

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14(6) and s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Minlaton Showground Complex (including Pavilion and Grandstand, Walls and Pedestrian Gate, Ticket Office and Outbuildings) **PLACE NO.:** 10186

KNOWN AS: Minlaton Showground Complex

ADDRESS: Narungga Country
West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575
Section 279 Hundred of Minlacowie
CT 5727/38 H131000

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

20 November 1986

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1882, the Minlaton Showground Complex is associated with the agricultural expansion of South Australia through the process of closer settlement that occurred after the passage of the *Strangways Act 1869*. With expansion came the emergence of agricultural and horticultural societies which played a vital role in disseminating new ideas, farming techniques and machinery to the agricultural areas of South Australia through annual shows prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1902.

Constructed by the Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural Society (CYPAS), the Minlaton Showground Complex is an outstanding example of its class, with several early show buildings and structures surviving at the site, including the main Pavilion

and Grandstand, an Outbuilding, a Ticket Office, and a Stone Wall, all constructed out of locally quarried limestone, and a Livestock Shelter. The Pavilion with its incorporated Grandstand is the only example left of its kind in South Australia. The Minlaton Showground Complex assisted in the successful operation of the show and its society, and as a consequence, demonstrates important aspects of the agricultural development of South Australia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

RELEVANT/INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

The Minlaton Showground Complex is associated with the establishment of the agricultural and horticultural societies that emerged throughout the State in the wake of agricultural expansion facilitated by closer settlement after the passage of the *Strangways Act 1869*. CYPAS was founded in 1878, prior to local government, and illustrates the importance to and early efforts of the farmers who moved to the Yorke Peninsula to establish an organised network to improve the quality of agricultural and horticultural production. CYPAS achieved this by disseminating information and demonstrating new machinery and equipment at meetings, events, and importantly the annual show.

CYPAS established the Showground at the north-western edge of the Minlaton township from 1882. Over the next fifty years, the Society built a number of structures to support the exhibition of livestock and machinery as well as produce, flowers and other displays. The Minlaton Showground Pavilion and complex of buildings stands as a testament to the importance of agricultural and horticultural societies in South Australia and the role annual shows had in improving agricultural production.

As the township of Minlaton grew in the twentieth century, the Minlaton Showground with its complex of buildings including the Pavilion, Grandstand, outbuildings, and grounds became the home to a number of different community organisations such as sporting clubs, Scouts and Girl Guides, and has also been used by the adjacent school. The additions to the Pavilion building, including interior updates such as change room facilities, demonstrate the rapid development of Minlaton from a small town into a regional centre.

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance

The tradition of the annual show is still practiced by fifty agricultural societies across regional South Australia, and as such, showgrounds cannot be considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered. However, surviving examples of original show buildings erected by newly formed agricultural societies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are scarce. Only seven showgrounds in regional South Australia still retain their first show buildings:

- Exhibition Building, Parklands at Gawler built in 1882 (LHP 15978)
- Showgrounds, Hall & Gates at Strathalbyn in 1909 (LHP 14730)
- Agricultural Show Hall at Angaston built in 1895 (LHP 16874)
- Show Hall & Community Centre at Willunga built in 1890 (LHP 5493)
- Exhibition Building at Kadina built in 1883
- Former Showground Pavilion and Wall at Kapunda built in 1900 (SHP 14582)
- Pavilion Grandstand at Minlaton built between 1891-1928 (SHP 10186)

Of these seven, only one type of show building is represented: the show hall or exhibition building. The Minlaton Showground Complex is rare in that, in addition to its grandstand and pavilion, it is the only regional showground that also has early examples of a ticket office, outbuilding and livestock shelter.

Two other examples of showground pavilions with incorporated grandstands are known to have existed in South Australia. The first was the locally listed Exhibition Building in Gawler, which had a grandstand erected on the roof of the building in the 1890s; and the second was the Former Showground Pavilion in Kapunda. The grandstand section of both these buildings has since been removed, making the Minlaton Showground Pavilion and Grandstand the only surviving example of this building type left in South Australia.

