

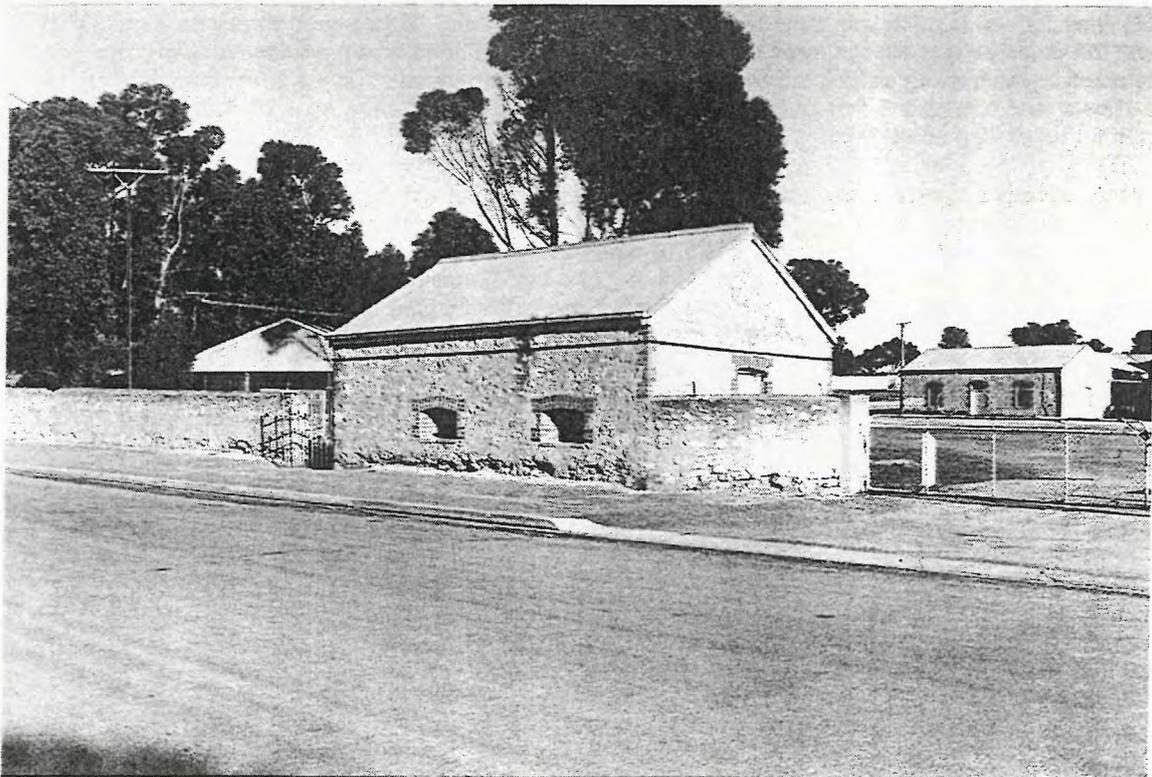
**Minlaton Showground Pavilion (Stone Walls and Outbuildings) YP:207****LOCATION**

**Address** West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575  
**Land Description** Section 279, Hundred of Minlacowie  
**Certificate of Title** 1691/161

**Owners** District Council of Yorke Peninsula, 8 Elizabeth Street, Maitland SA 5573

**State Heritage Status** Registered, 20 November 1986 **SHR File No** 10186  
**Other Assessments**

**Photograph No** 13/26, 27, 28



*Pavilion, Minlaton Showground*

## Minlaton Showground Pavilion (Stone Walls and Outbuildings) YP:207

### DESCRIPTION

Complex of single storey show ground pavilions and exhibition buildings with two storey grandstand and changing facilities incorporated. Buildings are constructed of random rubble limestone with brick quoins and surrounds with gabled roof clad with corrugated iron. Timber balustrade and decorated posts to grandstand.

### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

The showground complex is significant because of its representation of Yorke Peninsula's farming community, and the importance of show meetings in publicising new improvements in farming techniques prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1902. The building itself is a rare example, revealing a combination of building types associated with ovals: a grandstand integrated with show pavilions.

### HISTORY

The showground and oval at Minlaton is located on the western edge of the township on Section 279. Its establishment was provided for by the Commissioner of Crown Lands on 18 August 1882, when ten acres of parklands were set aside for show purposes. In the absence of a local government authority, the land was temporarily vested in the Central Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Society, formed in 1877. The grandstand and attached single-storey show building were built in what appears to be at least two stages, the first being the single-storey section in the 1880s-1890s, followed by the grandstand at the front of the single-storey section some time after 1909. The front of the grandstand commemorates the Jubilee of the Society in 1928. A stone wall built of locally quarried stone in 1908 encloses part of the showgrounds. As a complex serving a specific community purpose since at least 1882, it reflects the importance of Agricultural Societies in farming communities throughout the State and in particular the dominance of farming in the Yorke Peninsula region.

The first society formed in South Australia, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (RAHS), was formed in 1945 with John Morphett, MLC, as Chairman. Acting as a forum on a variety of farming matters, the Society's real effectiveness lay in the organisation of Shows where produce and new machinery could be inspected or exhibited by participants. Prizes were offered for inventions that would improve farming techniques at the shows, and notably the first prize at the first show in Adelaide was won by John Ridley, the inventor of the 'Stripper' for harvesting wheat crops.

Local show societies formed as agricultural settlement spread, acting as rural counterparts to the RAHS and other similar societies based in Adelaide. The importance of these annual shows, as a means of disseminating new ideas in techniques and machinery should not be underestimated. They were held frequently at various towns throughout the State. For example, in September 1879 the *Garden and Field* listed nine shows between 18 September and 10 November held in Adelaide, Burra, Green's Plains East, Kadina and Moonta. In October 1881 the writer for *Garden and Field* commented that shows

break out in a kind of rash all over the face of the country, and machine makers who wish to make a trade must feel worse than the ass between the panniers when they find four or five Shows being held on the same day at as many different places from five to a hundred miles apart.

