

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

**Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the
*Heritage Places Act 1993***

NAME: Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct) PLACE NO.: 26393

**ADDRESS: Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000
CR 6132/227 Allotment 119 D81642 Hundred Adelaide**

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The surviving buildings at the north-east corner of the former Victoria Park Racecourse have significant associations with the early use of the Adelaide Parklands for recreation and with the development of horse racing in this state. Victoria Park was the first official racetrack in South Australia, with the earliest meetings being held there in 1846. The oldest surviving building, the Grandstand (SHP No. 13661), was constructed in 1882.

Victoria Park remained South Australia's premier racecourse for many decades, with the Entrance Gates, Turnstile Building, Kiosk and former Adelaide Racing Club Office building representing later developments at the site from the 1920s to the 1950s.

The precinct also demonstrates notable design and construction techniques as displayed by the 1880s Grandstand and 1950s Entrance Gates and Office Building. In addition, the precinct includes a rare surviving group of cast-iron turnstiles within the red-brick entrance building adjacent to the cast-iron gates.

RELEVANT 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 precinct has important associations with the development of horse racing in this state, and in particular, with the use of the Adelaide Parklands for early recreational activities and the development of the Victoria Park Racecourse. The first races were held in this location in 1846, with horse racing activities becoming

more formal after an Act of Parliament was passed in 1863. The course was named Victoria Park in 1871, and the Grandstand constructed in 1882.

Later periods of development included construction of a building to contain ten turnstiles in 1926. This red-brick building was designed by Kenneth Milne and is now a rare survival, containing the original cast-iron turnstiles and illustrating the scale of visitation at that time.

In 1954, the Entrance Gates and the Adelaide Racing Club offices were constructed to either side of the Turnstile Building. The administration of South Australian racing moved to Morphettville in 1976, and racing declined at Victoria Park over the subsequent decades. Victoria Park's last race meeting was held in December 2007, and a number of the structures were demolished. Thus the structures surviving in the north-west precinct of the Victoria Park Racecourse provide a significant reminder of important periods of development in the history of racing at Victoria Park.

(e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.*

Several components of the north-east precinct of the Victoria Park Racecourse demonstrate a high degree of creative accomplishment. In particular, the 1950s Entrance Gates and Adelaide Racing Club (ARC) office building display notable design characteristics associated with both their period and function, including decorative wrought iron to the gates and above the office door; glazed terra-cotta detailing around openings; decorative timber mouldings to office door (including 'ARC' bosses); and internal detailing to the office entrance hall, including terrazzo floor with ARC motif and blue glazed terra-cotta tiles to walls.

SITE PLAN

Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO: 26393



Victoria Park Racecourse (North East Precinct) - Site Plan

[Generally indicating the important elements and features of the place (outlined in red)]

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

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

Physical Description

A complex of several buildings (Grandstand, Kiosk and Entrance buildings) located adjacent a former horse racing track in the Adelaide Parklands, to west of Fullarton Road and south of the Wakefield Road. The large two-storey Grandstand (SHP No. 13661) is constructed of bluestone with red-brick dressings, timber-framed openings (including some stained-glass windows), corrugated-galvanised-iron (cgi) roof, and timber and cast-iron detailing including ornate staircases.

Closer to Fullarton Road are the red-brick gateway with iron gates, a red-brick building containing original cast-iron turnstiles, and a red-brick office building, with the two latter buildings having cgi roofs. To the north-west of the entrance buildings is a timber-framed kiosk building with hipped concave cgi roof and timber detailing, including weather-board cladding, bargeboards, brackets and finials.

The components identified as being intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct) include:

- c1880s timber-framed Kiosk, with weatherboard cladding;
- 1882 stone and brick Grandstand;
- 1926 brick Turnstile Buildings, including cast-iron turnstiles;
- 1954 brick and iron Gateway; and
- 1954 brick Office Building, including entrance hall with terrazzo floor.