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of place of cultural significance

The Minlaton Showground Complex is an outstanding representative of the class of place agricultural and horticultural showground. Showgrounds were built specifically for the exhibition and judging of agricultural and horticultural products at agricultural and/or horticultural shows. The site contains a faithful collection of buildings associated with early agricultural shows in regional South Australia and is consequently considered to be an exceptional example of the class retaining a high degree of intactness that enables the class to be readily understood. Elements of the class demonstrated at Minlaton Showground include the original limestone Pavilion built 1891-1903 for the use of society meetings, exhibitions and judging; its Grandstand extension built 1928; the boundary wall enclosing the grounds; the Ticket Office with

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10186 3 of 22
Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 20 November 1986
The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed the content of this BHI - SSHP on 17 August 2023

ticket windows facing onto West Terrace; and, the Livestock Shelter for housing livestock during the annual agricultural show. Despite additions and interior alterations, the showground retains a high level of integrity, demonstrating how these agricultural societies and shows operated and developed in their formative years.

SITE PLAN

Minlaton Showground Complex
West Terrace, Minlaton 5575




PLACE NO.: 10186



Minlaton Showground Complex, West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575 (CT 5727/38 H131000 S279, Hundred of Minlacowie)

N ↑

LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Existing State Heritage Place(s)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Minlaton Showground Complex is composed of a number of built structures, namely: showground pavilion and grandstand; stone wall and gates; ticket office; outbuilding; and livestock shelter.

1. Showground Pavilion and Grandstand

The Minlaton showground Pavilion and Grandstand appears to have been constructed in four stages (all dates approximate):

1. Original pavilion (built 1891-1903)
2. Grandstand extension (built 1928)
3. North-west wing hall extension (built 1928)
4. Rear change room extension (built post Second-World War)

The Showground Pavilion and Grandstand is comprised of a gabled-roofed pavilion with transverse wings to eastern and western ends, with an early twentieth century two-storey gable-roofed grandstand addition to the north, an extension to the pavilion to the west and change room additions to south. The pavilion, pavilion extension, wing walls and grandstand are constructed from limestone and feature red-brick quoins and matching brickwork detailing around the windows and doors. The roofs feature galvanised corrugated-iron roof cladding.

The Grandstand is a two-storey structure, featuring an open, first-storey creating a balcony-effect. The grandstand features green-painted timber posts to balcony front, with cream-painted vertical timber slat railing. The main central opening features a cream-painted concrete lintel and square-posts to create an arch effect. 1928, C.Y.P.A.S JUBILEE is applied in relief to the front of the lintel and is painted red/brown with a relief gold-painted, four-pointed star featuring between CYPAS and JUBILEE. There is a red-brick string course between the ground and first stories.

Cream-painted metal posts support corrugated-iron, flat-roofed verandas to the pavilion either side of the grandstand. The change room to the south of the building is constructed from concrete blocks and features a corrugated-iron skillion roof. The building is also known as the Jubilee Pavilion.

2. Stone Walls and Gates

A limestone wall constructed between 1902 and 1928 bounds the showground site along its western (West Terrace) and southern sides. Originally intended to be six-foot high, the wall is now lower and has concrete coping. The wall to West Terrace measures approximately 220 metres in length, and curves at the main entryway into the site. White painted, tubular steel swing gates are attached to pillars at either side of the entry. Steel writing attached to top of the left entry gate reads: "W.R. MARTIN

GATES". A pedestrian entrance gate is located slightly further south, on the other side of the ticket office and is an ornate white painted wrought-iron gate attached to a wooden post.

3. Ticket Office

Built in 1907, the Ticket Office is a small rectangular, corrugated-iron clad, gable-roofed, limestone building with red-brick quoins and red-brick detailing to window and door surrounds. Two small 'ticket' windows face West Terrace and feature two metal bars across the opening. Both windows do not have glass panelling. The windows on the opposite side of the building have been filled in with cement.

4. Outbuilding

The Outbuilding, erected 1902-1903, is a long rectangular, corrugated-iron clad, gable-roofed, limestone building with red-brick quoins and red-brick detailing to window and door surrounds. Three arched windows face north, and an arched double door faces north-west. Positioned above the entry door is a small arched window. The building is also known as the Agriculture Pavilion.

