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# ASCOT PARK COACH HOUSE (FORMER)



Coach house 2008.jpg

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## Location

5 STRICKLAND STREET, ASCOT - PROPERTY NUMBER 193865, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO700

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 7, 2023

### What is significant?

The former coachman's residence, coach house, stables, harness room and hay loft complex was constructed in 1871/2 and built by the owner John Holdsworth, mining investor and leading chemist and wholesale pharmacist in Bendigo as part of his gentleman's estate, Taxonia, later called Ascot Park. It was built in Ascot on the paddock used by his bullock team, which he employed to transport wholesale goods as far a field as Swan Hill and Echuca. The estate is associated with a number of grand mansions that were built in Bendigo during the early 1870s by successful mining investor during the quartz gold mining boom. Stylistically, the building is derivative of Victorian Rustic Gothic, using free interpretation of medieval motifs. It was part of a group of structures that were

associated with the development of the picturesque semi-rural mansion, which was set in extensive landscape setting, olive grove and medicinal gardens as well as a number of other outbuildings and workers cottages. It is now on a separate allotment. The building is well designed and is good example of a building typology associated with coach houses and stables. The layout and design is strongly influenced by its many functions and is constructed of red bricks, decorative brick shaped ventilation designs, tall ornate and elaborate chimney, arched entrance doors and small rustic looking residence. It has been carefully designed to respond to the hot climatic conditions of the area.

#### **How is it significant?**

The former coachman's residence, coach house, stables and hay loft complex is of historical, aesthetic and social significance to the local area.

#### **Why is it significant?**

The former coach house constructed in 1871/2 is historically significant as a good representative example of an outbuilding associated with the large mining mansions constructed by the mining investors during the quartz mining boom of the early 1870s.

The former coach house is architecturally and aesthetically significant for its ability to demonstrate the functional requirements of maintaining a horse and carriage during the 19th century. The design clearly responds to the users comfort in hot climatic conditions. It is essentially an intact example of this building typology, which used to be common but is now becoming increasingly rare. It is a fine architectural example of a coachman's residence, coach house, stables, harness room and hay loft all designed in the Rustic Victorian Gothic architectural style in rural Australia, using free interpretation of medieval motifs in a similar style to the main residence, Ascot Park.

The former coach house is historically significant for its strong association with John Holdsworth, who settled in White Hills in 1855 and later built his residence in Ascot in 1871/2 together with extensive olive grove and medicinal gardens. A pharmacist and wholesale manufacture of medicinal prescriptions he owned several chemist shops in the centre of Bendigo as well as distributing goods by bullock teams as far a field as Echuca and Swan Hill. He became a successful mining investor and local politician. The use of coach would have been a necessary aspect of John Holdsworth's occupation.

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Advisor report, City of Greater Bendigo, 2016;

Construction dates 1871,

Hermes Number 164194

Property Number

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### **Physical Description 1**

The former coachman's residence and stables is a substantial red brick building with upper hay loft area in the roof space. The building is set on sandstone/granite rubble foundations and is lined throughout with red brick laid floors. The roof is steeply pitched clad in short length corrugated metal sheeting. A tall red brick chimney is located on the north east side above the coach man's residence. The top of the chimney is decorated with polychrome brick work with fluted bricks.

Around the walls of are a series of decorative designed diamond shaped brick ventilated openings, the design of which is particularly robust on the south gable wing where special fluted shaped bricks are used, possibly for pigeon or dove ledges. There are several markings on the south wall which may indicate the presence of a former structure, perhaps a milking shed. On the west elevation is a large timber tongue and groove door, braced with cast iron hinges and latches for access into the stables, with a high timber shuttered window to one side. The

east elevation faces towards the main house and carriage driveway. Here are large double carriage doors leading into the coachhouse, and to the north the front elevation of the coachman's residence with front skillion verandah. The residence is simple with central door on either side two small windows.

The north elevation has an arched door to the west which opens out into the harness room and stable area on the west side. The upper arched frame and stained glass lights to the door are stored inside the building. In the apex of the gable is a loft door with hoist lever for lifting hay bales into the storage area.

The building is relatively good condition and appears structurally sound. Cracking above the arch door on the north side may indicate that there has been settlement and the upper walls are leaning outwards. Slow deterioration and neglect will accelerated decay.

The interior is carefully designed to be totally functional and addresses issues of ventilation, heat and internal drainage. The internal brick walls have been lime washed. The upper timber floors and frame are in good condition.

## **Intactness**

The structure of the former coachman's residence, coach house and stables has a high degree of integrity. This includes the original roof form and design, all external and internal original windows and doors. The building appears structurally sound and in good condition, although the barge boards have been removed. This will result in progressive damage over time to the interior and brickwork could lead to the structural problems. Cracking has occurred on the north-west corner above the arched door, this may indicate settlement and outer movement in the upper walls.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*