

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) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Former Showground Pavilion and Wall **PLACE NO.:** 14582

KNOWN AS: Former Kapunda Showground Pavilion & Wall

ADDRESS: Ngadjuri Country
4 Perry Road
Kapunda SA 5373
Allotment 201 Hundred of Kapunda
CT 6020/833 D33302

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

22 September 1994

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Showground Pavilion and Wall at Kapunda is associated with the emergence of agricultural and horticultural societies in South Australia in the nineteenth century. These societies played a vital role in disseminating new ideas in farming techniques and machinery across South Australia, prior to the formation of the Department of Agriculture in 1902. Built between 1882 and 1900 and located adjacent to the old Kapunda Mine site, the Pavilion and Wall are the only surviving structures from the Kapunda Showground before it was relocated to its present site in Dutton Park.

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

NOTE: While the former Kapunda Showground Pavilion and Wall was entered in the Register under criteria (d) and (f), it is also considered to meet criterion (a).

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

The Former Showground Pavilion and Wall is associated with the Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society, which built the wall in 1882 and Pavilion in 1900 as an exhibition space for the display of produce, flowers, and implements at their annual show. The pavilion and wall demonstrate the organised efforts of the community to establish a network of farmers and improve the quality of agricultural and horticultural production through meetings, events, and shows.

Established in 1857, the Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society was one of the first agricultural societies formed as agricultural settlement spread, acting as a rural counterpart to the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society (RAHS) based in Adelaide. Each year respective societies held an agricultural show for farmers to meet, compete, and exhibit. This type of event was particularly important in Kapunda with its thriving industry of agricultural implement and machinery manufacturers, offering these businesses a venue to exhibit their products to a wider audience. The Kapunda Pavilion and Wall represent agricultural and horticultural societies in South Australia and in particular the Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society and the important role such societies played in supporting the State's primary producers.

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

The Pavilion is a member of the class of places built specifically for the exhibition and judging of agricultural and horticultural products at agricultural and/or horticultural shows. The Pavilion was designed by Architect Frank J. Naish, who is predominantly known for his work on Elder Hall. The stone hall is typical of regional show pavilions constructed at the turn of the twentieth century, however, the incorporation of an air ventilation system and second story grandstand seating into its architectural design was unique to the Pavilion at Kapunda.

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it

The Pavilion is associated with South Australia's agricultural community and, more specifically, the Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society, which still hosts the Kapunda Show every October. The construction of the Pavilion and Wall was the result of community effort and donations, demonstrating the commitment of the Society and its subscribers to have a bespoke show building to house displays, and a pavilion to house the growing number of visitors who attended the show each year.

SITE PLAN

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall
4 Perry Road, Kapunda 5373




PLACE NO.: 14582



Aerial view of former Kapunda Showground site with Pavilion and Wall.

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LEGEND

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Wall

The bluestone boundary Wall encloses the site on three sides. Along the length of Perry Road, the wall stands at less than a metre in height, with the base of the walls constructed using dry rubble masonry completed in regular courses, with bonding visible on the top half of the wall. The top of the wall is decorated in a crenelated style, with every second stone dressed into rough rectangular blocks and laid vertically. At the main entryway to the north of the site, the wall curves upwards to a point on either side, before tapering downwards to where it meets the gate. Sitting atop each point is a rusted iron, triton shaped decoration.

Pavilion

The Pavilion is a rectangular bluestone building with galvanized corrugated-iron clad gable roof with ogee gutters and is located at the southern boundary of the site. The north-eastern facade features four windows, the centre window having been converted into a doorway. All windows and doors have red-brick surrounds. Original doorway and window still intact on south-east facing side.