5. Livestock Shelter

The Livestock Shelter constructed circa 1912 is a metal framed, corrugated-iron clad, gable roofed structure with six skylights and a narrow veranda along the length of its northern and southern facades. The walls are made from metal mesh, with individual metal stalls inside. The shelter is enclosed at each end by corrugated-iron sheeting.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Showground Pavilion and Grandstand (now Jubilee Pavilion)
- Stone Walls and Pedestrian Gate
- Ticket Office
- Outbuilding (now Agriculture Pavilion)
- Livestock Shelter

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Northern Grandstand and Club Rooms built after 1981
- Outbuilding in far southeast corner of the site

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

The Wheat Frontier and Government Towns

From 1850 to 1890 South Australia dominated the Australian wheat industry, initiated by local and farmer-led innovations in machinery and land management such as the Ridley Stripper and R.B. Smith's stump-jump plough, land act revisions, the formation of agricultural societies, and the development of government townships and railways.¹

In January 1869, the South Australian Parliament passed the *Waste Land Amendment Act*, also known as the *Strangways Act*. The *Strangways Act* allowed individuals to purchase land on credit in localities considered suitable for cultivation, provided that the owner occupied and developed their holdings.² The Act encouraged agricultural expansion by breaking up large pastoral leases in support of smaller holdings settled closely so that people could come together to support markets, schools, churches and other critical amenities.

The South Australian government's policy of closer settlement was well suited to the Mid North and Yorke Peninsula, as the close proximity to the coast made shipping of grain cheaper than anywhere else in Australia. Despite the gamble with fertility of soil, the variability of rainfall, the hot winds, wheat rust, and the distance, hundreds of pioneers moved to the Yorke Peninsula in search of new opportunities.³

Surveyor-General G.W. Goyder had a strong concern for the social as well as the economic wellbeing of farming settlers and he considered the provision of towns to be an essential part of the survey process. As early as 1855, Goyder suggested that the land should be surveyed into areas encompassing approximately 100 square miles, a division of land known as the hundred, with a town to be provided within every hundred. The survey process based on the hundred enabled the planning of an adequate system of roads and siting of urban centres in which educational, social, and religious facilities could be provided for frontier families.⁴ He also issued instructions for the design of the ideal country town based on the Adelaide Plan, which was reproduced across the countryside and included a town core surrounded by parkland, and then suburban lots.⁵ Minlaton is one of hundreds of country towns laid out following the parkland town model.

Minlaton

The Hundred of Minlacowie, within which the town of Minlaton is situated, was proclaimed on 26 March 1874. On 23 November that same year, Cadet Surveyor E.J. Elder reported to Surveyor-General Goyder that he had selected the 'best site and the nearest to good fresh water' and proposed a new town and suburban allotments at Gum Flat Station.⁶ With support from fellow surveyor J.W. Jones, Elder's site and

general plan were approved, with Giles E. Strangways making the final survey. The new town was dedicated on 15 January 1876, with the first town allotments sold at a government land sale on 24 August.⁷ The settlers were impatient for the town to be developed, erecting shops and or workshops on land purchased adjacent to the township as early as June.⁸ The township was renamed Minlaton in June 1876. The word Minlaton is derived from the Narungga word Minlacowie meaning 'sweet water', in reference to the freshwater wells near Gum Flat homestead and the old English 'ton' meaning town.⁹

The Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural Society

On the evening of Monday 17 June 1878, the citizens of Minlaton gathered to discuss the formation of a District Council.¹⁰ For the occasion, a dignitary had travelled from Adelaide to assist and advise the proceedings. However, his trip proved fruitless, as within five minutes the citizens disposed of the idea in favour of forming something far more important: a local agricultural society.¹¹ The Society was named the Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural and Horticultural Society (CYPAS), and Thomas Rickaby, J.P. was elected President. The first agenda item was the planning of the First Annual Minlaton Show.