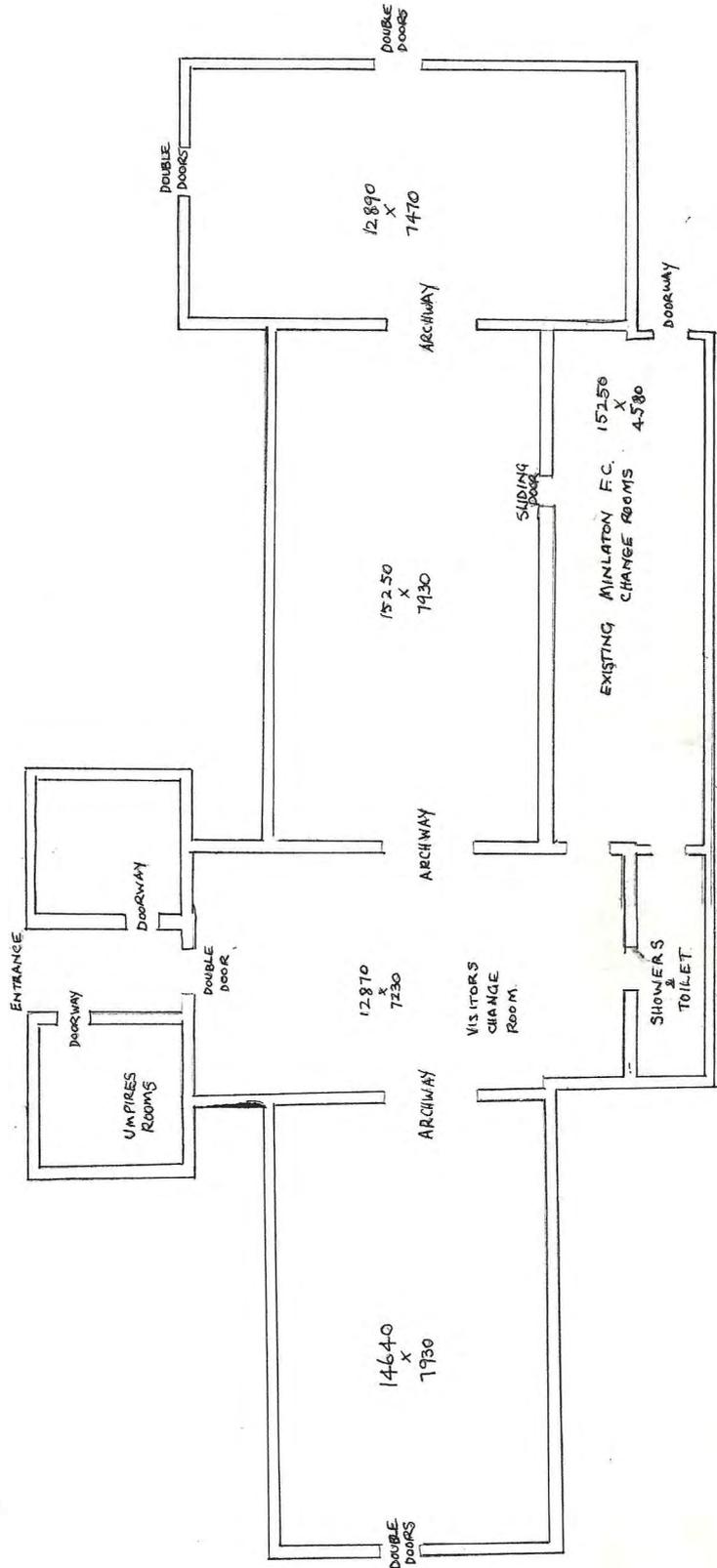
Minlaton provided a convenient centre for surrounding farms on Yorke Peninsula. Closer settlement during the 1860s and 1870s in the wake of the pastoralist was rapid.

