catholic Church. The reserve had an area of 2 acres with 400 feet frontages to Splatt (now Roberts Avenue) and McLachlan Streets. A wood church was built there, dedicated in 1876 to St. Michael and St. John.

The Parish's involvement in education began during the incumbency of Father James O'Farrell when, in the early 1880's, it was decided to lease the nearby Temperance Hall to use as a school. Soon after classes were moved to the church and subsequently to a purpose built wood school. When the present day brick church was erected in 1913, the original wood church was moved and reopened as a school room.

In 1919, The Horsham Times reported that it had long been the wish of the Catholic community to "establish a convent in furtherance of its religious and educational



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activities". By this time lot 8, originally purchased from the Crown by M.A.H. Bowden in 1873, had been acquired by the Church. On part lots 7 and 8, a brick convent, described by the paper as a "magnificent structure", was erected.

The convent was designed by Ernest J. Keogh of Melbourne. Keogh was described as having "extensive experience in the sphere of ecclesiastical architecture". In Horsham he was known already for his design of the "Wimmera" coffee palace (1918), later renamed the "Locarno" hotel.

The foundation stone was laid on 14 September 1919 and the contractors, Messrs. Stahl Bros., had the building completed for the opening and blessing on 11 April 1920.

The building cost an estimated 10,000 pounds. It faced Roberts Avenue and had a frontage of 112 feet. The ground floor accommodated classrooms, refectories, chapel and domestic requirements, while the first floor contained the living quarters including dormitories for girls.

Five Brigidine Sisters arrived on 10 April 1920 to pioneer the community in Horsham. They took charge of St. Michael and St. John's Primary School in April, and opened St. Brigid's convent day school and the boarding school in May in buildings completed by the end of June.

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**Description:** An imposing and stylistically conservative two storeyed convent building with attic level having a symmetrical Free Style façade with pavilions flanking a recessed two storeyed loggia. The pavilions have dominant parapeted gable ends with oculus vents and round arched upper level windows whilst the loggia is distinguished by its stuccoed treatment. The body bricks are dark brown and they are relieved with unpainted stuccoed dressings.

**Integrity:** High (exterior)                      **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:** The Convent of Mercy, Bendigo, is a precursor to the Brigidine Convent and has a similar arrangement of pavilions and central loggia. So too does the Brigidine Convent at Echuca of 1888.

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**Significance:** The former Brigidine Convent, now St. Michael and St. Johns School, at 10 Roberts Avenue is architecturally important in Horsham as a large Free Style ecclesiastical building recalling the presence of the Brigidine sisters in the area from 1920 (Criterion A). It has cultural value also as a place of education in the community since that time (Criterion G).

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28. 2. 1928.  
Horsham Sewerage Plan no.131, c.1927, amended June 1948.  
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982, p. 137, 177, 252.  
"Convent for Horsham", The Horsham Times, 13 June 1919.

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“Brief History of the Brigidine Convent, Horsham”, Horsham Catholic  
Parish Centenary, 1976, p.51.

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**Former Police Station**  
24 Roberts Avenue, Horsham



Photo: 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

**History:** An 1840's police encampment near a river crossing on James Darlot's North Brighton pastoral run, established government presence in what was to become the township of Horsham. These associations between river crossing, police administrative centre and the beginnings of a town were common to many of Victoria's early settlements.

Thomas Halfpenny was the first chief constable for the Wimmera region. He had a staff of two in 1849 and presided over the police headquarters located in what would become Darlot Street. It consisted of a courthouse, a watch house, constables' quarters and a garden

By the early 1920's, the nature of police work was changing with the increased use of motor transport. As well, a police union had been formed; a building program embarked upon by the PWD (1922) and a Royal Commission established under Sir John Monash (1924). The most visible outcome of events for Horsham was the erection of a new brick

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police station and sergeant's quarters. It was erected in 1923 on the Police Reserve in Section 7 on the north side of Roberts Avenue between Firebrace and Urquhart Streets. It was designed by the Public Works Department under Chief Architect E. Evan Smith (chief architect 1922-29) and was one of 24 centres built for the Police Department at the time. It cost 2,476 pounds, and was the most expensive country station of the period.

The station was described in the *Victorian Public Gazette* in 1935 as "...seven -roomed brick dwelling (with) tiled roof, used as offices and barrack rooms; five rooms (sergeant's quarters) unused..." A new concrete cell block was built in 1939 at the rear of the police station to replace a log lock-up. It had three cells and a storeroom.

The building ceased to be used as a police station in 1978, by which time it was considered to be inadequate. A new building was erected east of the courthouse and the old building given over to various uses, mostly community based. During its history, it had been affectionately known as "Ye Olde Cop Shoppe".