The Show

The inaugural Minlaton Show was held on 4 September 1878, just twelve weeks after the CYPAS was formed, on the corner of Main and Fourth Street, where the Savings Bank of South Australia and Police Station now stand. A reporter for the *South Australian Chronicle* commented on the proceedings:

Eighteen months ago, where that township now lies, nothing was to be seen but scrub, and not even a hovel was built in the place that can now muster over a thousand persons at its Agricultural Show. Although Minlaton, as might be expected from the short term of its existence, is but a small scattered township, yet it is the centre of a large agricultural district.¹²

In spite of the obstacles to travel posed by the landscape, the Show welcomed visitors from as far as Ramsay, Minlacowie, Stansbury, Yorketown, and Adelaide. In addition to a ploughing match and livestock competitions, there was a display of farm and dairy produce, as well as a show of implements such as reaping, winnowing and mowing machines.

The Minlaton Show was one of many annual agricultural and horticultural shows held across South Australia providing local communities with a place to gather and discuss farming innovations, problems and exhibit livestock and crops as well as an opportunity to socialise. The formation of new agricultural and horticultural societies followed the expansion of agricultural settlement across the State and in the tradition

established by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RAHS) of South Australia in Adelaide. *Garden and Field* listed nine shows held between September and November 1879 in Adelaide, Burra, Maitland, Kadina, and Moonta.¹³ The CYPAS has held an annual show continuously for 145 years, except for the First World War between 1915-1917; the Second World War during 1940; and the COVID-19 pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021.

The Showground Complex

In August 1882, the Commissioner of Crown Lands designated a parcel of land in the township's parklands to be placed under the control of the officers of CYPAS for show purposes.¹⁴ Following the acquisition of the parklands, the show committee commenced building, with the £250 required for materials funded by 'several gentlemen connected with the society.' The labour was carried out by members of the committee and other interested parties:

Nearly all the members of the committee then set to work with a will, and the whole of the extensive area having first been cleared of scrub and undergrowth, was fenced in with jarrah posts and deal rails, as a framework for the galvanised iron, six feet in height, which enclosed the ground. In addition to this a pavilion for the smaller exhibits as well as cattleyards were erected, everything being finished by the following Saturday; and now it may justly claim to be the best showground in the colony.¹⁵

In 1891, the *Yorke Peninsula Advertiser* reported that a 'stone booth' was erected on the showgrounds, 50 x 25 x 12 feet, with an iron roof and windows, noting that it was a great improvement on the structure of other years, which was 'simply a makeshift of tarpaulins, etc.' The new booth cost £100 to complete and is believed to be the beginnings of the Pavilion building.¹⁶ In March 1901, a tender from G. H. Williams for a building 45 x 25 x 12 feet was accepted by the committee.¹⁷

In November 1902, the CYPAS reported on the completion of £700 of improvements to the showgrounds, including a six-foot stone wall with iron gates, and a new pavilion for the band.¹⁸ The stone wall was built at the suggestion of CYPAS Secretary, Mr. Teichelmann, and constructed by Messrs. D.H. Garrick and Jos. Williams. The wall took several years to complete, as the Show was 'too big to be confined' meaning the wall was pulled down and rebuilt as necessary to encompass the continually expanding boundary.¹⁹ In October 1903, the *Advertiser* reported on an 'important addition' to the large stone building for inside exhibits, and the erection of a new booth for luncheons. Each of the new structures measured 48 x 27 feet.²⁰ In 1907, a stone building was erected for use as a combined secretary and ticket office.²¹

In 1910, the *Advertiser* reported the 'addition of a substantial pavilion which the society promised to have erected before the next show,' however the idea was later shelved.²² In 1912, it was reported that a much larger structure would be erected near the main building for the band, and six stables would be constructed in the south-west corner of the showground.²³

It was not until 1928 that an additional 'showroom', 50 x 26 feet in size, was erected on the western end of the Pavilion, and a secretary's office and ladies cloak room erected on the northern side, over which extended a balcony, 38 x 15 feet.²⁴ The Grandstand, or Jubilee Pavilion, was constructed by Messrs G. Hepenstall, Jnr. And T. Herring, and was opened by Hon. R. W. Foster, M.H.R., on 24 October 1928.²⁵