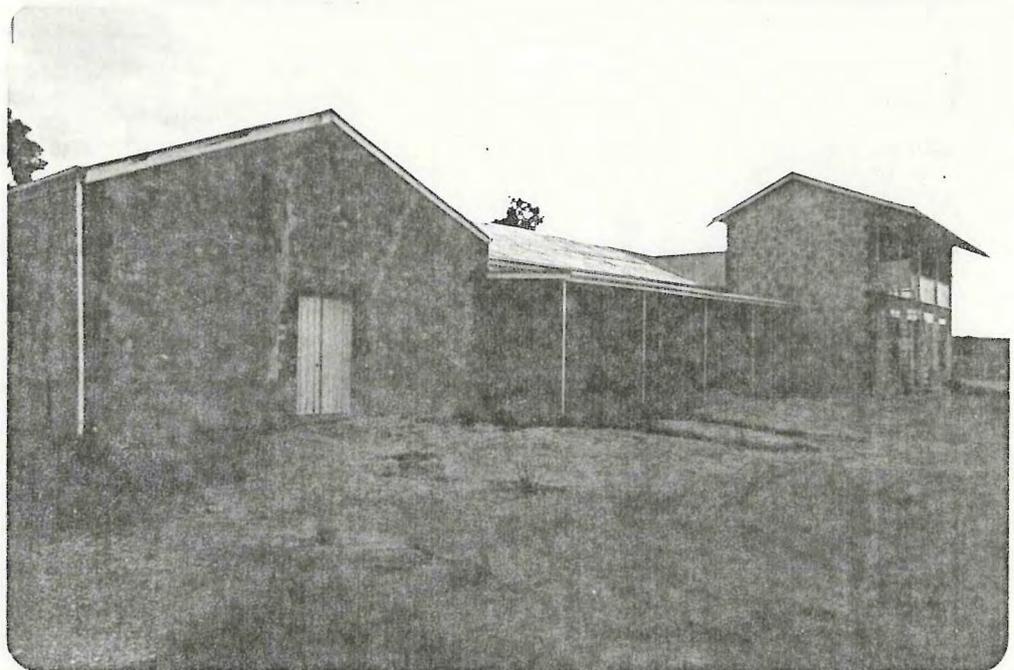
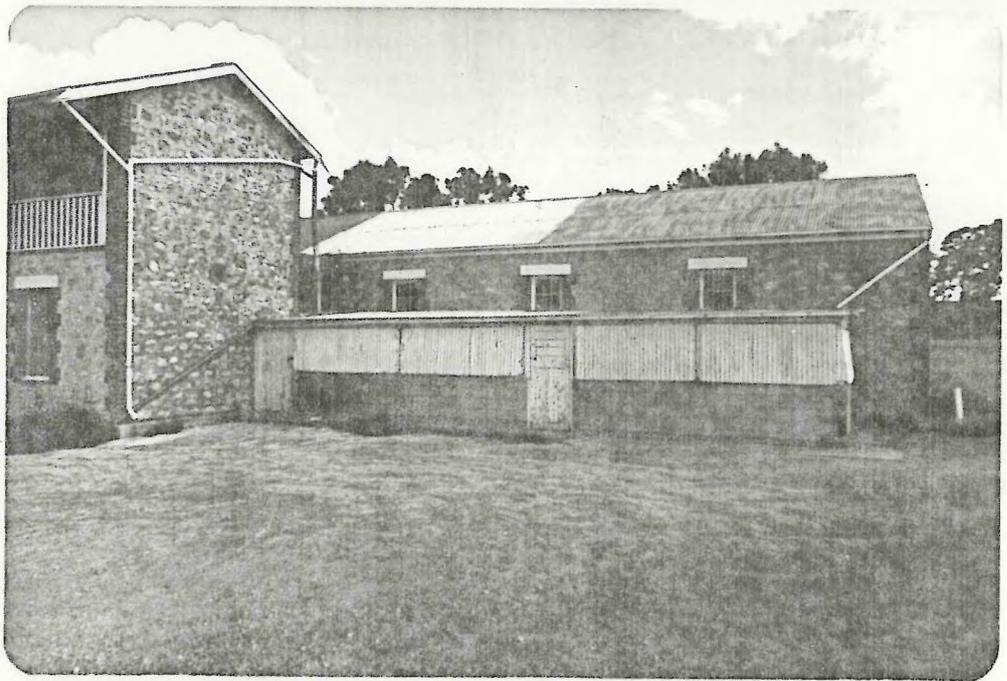
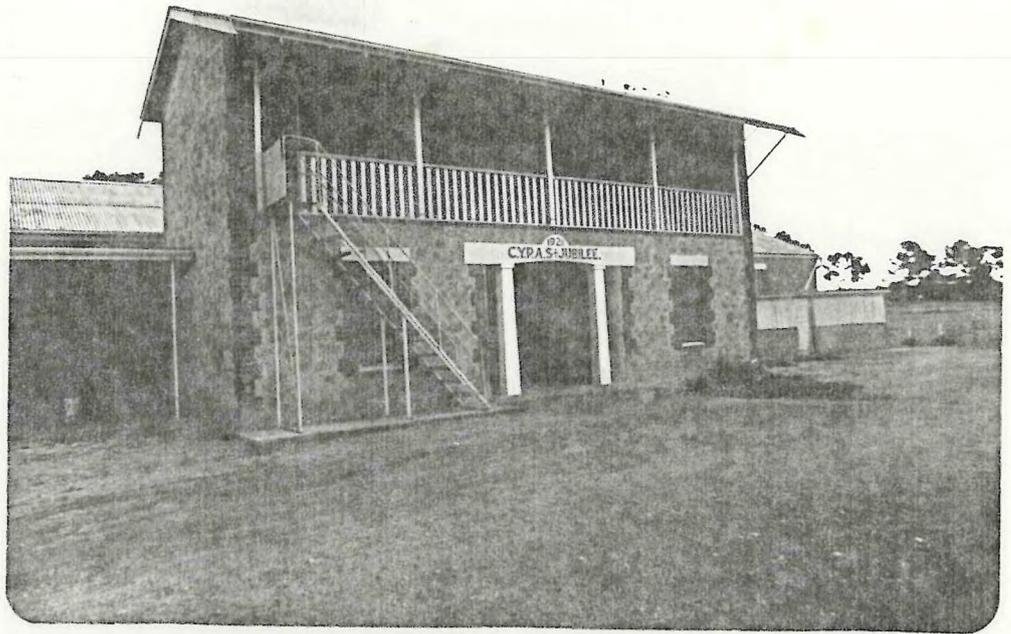
At a State and regional level, the showground building is of historical interest because it represents tangible evidence of the process of closer settlement and provided an important information link for farmers in the region. On comparison with other buildings of similar function in country towns, the Minlaton show building appears unusual in that it combines grandstand and show building in the one complex.