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**Description:** An Arts and Crafts influenced brick and rough cast former police station having a central round arched porch with Classical Revival references and flanking segmentally arched windows. There is a terra cotta tiled gable roof and a side porch, the strength of the design hinging on the marriage between the Arts and Crafts and the Public Works Department's long established Classical Revival traditions.

**Integrity:** High                      **Condition:**      Sound

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**Comparative examples:** In Horsham compares loosely with the former RSSILA building of 1921. Compares at the State level with other work of the Public Works Department undertaken during E. Evan Smith's term as chief architect, possibly including the Horsham State Public offices, now demolished.

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**Significance:** The former Horsham police station at 24 Roberts Avenue is important as the earliest surviving public building within the land reserved for public purposes bounded by Roberts Avenue, McPherson, Firebrace and McLachlan Streets (Criterion A). It is also important in the history of police activities in the region and as a locally rare example of the buildings of the Public Works Department during the inter-war period (Criterion B).

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**References:** Police File, Horsham Historical Society. (Contains Historic Buildings Register item 6050981).  
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, *A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century*, City of Horsham, 1982, pp.5 and 199.  
Town of Horsham, Parish plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2.1928.  
Horsham Sewerage Plan no. 132, c.1927, amended June 1948.

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**Wesley Performing Arts and Cultural Centre**  
Former Methodist Church  
Corner Roberts Avenue and Urquhart Street, Horsham

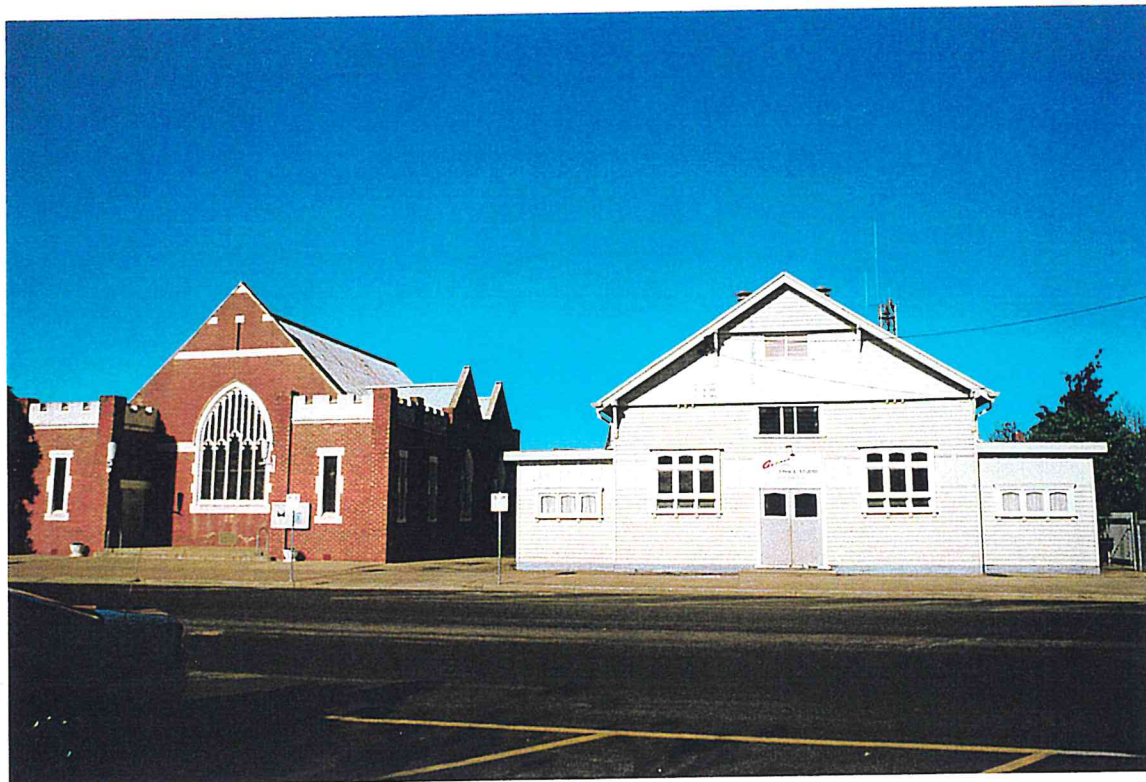


Photo: May, 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

**History:** The Wesleyans built a timber church in McPherson Street near the end of Roberts Avenue in 1876. It was moved to the present site in 1882. Following a State wide vote for the union of the various Wesleyan Church groups in 1902, three groups in the Wimmera formed the Horsham circuit of the Methodist Church. The old timber building was again moved, this time to face Roberts Avenue and the foundation stone for the present brick church laid on 30.8.1911. It was opened in 1912 when the Rev George Judkins was minister. In June 1924 the jubilee year of the Church was celebrated with the opening of the present Sunday School hall alongside the church, facing Roberts Avenue.