Other additions were made throughout the twentieth century as the number of community groups the Showground served expanded. In 1909, the Football Club began to use the premises and permissions were granted to the Rifle and Cricket Clubs to use the Showgrounds. In 1913, golf players were allowed to use the grounds as part of their links, and in 1922 the Cycle Club hired the grounds for their sports day. In 1925, the Croquet Club formed a court in the grounds, as did the Tennis Club in 1930, and in 1938, the Young Men's Gymnasium Club hired the luncheon room for gym practice.²⁶ Beyond sport, the Pavilion has also been used as a toy workshop and a classroom for high school woodwork classes, and during the 1940s the ticket office was used by the Scouts as a meeting place.²⁷

Twenty-First Century Conservation Work

During the twenty-first century, several restoration projects have been undertaken at the Minlaton Showground Complex, including to the stone walls, using funding and donated labour from the local community.²⁸ In around 2002 a sub-surface soakage drain was installed by the Council to reduce moisture in the Pavilion walls. Between 2003 and 2005 the State Heritage Grant co-funded the installation of a damp-proof course (DPC) to salt affected areas of the internal archway walls and external walls on the south-west side of the Pavilion. Re-pointing of stone and re-rendering was also carried out during this time. In 2007 and 2008, the external concrete rich render was removed, as well as the concrete base and water tank in the north-western alcove. This was followed by further undersetting, DPC installation and re-pointing of stonework in the main entry alcove in 2009. In 2015 the Society, now named the Southern Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Show Society Incorporated, replaced the roof and downpipes on the Grandstand portion of the Pavilion.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event
1844	The first meeting of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia (R.A.H.S.) held on 24 April, chaired by John Morphett, MLC. The Society was a merger between the Agricultural Society formed in 1839, and the Horticultural Society formed in 1842.
1869	Waste Land Amendment Act, also known as the Strangways Act, assented to by Parliament in January.
1874	Hundred of Minlacowie proclaimed on 26 March.
1876	Minlaton, in the Hundred of Minlacowie, dedicated on 15 January, with the survey of the township completed in March by Giles E. Strangways. Township named Minlaton on 15 June and first township allotments sold at a Government land sale on 24 August.
1878	Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural and Horticultural Society (CYPAS) formed. The Society is also referred to in newspapers as both the Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society, and the Central Yorke's Peninsula Agricultural Society.
1878	Inaugural Minlaton Show held on 4 September.
1882	Road between Yorketown and Minlaton completed.
1882	Establishment of the Showground and oval on Section 279 provided for by the Commissioner of Crown Lands on 18 August.
1891 - 1901	Single-storey Show Building (Exhibition Building now Pavilion) built.
1898	Pavilion grounds doubled in size.
1901	Tender of G.H. Williams for additions to the main building accepted in March.
1901	In June a small fire breaks out in the Exhibition Building, with some damage to the verandah and chicken coops.
1902	Tender sought in March for a stone wall to be built out of locally quarried stone. Garrick & Williams were awarded the contract at three shillings per yard.
1902 - 1903	Outbuilding (Agricultural Building) and addition to Pavilion built.
1907	Ticket Office built.
1908	Construction of stone wall completed by Messrs. Garrick and Williams.
1909	3½ acres of land added to grounds.

- 1924 Opening of Minlaton Croquet Club at Showgrounds on 13 November.
- 1925 New sheep pens added to Showgrounds.
- 1928 Grandstand extension and northern wing of Pavilion built by Messrs G. Hepenstall, Jr., and T. Herring. The works include the addition of a monument commemorating 50 years of the CYPAS.**
- 1937 Title of Land granted to the District Council of Minlaton by the Lieutenant Governor for show and recreation purposes (CT 1691/161).
- 1960 - William Roy Martin served as President of the Society.
- 1961
- 1975 Martin becomes a life member of the CYP Show Society.
- 1978 The balcony of the Grandstand is renovated, and a steel staircase built.**
- 1996 Society changes name to Southern Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Society Incorporated (SYPASI)
- 2002 Sub-surface soakage drain installed by Council to reduce moisture in the Pavilion Walls.
- 2003 - Salt affected areas of Pavilion walls partially repaired (DA
2005 544/1047/2004).
- 2007 - External concrete rich render removed from Pavilion, and concrete base
2008 and water tank in north-west alcove removed.
- 2009 Undersetting, damp-proof course installed, and re-pointing of stonework in main entry alcove of Grandstand (DA 554/1214/2009).
- 2015 The Grandstand section of the Pavilion is re-roofed (DA 544/1162/15).
- 2022 The walls on the western side of the Pavilion are repaired and the door replaced.
- 2023 Minor repairs to the stonework of the Outbuilding including a new door.
- Present The Minlaton Showground Complex continues to be used by the SYPASI for the annual agricultural show every October. The Pavilion and outbuildings are used by sport and recreational clubs.