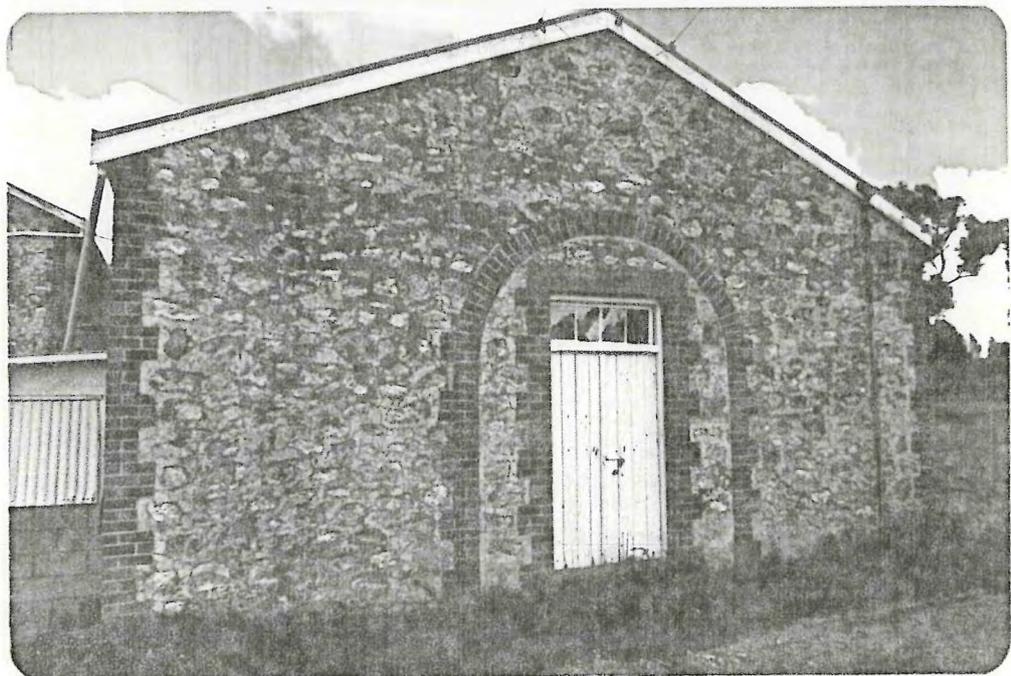
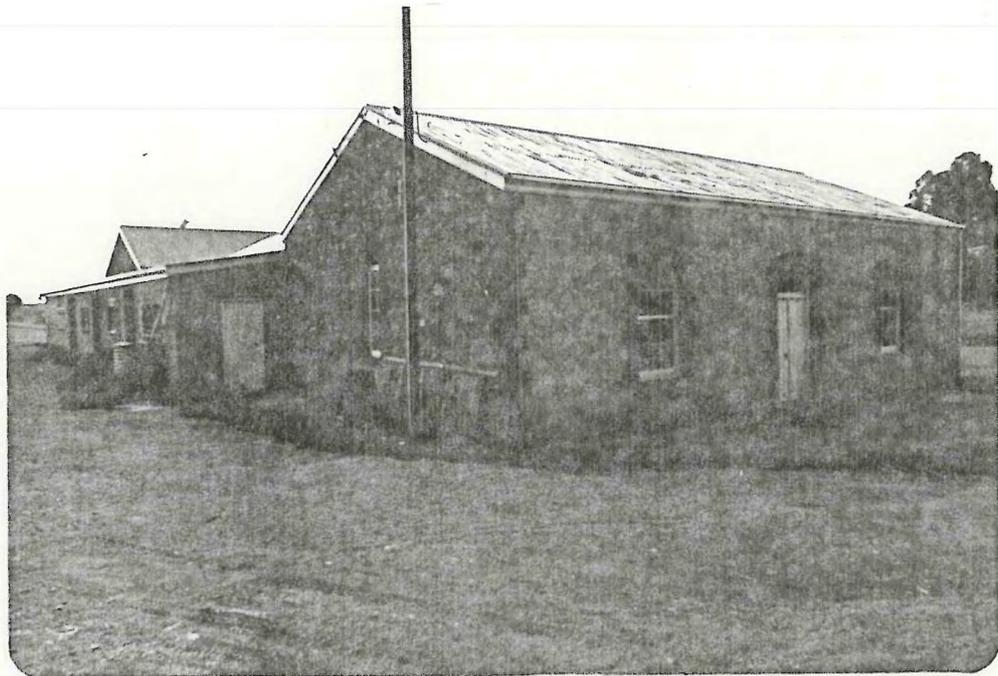
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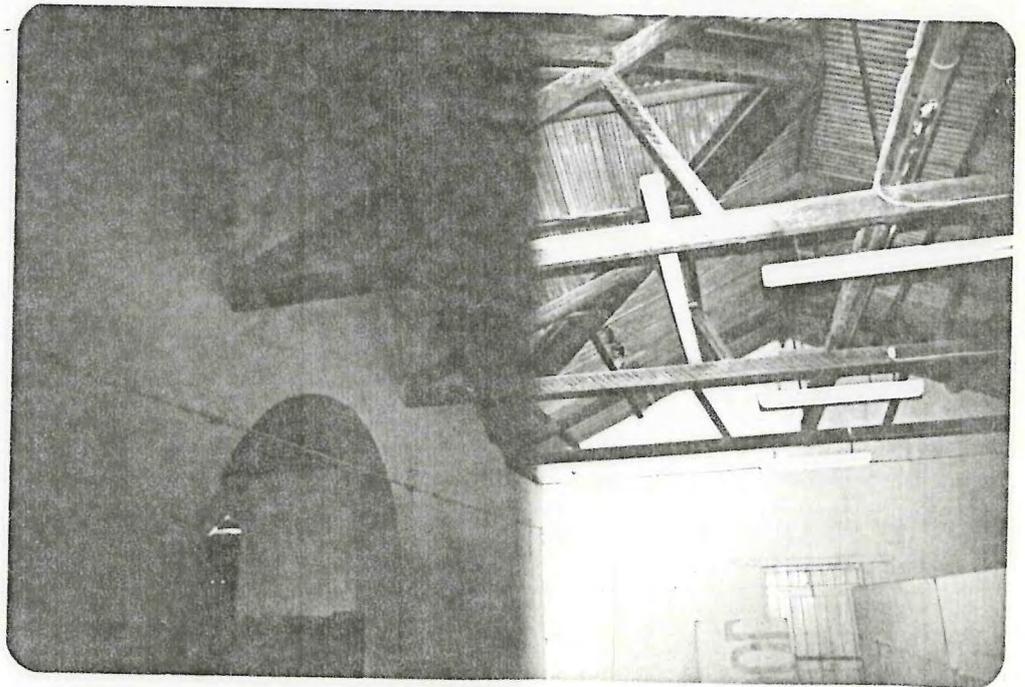
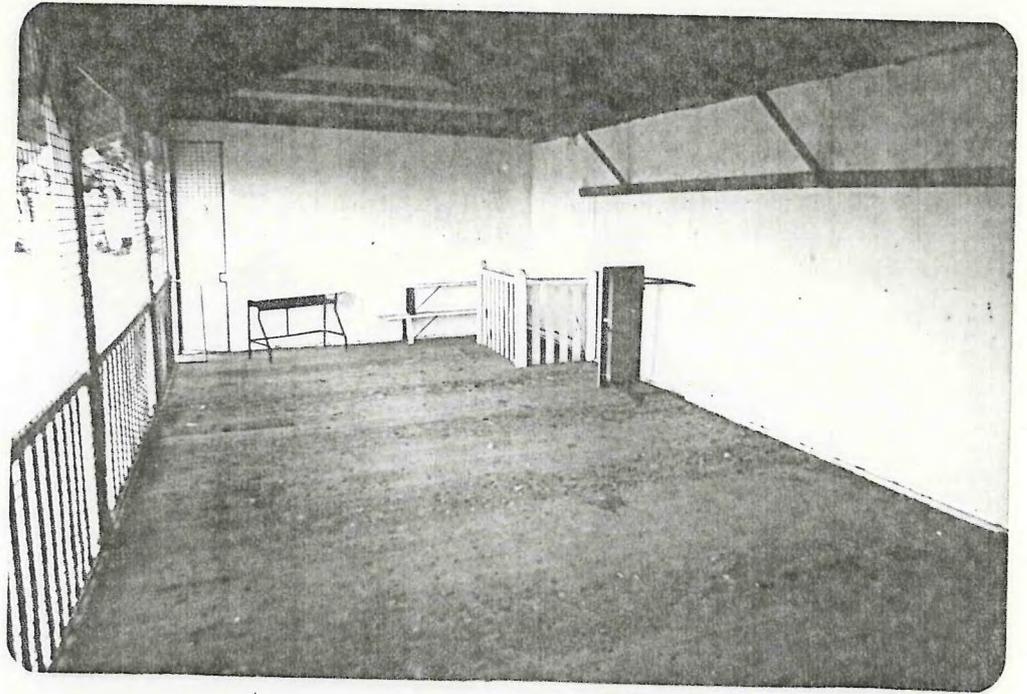