Elements of Significance:

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

- Former Showground Pavilion (now administration office)
- Boundary Wall

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

- Rear extension to Pavilion built in 2006
- Vineyards
- Drive-through weighbridge in north-eastern corner of site
- Black entry gate attached to boundary Wall in northern corner of site
- Car park south of Pavilion
- Shed situated on south-west boundary

HISTORY OF THE PLACE

Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society

The Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society formed in 1857 when a few prominent men in the district decided to hold a ploughing match.¹ Although the event made a loss of £30, which was covered by event organisers James White and David Shannon, these ploughing matches went on to become an annual event. In the early years of

the competition, the ploughs were often drawn by bullocks because of the rarity of horse teams.²

In 1859 the exhibition of agricultural implements was added to the show program, reflecting Kapunda's burgeoning agricultural manufacturing industry.³ Unlike most other districts that had one local implement maker, Kapunda had several, some of which employed over a hundred men. One of the most well-known of these was the Hawke and Company iron foundry, established in 1857. The company manufactured equipment for millers, farmers, and mine operators such as weighbridges, seed-sowers, road-rollers, reapers, and hydraulic and irrigation gear.⁴

Soon after, the contestants also adopted a system of prizes for farm animals and by 1865 had begun to include displays of produce. In its early years, the Kapunda Show was held at different locations throughout the township, with Crase's Wheat Store and Cole's saleyards being used for exhibits, while horse events were conducted on the site of the Kapunda Bowling Club on Montefiore Street. No show was held between 1870 and 1877 due to the poor finances of the Committee, beginning a pattern of frequent cancellations due to either a lack of interest, finance, or both.⁵

Showgrounds

With the continual addition of events and exhibits, the Kapunda Show began to outgrow the town. On Saturday 12 March 1880, the Society met to consider the matter of purchasing a showground. Many sites had been offered, including the lease of a portion of Dutton Park, but after considerable discussion, the Society agreed it would not be wise to erect improvements on leased land.⁶ Instead, negotiations were opened with Walter R. Morton for the purchase of a portion of the mine paddock. Negotiations went well, and the land was purchased by the Society at £6 an acre, assisted by a £100 donation from Francis Dutton.⁷

A tender for fencing around the new Showground site was advertised in the *Kapunda Herald* on 11 June, however the building of a wall and sheds cost more than the Society could afford.⁸ Funds were raised through subscriptions, as well as donations of £200 from Dutton and £100 from James Pearce. The first show on the grounds was held in 1881 and was a great success, the prize list amounting to £220. Five years later, thanks to revenue from subscriptions, the Society purchased an additional adjoining 4 acres of land at a cost of £50.⁹ Over the next twenty years little overall progress was made to the Showgrounds, with exhibits being displayed in temporary sheds and shelters. Improvement was needed.

The Pavilion

In 1898 it was suggested that a new show hall and pavilion be erected for the display of perishable goods.¹⁰ Successful as the shows had been, the finances of the Society, as one report put it, had not been 'sufficiently augmented by surpluses to enable the committee to attempt very much more in the way of improvements than the good order of the grounds and the erections and convenience of exhibitors necessitate.'¹¹ It would not be until the annual meeting of the Society and its subscribers in March 1900 that the topic was given official consideration. A plan drawn up by architect Frank J. Naish who also designed Elder Hall, was selected, and it was decided that tenders be called for the work.¹² The bluestone for the building had been previously given by the Mayor of Kapunda and President of the Society, David James, and had been sitting unused at the showground for years.

The Society's secretary, Thomas Jeffs, received seven tenders for the erection of the show hall and pavilion, five from Adelaide, and two from local contractors.¹³ The lowest tender, submitted by Messrs. E. James & Co. of Kapunda, was for £865, with the highest tender being put forward by an Adelaide builder for the amount of £1150.¹⁴ The cost of the lowest tender was more than the Society had anticipated, and a special meeting was held on 21 April to decide what to do. At the meeting the building committee recommended accepting the lowest tender. However, a motion was proposed that none of the tenders be accepted, and that fresh tenders should be called for a building, without a pavilion, to cost no more than £300. This was met with some dissatisfaction and remained unresolved until the next afternoon.¹⁵