REFERENCES

Books and Book Chapters

Central Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Society, *Show Book 1928*, 1928.

Cook, Diana. *The Striding Years: a history of the Minlaton District Council area*. Port Pirie: Automatic Printing, 1975.

Corbett, David. *Yorke Peninsula: A Natural History*. Adelaide: Department of Adult Education, The University of Adelaide, 1973. Marsden, Susan. 'The role of government in the formation of country towns in South Australia.' In *Terowie Workshop: Exploring the History of South Australian Country Towns*, edited by A.F. Denholm, S. Marsden, and K. Rounds (Adelaide: University of Adelaide and History Trust of South Australia, 1991), 38-51.

Meinig, D.W. *On the Margins of the Good Earth: the South Australian Wheat Frontier, 1869-1884*. Adelaide: Rigby Limited, 1962.

Parsons, Allan. *Yorke Peninsula ... A Resident's Views*. Yorketown: Pioneer Printing Office, 1992.

Prest, Wilfred ed. *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*. South Australia: Wakefield Press, 2001.

Williams, Michael. *The Making of the South Australian Landscape: A Study in the Historical Geography of Australia*. London and New York: Academic Press, 1974.

Newspapers & Magazines

Advertiser, 'Minlaton Show,' 31 October, 1903, 8.

Advertiser, 'Minlaton Show,' 26 October, 1907, 14.

Advertiser 'Minlaton Show,' 1 November, 1910, 7.

Adelaide Observer, 'Country Letters,' 22 July, 1876.

Adelaide Observer, 'On Yorke's Peninsula. Port Vincent,' 8 November, 1902, 33.

Minlaton Traders Association Magazine, 1972.

South Australian Advertiser, 'Minlaton Show,' 1 November, 1910.

South Australian Chronicle, 'Minlaton Agricultural Show and Ploughing Match,' 7 September, 1878.

South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail 'Government Land for Sale,' 26 August, 1876.

South Australian Register, 'Meetings at Minlaton,' 22 June, 1878, 2.

South Australian Weekly Chronicle, 'The Minlaton Show,' 28 October, 1882.

Observer, 'Country Shows,' 12 October, 1912.

Pioneer, 'Minlaton,' 2 March, 1918, 3.

Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser, 'The Minlaton Show,' 30 October, 1891, 3.

Archival Collections

Department for Environment and Heritage Records, Adelaide.

National Library of Australia. 'South Australian Cadastral Town Maps.' Cartographic Collection.

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10186

14 of 22

Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 20 November 1986

The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed the content of this BHI - SSHP on 17 August 2023

State Library of South Australia. 'Minlaton Collection.' Pictorial Collection.

Reports

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. *Heritage of the Yorke Peninsula: District Council of Yorke Peninsula*, pt. 1, September, 1998.

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. *Heritage of the Yorke Peninsula: District Council of Yorke Peninsula*, pt. 2, September, 1998.

Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs. *Heritage of the Yorke Peninsula: General Report*, September, 1998.

State Planning Authority. *Yorke Peninsula Planning Area Development Plan*. South Australia: D.J. Woolman, Government Printer, 2 June, 1977.

Meeting Minutes and File Notes

Heritage Branch Meeting Minutes, 30 October, 2009, File Ref: 10186, Department for Environment and Heritage Records, Adelaide.

Elizabeth Little, File Note, 15 May, 2009, File Ref: 10186, Department for Environment and Heritage Records, Adelaide.

Websites

Southern Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Society Inc. 'History.' Accessed 26 April, 2023. <https://sypagsociety.org/about-us/history/>.

Bill Gammage. 'Closer Settlement.' SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/closer-settlement>, accessed 26 April 2023.