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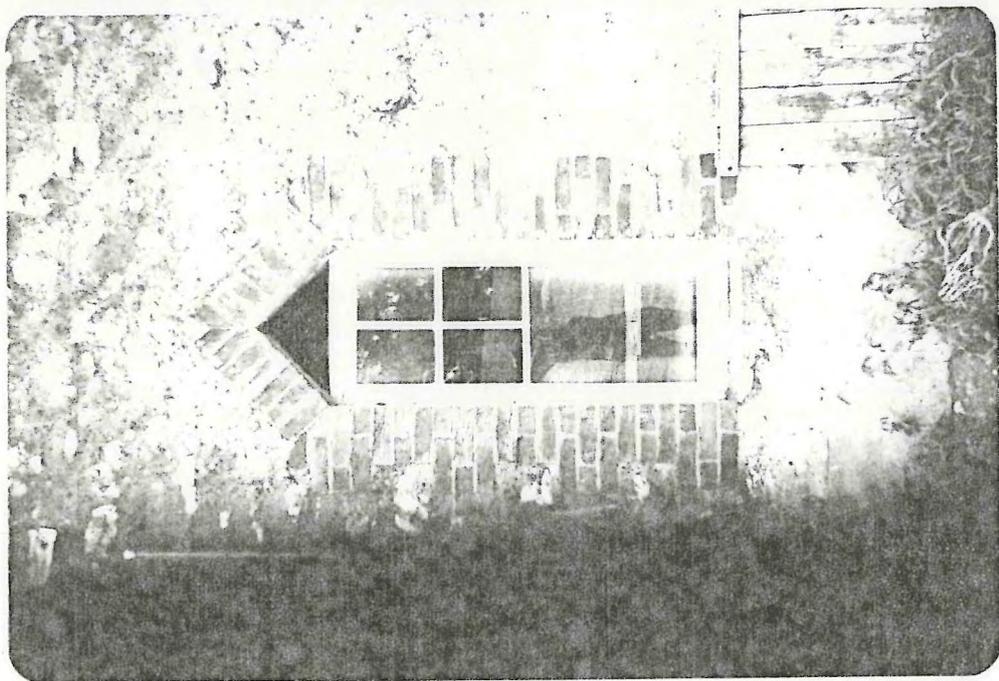
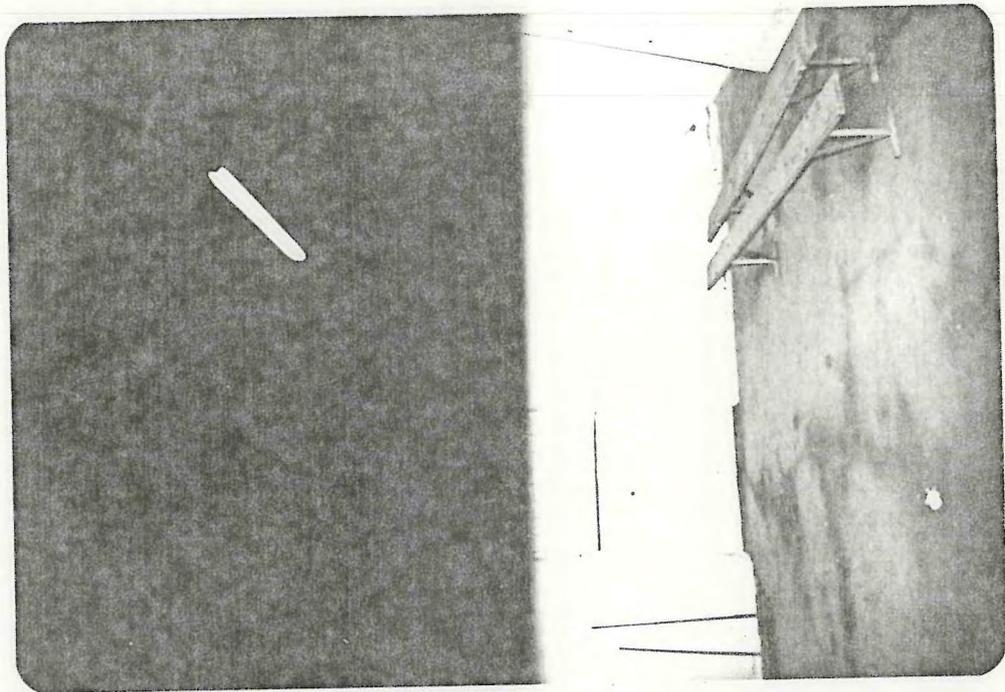
MINIATON SHOWGROUND PAVILION COMPLEX











