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# STONE CULVERTS



Axedale Culverts



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## Location

HIGH STREET, AXEDALE, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO853

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 10, 2023

### What is significant?

The bluestone culverts (spoon drains) at Axedale, between Mitchell Street and Raglan Place East, are surviving examples of nineteenth century roadside infrastructure (drains). The deep and wide stone culverts are examples of roadside open spoon drains of the type built in townships and rural centres across Victoria during the nineteenth century.

### How is it significant?

The bluestone culverts (spoon drains) at Axedale are of local historical significance.

### Why is it significant?

The bluestone culverts (spoon drains) that flank the High Street at Axedale are historically significant (Criterion A) as surviving examples of nineteenth century roadside infrastructure. The culverts were constructed following the proclamation of Axedale in 1861. Axedale was a settlement in close to proximity to gold diggings, on the main road (McIvor Highway) between Bendigo and Heathcote.

The culverts also demonstrate the basic form and function of roadside open spoon drains, and while they are not rare, in this instance the culverts survive relatively intact for a lengthy section of a wide street on both sides (Criterion D).

### Theme

#### 3. Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Policy Citations Review, Lovell Chen P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1860,

Hermes Number 184953

Property Number

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### Physical Description 1

Axedale is located on the crest of a shallow incline on the McIvor Highway. The tree-lined High Street slopes down at the east end of the township, approximately from Mitchell Street. The culverts line the south side of High Street from Mitchell Street to Raglan Place East and the north side of High Street from Mitchell Street for approximately 100 metres<sup>3</sup>, at the east end of the township. The pitched drains are composed of bluestone and are typically seven pitchers wide. Crossovers to properties on either side are embanked but may originally have been timber. Circular concrete drains to channel stormwater are embedded in the earth embankments. The condition and intactness of the culverts varies. The stretch at the west end of the north side of High Street is particularly intact. However, in some areas, including along the south side of High Street, the culvert has been built over with modern concrete kerbs. In other areas, the sides of the culverts are overgrown, with evidence of pitchers below. In considering the extent to which these elements are original, it is probable that they have (at least in sections) been repaired and/or modified over time, as required to maintain their function.

*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/>*