The next day, Chairman H.T. Morris called for the Society to reconsider the resolution passed at the last meeting, arguing that 'to do away with the pavilion they would deprive themselves of one of the principal revenues that would be derived from the building.' He argued that the pavilion would be of great benefit to the public, and would prevent crowds from flocking around the ring, as several incidents had occurred with nervous horses in the past.¹⁶ If they were to erect a new building, it was to be done properly to include a pavilion. Member W.M. Shannon disagreed with the chairman, remarking a pavilion was unnecessary, as the natural lay of the ground proved sufficient for viewing events in the ring, calling the £800 expenditure a "suicidal policy".¹⁷

With the promise of new subscriptions, and that the Society was soon to be incorporated, it was agreed that the original tender submitted by Messrs. E. James and Co. for £865 be accepted. The money had to be borrowed, and President James secured a loan of £800 from the Kapunda Hospital at 4½ percent interest, with James personally bearing any liability in connection with the building until the incorporation was complete.¹⁸

The laying of the foundation stone was performed by Mayoress Emily James (nee Davies) on 6 June 1900 to an audience of around 400 people. The stone, made from Kapunda white marble, bears an inscription carved by architectural carver T.K. Russell, who is famously known for his work in the interior of St. Peter's Cathedral in Adelaide.¹⁹ A bottle placed in a recess beneath the stone contains a document stating the details of the ceremony, and gave the names of the officers of the Society, the contractors, the architect, and the members of the Municipal Council. Copies of the *Kapunda Herald*, the Adelaide daily papers, and the prior year's show prize list, as well as several coins were also placed in the bottle.²⁰

The new Pavilion was used for the first time at the annual show on 26 September 1900. The *South Australian Register* reported on the finished building, describing the show hall in great detail:

The main hall, which is 100 by 40 ft. in the clear, inside measurement, is floored with jarrah. Along the centre from end to end are massive 8-in. columns (iron), supporting a 12 x 6 in. iron girder, which carries the weight of the pavilion above. The hall is well lighted with seven windows, five along the northern front of the building, and one at each end. The decorators have picked out in the new colour so fashionable for decorating nowadays, i.e. geranium red, the mouldings of doors and windows, as well as the heavy inside scotia, which forms a cornice around the ceiling. The latter is of fluted small galvanized iron, and outside covers are made of the same material to protect the windows when the building is unoccupied. The double doors are 2-in. thick and hung on rising butts.

The main part of the building was constructed of durable bluestone and faced with Gawler brick. The second-storey pavilion had seating accommodation for 500 people and was accessed by "handsome staircases" at each end. The iron balcony railing was painted in two brilliant colours, with the roof being supported by 6 inch, double varnished jarrah posts. The ironwork used on the building was produced by Hawke & Co. in the local foundry. Of particular note, was the ventilation system designed by architect F.J. Naish: 'as besides the usual air openings, ventilators are fixed in the ceiling to carry off the hot air.'²¹ In addition to the new Pavilion, the Society removed and trimmed any large gumtrees obstructing the view, enlarged the ring, and converted the old iron building into a hall for poultry, complete with 100 coops.

No shows were held on the grounds during World War One and financing the Society through these years was difficult. In order to keep up, Secretary T.S. Davie leased the land and acquired as many subscriptions as possible to assist in paying the interest still owing on the loan of £600. The show was held again in 1920, however by this time the Society was considering selling the Showground and making arrangements with the Dutton Park Committee for holding future shows in the Park. The Committee granted

the Society a 20-year lease, with the first show being held at Dutton Park in 1922.²² In August 1923 the Society sold the Showgrounds, including the Pavilion.