SHOW GROUNDS AND PAVILION  
WEST TERRACE  
MINLATON

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the show ground complex is significant because of its representation of Yorke Peninsula's farming community, and the importance of show meetings in publicising new improvements in farming techniques prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1902.

Architecturally, the complex is a rare example revealing a combination of building types associated with ovals; a grandstand integrated with show pavilions. Both types of structures are commonly found within major agricultural centres and the buildings are typical examples.

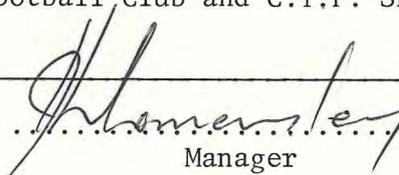
Environmentally, the complex is important. It is set within a belt of parklands surrounding the town centre with other buildings of a similar age and construction and the site is surrounded in part by a stone wall.

The Integrity of the structures appears to be relatively high. A complex of club rooms has been constructed recently directly opposite the grandstand and show pavilions.

NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared in response to nomination of the complex of buildings by the Minlaton District Council on 24.8.81. The buildings are owned by the Council and used by the Minlaton Football Club and C.Y.P. Show Society. The complex is not under any threat.

STATE HERITAGE BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

  
.....  
Manager

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A3, 3.1, H3.

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6428-10786
	Item SHOW GROUND AND PAVILION MINLATON.	Status -
Age c.1882 Addn. 1909, 1928	Subject Original and Present Use: 0407 Exhibition Building	Style -

		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
History	Context Associated with the process of closer settlement on Yorke Peninsula, following the liberalization of tenure and opening up of pastoral lands for farming purposes in the 1860's, and the importance of agricultural shows as a means to promote improved techniques of farming.		X			
	Person/Group Central Yorke Peninsula Show Society.		X			
	Event 1876 Mr. Richard Bowyer Smith invented the Stump Jump Plough. 1867-1875 74,285 acres taken up for agriculture in State. 1876-1881 601,491 acres scrub land taken up in State.					X
	Architect/Builder Not readily available.					X
Architecture	Design Complex of one storey show ground pavilions and exhibition buildings with two storey grandstand and changing facilities incorporated.		X			
	Construction Random rubble limestone with brick quoins and surrounds to windows and doors. Gable ended roof clad with iron. Double hung multi-paned windows. Timber balustrade and decorated posts to grandstand.			X		
	Interior Not inspected.					X
	Representation A rare combination of building types generally found individually in major agricultural centres - integration of facilities for shows and use of oval for sporting events.		X			
	Continuity Starkly placed on land bordering oval with other buildings on the site including recently built grandstand and similar aged stone buildings bordered by stone wall.			X		
	Local Character Contributes to town character, joining with significant number of buildings in Minlaton of a similar age.			X		
	Landmark Oval set on belt of parklands surrounding town centre. No major landmark significance, yet a familiar structure.			X		
Integrity	Alterations Addition of concrete block section at rear and corrugated galvanised iron lean-to to facade. Otherwise, significantly unaltered.			X		
	Condition The item is basically sound.			X		
	Compatibility Present function incorporates original one.	X				

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### Supplementary Information

Adaptation: The character of the buildings should be maintained. Original function and position of complex within the town allows for a wide variety of uses to be accommodated. Removal of concrete block addition at rear to be encouraged.

Interpretation: The site has passive interpretation potential, e.g. could be used as display area with the theme of agriculture and agricultural developments within the area. The oval is currently regularly used, easily accessible from the town centre and close to area school.

### History and Sources

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The first society formed in South Australia, the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia, was formed in 1845 with John Morphett, M.L.C. as Chairman. Acting as a forum on a variety of farming matters, the Society's real effectiveness lay in the organization of Shows where produce and new machinery could be inspected or exhibited by participants. Membership rights included a season's ticket to all the shows held by the Society and six admission cards for family and friends for any show held during the same period (R.A. & H. Soc. of S.A.; Procs. March, 1881). Prizes were offered for inventions that would improve farming techniques at the shows, and notably the first prize at the first show in Adelaide was won by John Ridley, the inventor of the 'Stripper' for harvesting wheat crops.

Local show societies formed as agricultural settlement spread, acting as rural counterparts to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society and other similar societies based in Adelaide. The importance of these annual shows, as a means of disseminating new ideas in techniques and machinery should not be underestimated. They were held frequently at various towns throughout the State. For example, in September 1879 the Garden and Field listed nine shows between 18 September and 10 November held in Adelaide, Burra, Green's Plains East, Kadina and Moonta. In October, 1881, the writer for 'Garden and Field' commented that shows

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### History and Sources

'break out in a kind of rash all over the face of the country, and machine makers who wish to make a trade must feel worse than the ass between the panniers when they find four or five Shows being held on the same day at as many different places from five to a hundred miles apart'.