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During the term of the Rev. Bernie Semmens (1936-1941) the front of the church was rebuilt, the chapel enlarged and new porches added. In 1976 the church joined the Uniting Church with the Presbyterians following in 1977.

**Description:** The church is a red brick building with stuccoed dressings in a straight forward Gothic Revival manner with distinguishing west window in the Perpendicular style and later castellated pavilions. The floor is understood to be ramped towards the site of the organ, now a stage. The ceiling is varnished timber, following the line of the roof but having more steeply sloping lower sides

The hall is a large timber building, the façade articulated with Arts and Crafts influenced detail including bracketed gable end and diminutive windows characteristic of the early Inter war period.

**Integrity:** High                      **Condition:**                      Sound

**Comparative examples:** The castellated motif has been used infrequently over many years, an early example being that of Scots Church, Campbellfield (1855) and a later example being the Church of Christ, Caulfield North (1918). The west window is unusual on account of its use of vertical tracery above the cusped arches and constitutes the building's principal link with the Perpendicular style.

At the local level, the use of castellations compares with the Anglican Church, Baillie Street (demolished 1957) and the St. Andrews Church tower (demolished 1962). Within the Rural City, the Lutheran Church, Vectis is a brick building, erected in 1907 but in other respects not comparable.

**Significance:** The Former Methodist Church of 1911-12 and hall of 1924 situated at the corner of Roberts Avenue and Urquhart Street, Horsham are historically important as the principal centre of worship for the Methodist community in Horsham from 1912 until post 1976, recalling the impetus given to the Horsham circuit following the 1902 union. In these respects it demonstrates an important era in the life of the present Uniting Church congregation (criteria A and G).

Given the demolition of all other nineteenth century churches in Horsham and the absence of any pre First World War churches in the City, the church and hall complex survives as the oldest group of buildings of their type (criterion B), demonstrating aspects of Church life not reflected in more recent comparable buildings (criterion D). The west window, ceiling treatment and castellated pavilions are unique architectural elements in the City whilst the former may be unusual in Victoria (criterion B). The hall is a rare surviving large timber building in Horsham (criterion B).

**References:** Brooke, B. and Finch, A., A Story of Horsham: A Municipal Century, City of Horsham 1982, p.254.

Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 9/97

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### Masonic Temple

31 Urquhart Street, Horsham



Photo: 1997

#### Existing Registrations:

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

**History:** In 1877, masonry was established in Horsham with the formation of Wimmera Lodge no.70. For the first eight years of its existence, meetings were held in various premises around the town.

A permanent meeting place was also desired and in August 1884, it was agreed that a site should be purchased and a hall built. An allotment available in McLachlan Street, north side between Firebrace and Urquhart Streets for 75 pounds. The land was part lots 1 and 3 of Section 6, first owned by William Seeley. The lodge bought it and by May 1885, had erected the surviving brick hall at this location. In 1936, it was decided to sell the hall to Pears Furniture Pty Ltd for 2000 pounds and to buy another site and erect a new hall. A house property in Urquhart Street, east side between Pynsent Street and Roberts Avenue was purchased for 856 pounds and a building committee formed.

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The house was on part lot 2 of Section 13. The land had been owned originally by W. Edmondson. The house was removed or demolished and an imposing two storeyed temple was subsequently erected in cement and steel. The building had a 16 by 10 metre temple on its upper floor and a public hall on the ground floor. The builder was C.E. Brown of Ballarat. It cost approximately 6,000 pounds and was dedicated on the 11 September 1937.

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**Description:** A monumental and conservative public building symmetrically arranged in the manner of the period and distinguished by its two storeyed loggia with giant order columns recalling Egyptian architectural precedents.

**Integrity:** High (exterior)                      **Condition:** Sound

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**Comparative examples:** Compares locally with contemporary buildings at Horsham including the T & G building of 1940. At the State level it compares with other masonic temples of the period and some banks, such as the former State Savings Bank, Centre Road, Bentleigh. The Masonic temple of 1925 at Newport is stylistically earlier but of similar stature in the streetscape.