SITE DETAILS

Minlaton Showground Complex

PLACE NO.: 10186

Section 279, West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: Showground complex consisting of limestone pavilion and grandstand, ticket office, outbuilding, livestock shelter, and stone boundary wall.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: Showground Pavilion and Grandstand 1891 - 1928
Ticket Office 1907
Outbuilding 1902 - 1903
Boundary Wall 1902 – 1928
Livestock Shelter circa 1912

REGISTER STATUS: Nominated 23 April 1985
Confirmed 20 November 1986

CURRENT USE: Venue for the annual SYPASI show, as well as local sports clubs, recreational groups, and communities.
1882 - present

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Yorke Peninsula

LOCATION:

Street No.:	Section 279
Street Name:	West Terrace
Town/Suburb:	Minlaton
Post Code:	5575

LAND DESCRIPTION:

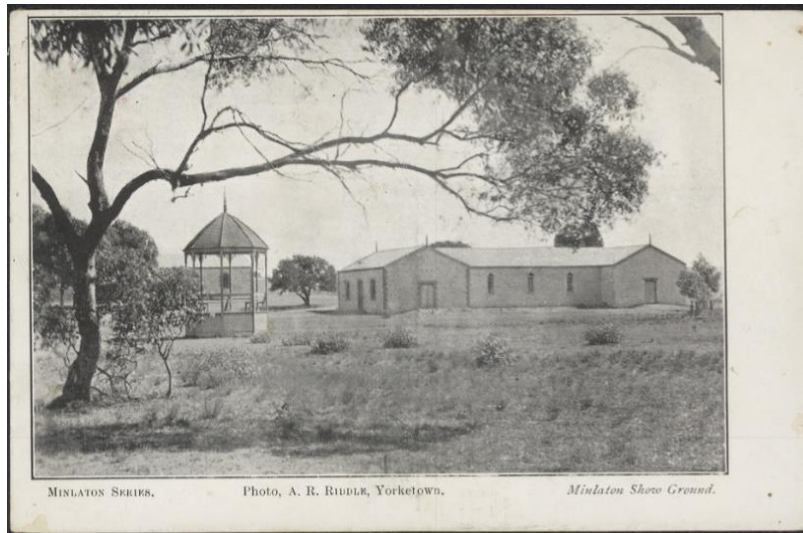
Title Reference:	CT 5727/38 H131000 S279
Hundred:	Minlacowie

PHOTOS

Minlaton Showground Complex

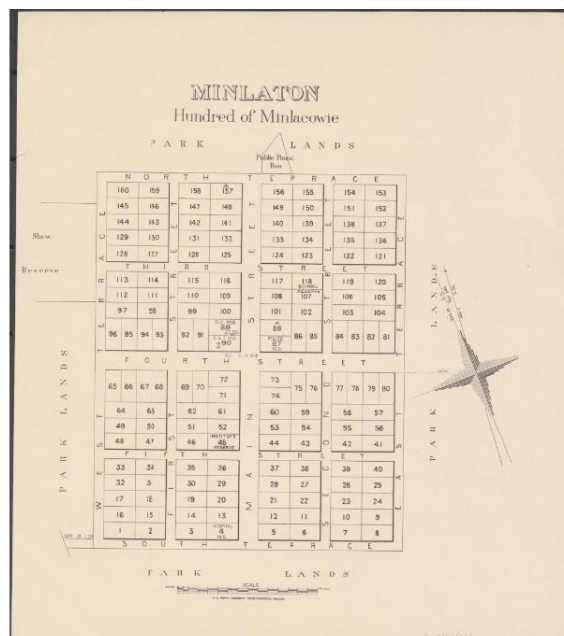
PLACE NO.: 10186

Section 279, West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575



Show Ground, Minlaton circa 1900.

Source: SLSA B26723



Map of the Minlaton township.

Source: NLA MAP RM 2737/223

Minlaton Showground Complex

PLACE NO.: 10186

Section 279, West Terrace, Minlaton SA 5575



Country Show at Minlaton circa 1910. The Pavilion pre-Grandstand and Outbuilding can be seen in the background.