History of the Place

Horse racing was a feature of the Adelaide Parklands on the eastern side of the city from the earliest days of the colony, with the first races being held there in 1846. Racing activities became more formal after an Act of Parliament was passed in 1863. The course was named Victoria Park in 1871, and the Grandstand constructed in 1882.

The Adelaide Racing Club was founded later that decade in 1888, with several other structures being erected around that time including a timber kiosk. The racecourse was developed over subsequent decades, including in the 1920s and 1950s. In particular, the Turnstile Building was designed by prominent Adelaide architect Kenneth Milne in 1926, and the Gates and Office building were designed by Glover and Pointer in 1954.

During the latter part of the 20th Century, the three Adelaide racing clubs at Victoria Park, Morphettville and Cheltenham started to decline, and eventually they amalgamated to form the South Australian Jockey Club in 1976. Administration was moved to Morphettville, and gradually events were phased out at the two other sites (Victoria Park and Cheltenham), with the last race meeting being held at Victoria Park in December 2007, and at Cheltenham in February 2009. Victoria Park is now used for other recreational events, including providing part of the route for the Clipsal 500 car race.

The Grandstand was included in the former Register of State Heritage Items in 1986 (SHP 13661).

References

- Donovan & Associates 2009, *City of Adelaide Heritage Survey: Adelaide Park Lands and Heritage Places*, pp 15-35.
 - Danvers Schulz Holland Architects 2005, *Victoria Park Racecourse Building Assessment Report*.
 - Danvers Architects 2002, *Victoria Park Racecourse Demolition Works: Overview Heritage Assessment*.
 - David Jones 2007, *Adelaide Park Lands and Squares Cultural Landscape Assessment Study*, Corporation of the City of Adelaide, pp 737-739.
 - Habitable Place Architects and Phillips/Pilkington Architects 2000, *Grandstand Victoria Park Racecourse – Conservation and Management Plan*
 - Adelaide City Council Archives, Notice Papers 1953-54
 - Plans of turnstile building, BAP 00909
 - Plans of Office Building, BAP 09783
 - Plans of Entrance Gates, BAP 09952
 - Architects of South Australia Database
- www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au
- *The Advertiser*, 15 November 1926, 2 August 1927
 - *The Register*, 12 August 1926, 19 August 1926

SITE DETAILS

Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO: 26393

FORMER NAME:	n/a																
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-storey bluestone Grandstand with brick, timber, corrugated galvanised iron (cgi) and cast-iron detailing;• Brick and iron Gates;• Brick Turnstile Building, including cast-iron turnstiles• Brick Office Building; and• Timber-framed Kiosk.																
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1882 to 1954																
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	<table><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Registered (Grandstand only)</td></tr><tr><td>Date:</td><td>11 September 1986</td></tr><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Nominated (Entrance buildings)</td></tr><tr><td>Date:</td><td>1 July 2011</td></tr><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Provisionally entered</td></tr><tr><td>Date:</td><td>8 October 2014</td></tr><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Confirmed</td></tr><tr><td>Date:</td><td>17 June 2015</td></tr></table>	Description:	Registered (Grandstand only)	Date:	11 September 1986	Description:	Nominated (Entrance buildings)	Date:	1 July 2011	Description:	Provisionally entered	Date:	8 October 2014	Description:	Confirmed	Date:	17 June 2015
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LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	n/a																
CURRENT USE:	<table><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Grandstand and outbuildings</td></tr><tr><td>Dates:</td><td>2007 to present</td></tr></table>	Description:	Grandstand and outbuildings	Dates:	2007 to present												
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ARCHITECT:	<table><tr><td>Name:</td><td>Kenneth Milne (Turnstile Building)</td></tr><tr><td>Dates:</td><td>1926</td></tr></table>	Name:	Kenneth Milne (Turnstile Building)	Dates:	1926												
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BUILDER:	<table><tr><td>Name:</td><td>n/a</td></tr><tr><td>Dates:</td><td>n/a</td></tr></table>	Name:	n/a	Dates:	n/a												
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Dates:	n/a																
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	<table><tr><td>Description:</td><td>Adelaide</td></tr></table>	Description:	Adelaide														
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LOCATION:	<table><tr><td>Unit No.:</td><td>n/a</td></tr></table>	Unit No.:	n/a														
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Street No.: n/a
Street Name: Fullarton Road
Suburb: Adelaide
Post code: 5000