The Twentieth and Twenty-First Century

The Showground site was owned by the Griesch family for the next fifty years and then passed through several private owners, during which time the Pavilion building fell into disrepair. It is also during this time that the Pavilion's second storey grandstand was removed, and an enclosed shelter added to the rear. In 2005 the enclosed shelter was removed from the pavilion building and in the following year the pavilion was repurposed as an administration office, with a new roof, windows and doors.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event
1842	Copper discovered at Kapunda.
1844	First copper mine opened.
1842	Country Light proclaimed on 2 July.
1857	Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society formed.
1965	Corporation of the Town of Kapunda proclaimed by Governor Sir Dominick Daly on 13 July.
1880	Land for Showgrounds purchased by the Society from Walter R. Morton.
1880	Tender for fencing advertised in the Kapunda Herald on 11 June.
1800 -	Bluestone boundary wall completed.
1882	
1886	Additional 4 acres of land purchased by the Society (CT 494/87).
1900	Plans submitted by architect Frank J. Naish for the pavilion are selected by the Society in March.
1900	Seven tenders for building work received by the Society's Secretary.
1900	Foundation stone made of Kapunda Marble laid 6 June. Architect: Frank J. Naish, contractor: E. James & Company, carver: T.K. Russell, ironwork: Messrs. Hawke & Co., paintwork: under supervision of J.T. Matthews.
1900	Completed pavilion used for the first time at annual show on 26 September.
1900	Certificate of Incorporation issued to Society on 20 November.
1923	Society sells Showgrounds in August to Gottlieb Ernst Giersch the Younger (CT 5658/155). Land remains in the Giersch family until 1979.

- 1979 Land title transferred to Jeffrey Melvin Klemm, a local farmer in April (CT 4231/994).
- 1987 Land title transferred to Leigh Robin and Geraldine Anne McKenney in May (CT 5658/155).
- 2002 Land title transferred to Johnson Kapunda Realty Pty. Ltd. In April (CT 5658/155).
- 2003 Boundary wall mid-way along Perry Road stabilised.
- 2005 Land title transferred to the Johnson Family Group, Quintrell Investments, and Christopher and Julie Ann Johnson (CT 5658/155). The title was cancelled in 2008, and a new certificate of title issued (CT 6020/833).
- 2005 Non-original accretions to Showground Pavilion demolished and stabilisation work undertaken (DA 313/179/05).
- 2005 Old Pavilion roof replaced and gutters added (DA 313/725/05).
- 2006 Major works to Pavilion building, including office addition at rear. New windows and doors were also installed reusing the Pavilion as an administrative space (DA 313/038/06).
- 2016 Eastern corner section of showground wall rebuilt after being damaged by trucks turning into Johnson Road. Section rebuilt using existing stone, with the wall being realigned to create an angled corner to strengthen and prevent further damage by allowing a wider turning circle (DA 313/442/2016). Work carried out by Ian Otterspoor.

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SITE DETAILS

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall
4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373

PLACE NO.: 14582

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Rectangular bluestone building with red brick detailing around windows and doors. Bluestone boundary wall.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	Wall 1880-1882 Pavilion 1900
REGISTER STATUS:	Confirmed 22 September 1994
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	LHP – Light Regional Council PAR (2005)
CURRENT USE:	Administration office for the Johnson Family Group 2005 - present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	The site was owned and used by the Society between 1880 and 1923, with the Pavilion being used for show purposes from 1900 and 1922.
ARCHITECT:	Frank J. Naish 1899 - 1900
BUILDER:	E. James & Co. 1900
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Light Regional Council
LOCATION:	Street No.: 4 Street Name: Perry Road Town/Suburb: Kapunda Post Code: 5373
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Reference: CT 6020/833 D33302 A 201 Hundred: Kapunda

PHOTOS

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

PLACE NO.: 14582

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



Kapunda Showground with completed Pavilion in background circa 1900.

Source: SLSA B41665



**Photograph of the rear or south-western side of Pavilion taken in 1990.
Note the shelter addition.**

Source: HeritageSA

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

PLACE NO.: 14582

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



Aerial photograph of the former Kapunda Showground site taken in January 2000. The Pavilion is the large structure at the bottom right. A residence and numerous outbuildings are also scattered across the site.