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**Significance:** The Masonic Temple at 31 Urquhart Street when considered with the preceding building in McLachlan Street is important as a testimony to the role of masonry at Horsham since 1885 (Criterion A). Its monumental façade treatment is noteworthy in Horsham and may be an important example of its type at the State level.

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**References:** Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2.1928.  
Horsham Sewerage Plan no.131 and 132, c.1927, amended June 1948.  
Wimmera Masonic Lodge file, Horsham Historical Society.  
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982, pp.235-6.

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Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 2/98



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**5 DATA SHEETS: Dooen**

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**“Dooen” Hotel**  
Wimmera Highway, Dooen



Photo: 1997

**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

**History:** A license was granted to Robert Grant, first licensee of the “Dooen” hotel on 15.6.1876. The location for the hotel is given initially as part lot 65 and then as part lot 61A, the present site. Grant remained the licensee until 1885 when William George took over. Grant was back in charge again in 1887, handing over to James Thornett in 1889. The Richmond Brewing Co. purchased the building c.1937 and c.3/1962 it was acquired by the Carlton and United Breweries as a part of their takeover of the Richmond Brewing Co. Proposals for closure followed in 1970 and in response to local protests the licensees, Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Wunan purchased the building and kept the hotel open for business. The license was transferred to P.J. Wickes in 1973. The principal interior room is understood to have served as the Longerenong “College Hall” for many years.

**Description:** A mid Victorian timber framed hotel having been added to at various periods and being U-shaped on plan with the courtyard now built in and surrounded by

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attached gable and hip roofed buildings. The façade is symmetrical and consists of two pavilions either side of a recessed verandah now half built in. The northern pavilion is formed by a gable roofed room(s?) presumably built separately and the entire façade has been much altered, now consisting of ashlar boarding, pressed metal parapet and strapwork to the arched pavilion windows, the southern window incorporating lead light work reading "Dooen Pub 1876 Dooen Pub". The central verandah appears to date from interwar(?) renovations. The lounge and bar windows are recent.

Inside the public rooms, pressed metal linings are early elements whilst timber skirtings and dados include recent sympathetic work. The accommodation wings are substantially intact with timber lined ceilings and dados and pressed metal fills.

**Integrity:** Fair      **Condition:** Fair

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**Comparative examples:** Remote licensed early timber hotels, once commonplace, are now rare in Victoria. Examples include the "Avoca Forest" hotel, Logan, of 1910.

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**Significance:** The "Dooen" hotel is important as the principal surviving building and long standing social centre of the Dooen township, now significantly diminished following the removal of the school and railway station building (Criteria A and G). Together with the nearby shops it constitutes the most complete surviving nineteenth century rural township centre in the municipality. As a surviving licensed nineteenth century timber hotel, it is now rare at the State level (Criterion B).

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**References:** Horsham and District Historical Society records.

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Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward    2/98

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Architectural Historian

**Former General Store and Post Office**  
Wimmera Highway, Dooen



Photo: 1997

**Andrew Ward**  
Architectural Historian

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**Existing Registrations:**

Victorian Heritage Register: nil  
National Estate Register: nil  
National Trust Register: nil

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**History:** The General Store and post office is presumed to have been built by Joseph Davidson around the turn of the century and following the arrival of the railway in 1879. It remained in the hands of his descendants as late as 1951 (Sands and McDougall Directory) and was the principal commercial building of the township. It was run subsequently by the Woolman family.

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**Description:** A single building consisting of two shops and residence at the rear and with timber posted verandahs. The timber parapet, now part demolished, has horizontal t and g linings and a bracketed cornice. The southernmost shop, which served as the post office, retains its original shop front with panelled stall boards and central four panelled door. Inside, the walls and ceilings are timber lined. The northern shop, previously incorporating the general store, has a recent front and pressed metal ceiling linings.

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The north facing residence at the rear has a timber posted verandah and two doors which open onto it, the verandah floor having been removed and the posts having tapered chamfers.

**Integrity:** Medium, parapet and verandah defaced, one shop front replaced.

**Condition:** Poor, lack of essential maintenance puts this building at risk.

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**Comparative examples:** Comparable stores include Winton's store at Miram, also on the Western Railway. Within the municipality, however, there are no small town stores remaining with this level of integrity.

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**Significance:** The Davidsons' General Store and post office is historically important as the principal commercial building of this township, offering insights into small town life in Western Victoria at least from around the turn of the century (Criterion A). Together with the nearby hotel it constitutes the most complete surviving nineteenth century rural township centre in the municipality. As a surviving combined general store and post office in the Municipality it is now rare (Criterion B).

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**References:** Horsham and District Historical Society: Memories of Dooen (1990).

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Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 2/98

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<b>APPENDIX A</b>
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