(Agricultural bureaus, advisory in nature, supplemented the events of Show Societies by regular meetings of members throughout the State until the Department of Agriculture was formed in 1902).

Minlaton provided a convenient centre for surrounding farms on Yorke Peninsula. Closer settlement during the 1860's and 1870's in the wake of the pastoralist was rapid. According to one writer:-

'Four or five years ago the whole of the Peninsula on this side of Gulf St. Vincent, from Parara, Clinton, Ardrossan - in fact, from Port Wakefield to Troubridge Head was nothing but mallee scrub, black grass, and porcupine flats. We had the misery of riding in a spring cart from Port Wakefield to Gum Flat, over limestone boulders and mallee stumps, through thick scrub for the greater part of the way, and were duly impressed - on the most tender parts of our anatomy - with the wildness of the country. At Curramulka we came upon the best land on the whole road, and this we were told was a sheep run - though for every sheep we came across we met a hundred kangaroos, which were so quiet that it was possible to pelt them with stones. But today, if we wanted kangaroos we should have to hunt for them, and the scrub and black grass and porcupine are not to be seen except here and there'.

(Garden and Field, September, 1879, p.54)

At a State and Regional level, the show ground building is of historical interest because it represents tangible evidence of the process of closer settlement and provided an important information link for farmers in the region. On comparison with other buildings of similar function in country towns, the Minlaton show building appears unusual in that it combines grandstand and show building in the one complex.

### Sources:

H.T. Burgess : Cyclopaedia of S.A., Vol. 1, 352  
'Garden and Field'      May 12, 1859  
                                 July 14, 1859  
                                 September, 1879  
                                 October, 1881  
                                 November, 1881  
                                 February, 1882  
                                 March 8, 1860

Contd.

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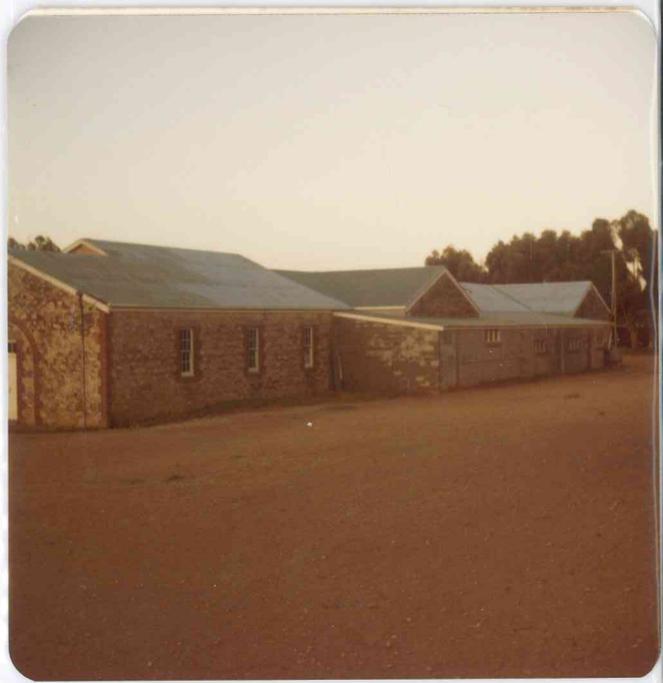
### History and Sources

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 A. Jones : Curramulka 1876-1975, Adel., 1975  
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 Rhoda Heinrich : History of Maitland and Kilkerran, Adel., 1972