LAND DESCRIPTION:

Title Type: CR
Volume: 6132
Folio: 227
Lot No.: 119
Plan: D81642
Hundred: Adelaide

PHOTOS

Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO: 26393



Grandstand from north-west



Grandstand from south-west



Stairs to grandstand



Interior of grandstand



Rear of grandstand, view from near kiosk (north)

PHOTOS

Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO: 26393



Entrance gates from east, with grandstand in background



Entrance gates from south showing turnstile building and office in background



Former Adelaide Racing Club Building from N



Kiosk at Victoria Park from SW



Kiosk at Victoria Park from SE

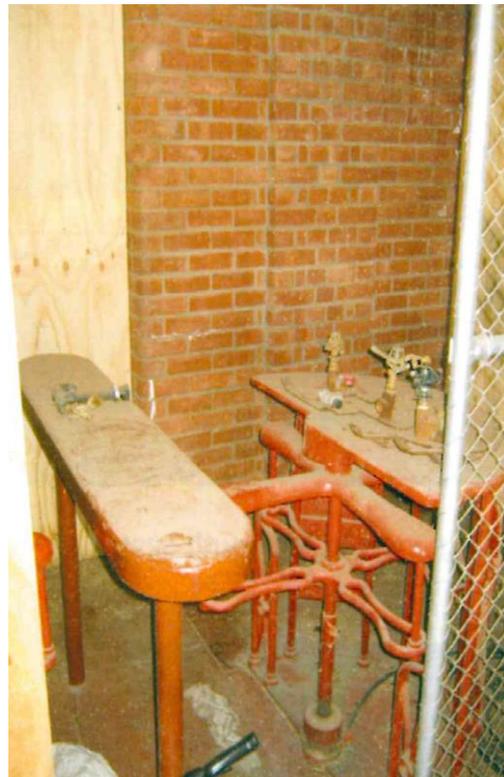
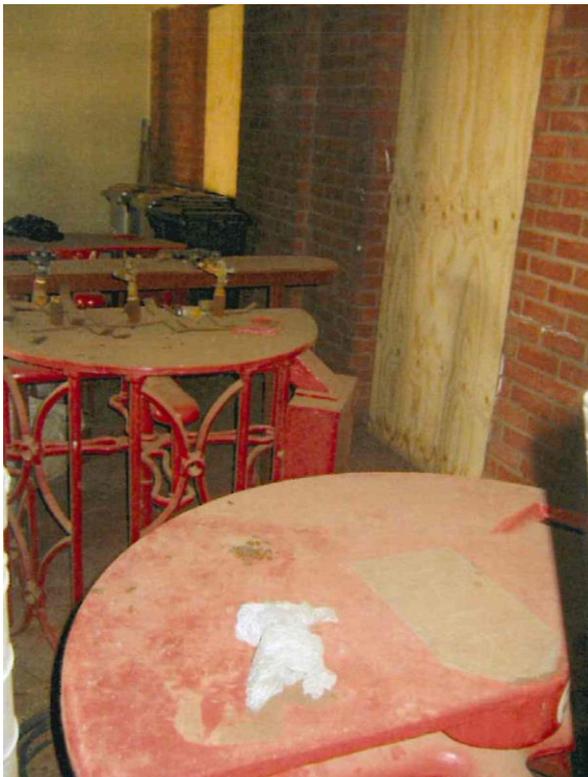
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Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
Fullarton Road, Adelaide SA 5000

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Turnstile building from east [Photo courtesy of Donovan and Associates 2009]



Interior view of turnstile building showing original turnstiles
[Photo courtesy of Donovan and Associates 2009]