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## Passchendale Barracks (Drill Hall)



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### Location

84 MOLLISON STREET BENDIGO, Greater Bendigo City

### Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Level of significance

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### Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Passchendaele Barracks is one of 40 timber and corrugated iron drill halls built in Victoria between 1912 and 1916 to cater for the decision in 1911 to introduce universal military training for all males of military age. The scores of drill halls of this type built across the Commonwealth were to the design of architect John Smith Murdoch and follow Queensland practice. The semi-circular ridge vents are characteristic of the type, as are the skillion offices along the side of the building.

One of two built in Bendigo around the time of the First World War (and among only 18 survivors state-wide) Passchendaele Barracks is of considerable local significance for its long association with citizen soldiers in the Bendigo area and as a recruiting centre during two world wars.

Other Names DRILL HALL,

Hermes Number 125436

Property Number

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## Veterans Description for Public

The Bendigo Passchendaele Barracks, at 84 Mollison Street, is one of two built in Bendigo around the time of the First World War (and among only eighteen survivors state-wide). Passchendaele Barracks is of considerable local significance for its long association with citizen soldiers in the Bendigo area and as a recruiting centre during the two world wars.

The introduction of Universal Training in 1911 by the relatively newly established Commonwealth government meant that all Australian men had to receive part-time military training. This decision meant that most country towns of reasonable size needed to have a drill hall. While there were already many such buildings already available in Victoria, which had a long tradition of volunteer militia, many new buildings were required immediately. Between 1912 and 1916, some forty new timber and corrugated iron drill halls were built in Victoria to a pattern adopted Australia-wide.

The design was by Commonwealth architect John Smith Murdoch, apparently developed from Queensland models. (Before Federation Murdoch was the Queensland government architect). The very first of these new type drill halls in Australia was constructed in Warragul Victoria. The Warragul one is now owned by the Shire of Baw Baw. All forty halls were essentially identical in design except that some were longer than others. They featured vertical corrugated iron cladding over a timber frame (except for Footscray which is horizontally laid), and distinctive semi-circular ridge vents characteristic of their Queensland origins.

*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/>*