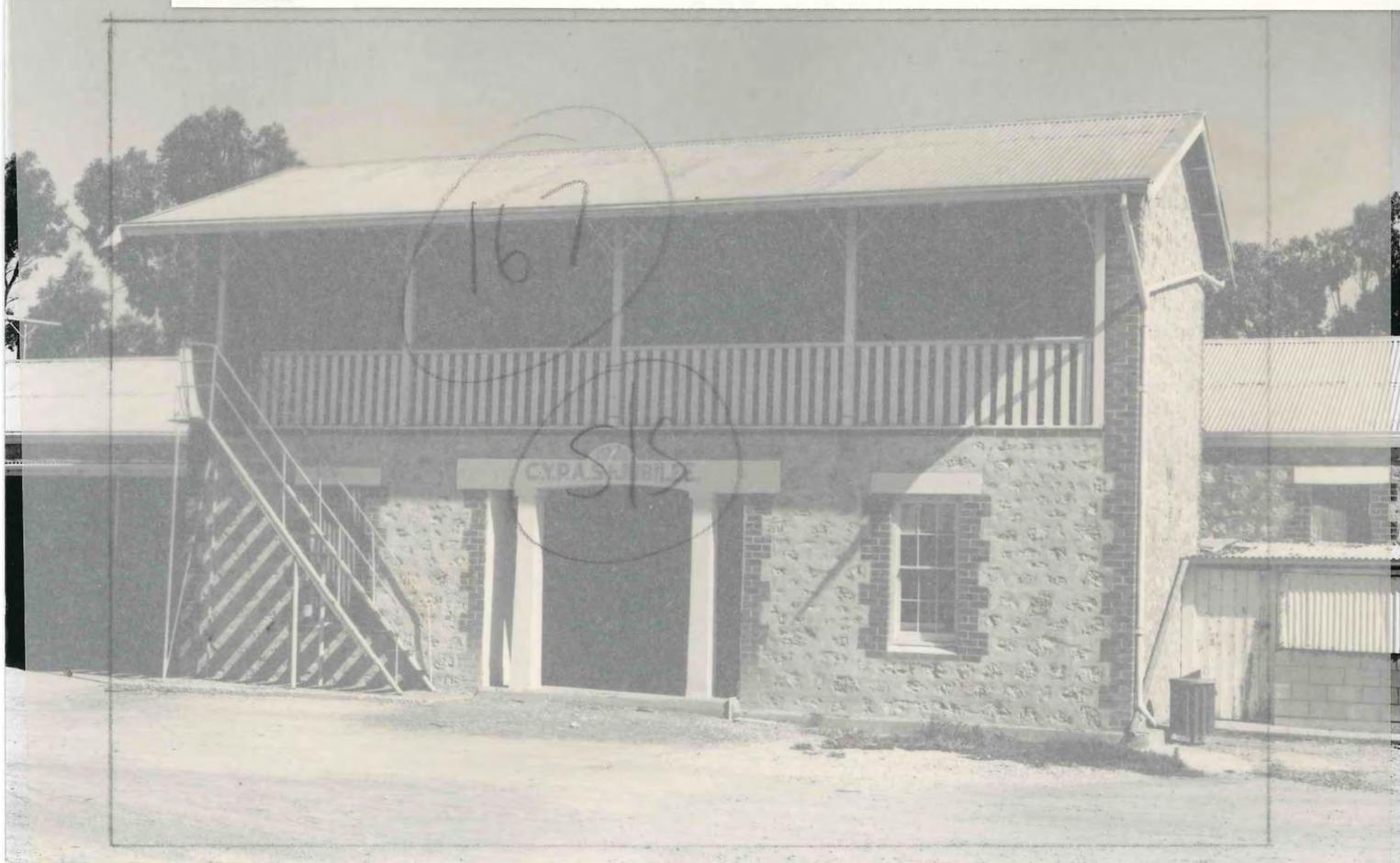


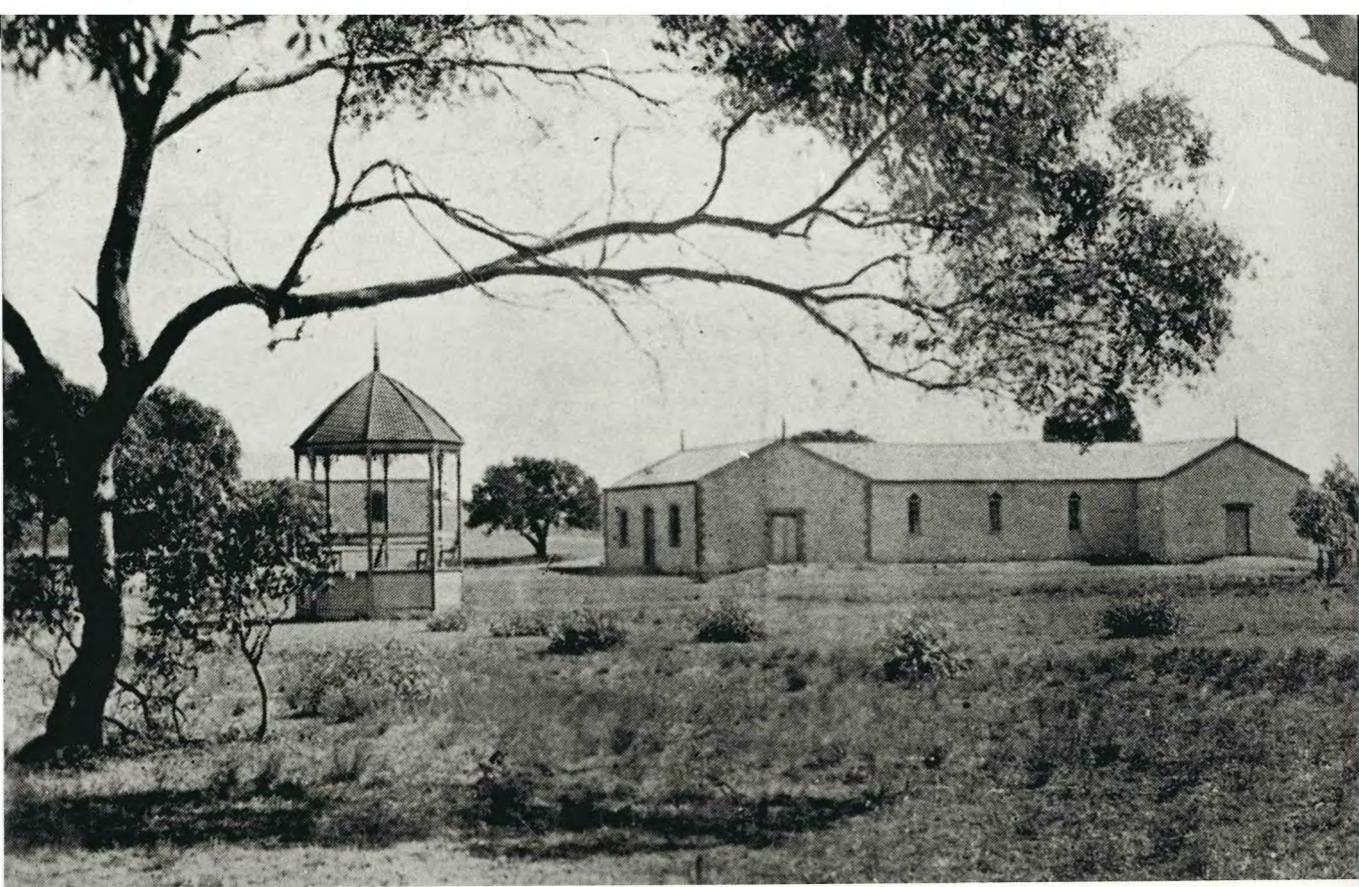




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No 1122

10186 - SHOW BUILDINGS, MINLATON -





MINLATON SHOWGROUND BUILDINGS, EARLY 1900'S



MINLATON SHOW, CIRCA 1908