Source: EnvMaps



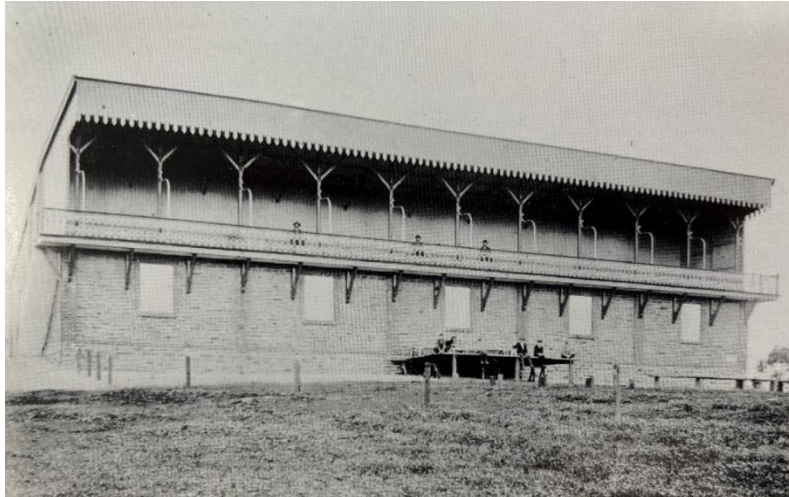
Aerial photograph of the former Kapunda Showground site present day. The outbuildings and residence have been demolished and replaced with vineyards, and the Pavilion repurposed into an administrative building.

Source: EnvMaps

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

PLACE NO.: 14582

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



North-eastern facade of the Pavilion building taken in 1900.

Source: Discovering Historic Kapunda



North-eastern facade of Pavilion taken in 2014.

Source: Google Maps

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

PLACE NO.: 14582

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



View of building to south-west.

Source: Google Maps



Bluestone entryway into former showground site with Pavilion in background.

Source: Google Maps

PLACE NO.: 14582

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



Bluestone Wall along the north east boundary of the site. Note the rubble masonry and crenelated decoration across the top.

Source: Google Maps



Bluestone Wall along Perry Road.

Source: Google Maps

PLACE NO.: 14582

Former Showground Pavilion and Wall

4 Perry Road, Kapunda SA 5373



Bluestone Wall along south-east boundary.

Source: Google Maps

¹ Committee of the Back to Kapunda Movement, *Back to Kapunda, September 17 to 24, 1927: Official Souvenir*. Kapunda: Herald Print, 1927, 42.

² Rob Charlton. *The History of Kapunda*. Melbourne: Hawthorn Press, 1971, 141.

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- ³ *The Advertiser*, 'Our Monthly Retrospect,' 1 April, 1862, 2.
- ⁴ Charlton, *The History of Kapunda*, 111-116.
- ⁵ Charlton, *The History of Kapunda*, 142.
- ⁶ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda and Light Agricultural Cultural Society,' 16 March, 1880, 3.
- ⁷ *Back to Kapunda*, 42. And Charlton, *The History of Kapunda*, 142.
- ⁸ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Tenders for Fencing,' 11 June, 1880, 2.
- ⁹ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society,' 23 March, 1886, 3.
- ¹⁰ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society,' 7 October, 1898, 3.
- ¹¹ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda Show,' 29 September, 1899, 3.
- ¹² *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society,' 30 March, 1900, 3.
- ¹³ *Kapunda Herald*, 'New and Old Farming,' 13 April 1900, 2.
- ¹⁴ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Correspondence, Show Ground Pavilion. To the Editor,' 20 April 1900, 2.
- ¹⁵ *Kapunda Herald*, 'The Kapunda Herald,' 27 April, 1900, 2.
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- ¹⁷ *Kapunda Herald*, 'Kapunda and Light,' 4 May, 1900, 3.
- ¹⁸ *Back to Kapunda*, 42-43. And 'The Country,' *The Advertiser*, 3 May, 1900, 6.
- ¹⁹ *Adelaide Observer*, 'Late Obituary. Mr. T. K. Russell,' 26 March, 1927, 35.
- ²⁰ 'Kapunda and Light Agricultural Society. Laying the Foundation-Stone of the Show Hall and Pavilion,' *Kapunda Herald*, 8 June 1900, 3.
- ²¹ 'The Country. A Progressive Agricultural Society,' *South Australian Register*, 19 September, 1900, 8.
- ²² *Back to Kapunda*, 43.