Source: SLSA B41665.



Front view of the Pavilion and Grandstand.

Source: Heritage South Australia, Jan 2023.

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10186

Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 20 November 1986

The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed the content of this BHI - SSHP on 17 August 2023



Front view of Grandstand.



North-western facade of Pavilion and Grandstand with closed in corrugated verandah.



South-eastern facade of Pavilion and Grandstand.



Rear of the Pavilion and Grandstand, with twentieth century extension.

Source: Heritage South Australia, Jan 2023.



Ticket Office on West Terrace.



South-eastern façade of Ticket Office with window detail.



Rear entry of Ticket Office with visible degradation and old repairs.



Limestone Outbuilding along south-east border of Showgrounds.

Source: Heritage South Australia, Jan 2023.



Livestock Shelter.



Outer stone Wall along south-east boundary of Showground along West Terrace.



W.R. Martin entry gate with Ticket Office behind.



Painted wrought iron pedestrian gate.

Source: Heritage South Australia, Jan 2023.

-
- ¹ Wilfred Prest ed. *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History* (South Australia: Wakefield Press, 2001), 583.
- ² Bill Gammage, 'Closer Settlement,' SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia, <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/closer-settlement>, accessed 26 April 2023.
- ³ D.W. Meinig, *On the Margins of the Good Earth: the South Australian Wheat Frontier, 1869-1884* (Adelaide: Rigby Limited, 1962), 27-28.
- ⁴ Michael Williams, *The Making of the South Australian Landscape: A Study in the Historical Geography of Australia* (London and New York: Academic Press, 1974), 83.
- ⁵ Susan Marsden, 'The role of government in the formation of country towns in South Australia,' in *Terowie Workshop: Exploring the History of South Australian Country Towns*, ed. A.F. Denholm, S. Marsden, and K. Rounds (Adelaide: University of Adelaide and History Trust of South Australia, 1991).
- ⁶ *Adelaide Observer*, 'Country Letters,' 22 July, 1876.
- ⁷ 'Government Land for Sale,' *South Australian Chronicle and Weekly Mail*, 26 August, 1876, 4.
- ⁸ Diana Cook, *The Striding Years: A History of the Minlaton District Council Area* (Minlaton: District Council of Minlaton, 1975), 13.
- ⁹ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 13. And Yorke Peninsula Council, 'Minlaton,' <https://www.visityorkepeninsula.com.au/minlaton#:~:text=Minlaton%20was%20originally%20called%20Gum,English%20'ton'%20meaning%20town>, accessed 16 May 2023.
- ¹⁰ *South Australian Register*, 'Meetings at Minlaton,' 22 June, 1878, 2.
- ¹¹ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 92.
- ¹² *South Australian Chronicle*, 'Minlaton Agricultural Show and Ploughing Match,' 7 September, 1878, 1.
- ¹³ *The Garden and Field*, September, 1879.
- ¹⁴ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 92.
- ¹⁵ *South Australian Weekly Chronicle*, 'The Minlaton Show,' 28 October, 1882, 3.
- ¹⁶ *Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser*, 'The Minlaton Show,' 30 October, 1891, 3.
- ¹⁷ Minlaton Traders Association Magazine, 1972.
- ¹⁸ *Adelaide Observer*, 'On Yorke's Peninsula. Port Vincent,' 8 November, 1902, 33.
- ¹⁹ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 92.
- ²⁰ *Advertiser*, 'Minlaton Show,' 31 October, 1903, 8.
- ²¹ *Advertiser*, 'Minlaton Show,' 26 October, 1907, 14.
- ²² *Advertiser*, 'Minlaton Show,' 1 November, 1910, 7.
- ²³ *Observer*, 'Country Shows,' 12 October, 1912, 51.
- ²⁴ *Pioneer*, 'Minlaton,' 2 March, 1918, 3.
- ²⁵ Central Yorke Peninsula Agricultural Society, *Show Book 1928* (1928).
- ²⁶ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 92.
- ²⁷ Cook, *The Striding Years*, 92.
- ²⁸ Heritage Branch Meeting Minutes, 30 October, 2009, File Ref: 10186, Department for Environment and Heritage Records, Adelaide.