

Victorian Heritage Database Report
Stawell Cemetery, Cypress Street, STAWELL



Location:

Cypress Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Statement of Significance:

The Stawell Cemetery, Cypress Street, Stawell, has significance as an important place of commemoration and as a significant cultural landscape to the township and local area. Characterised by an open sloping grassed setting with perimeter mature Cypress trees, front wrought iron entrance gates and the Victorian Picturesque Gothic Revival styled Sexton's Cottage, the cemetery also features numerous graves with headstones of varying designs and elaboration. The cemetery as first used as a burial ground in 1858 and it was not until 1861 when it was officially gazetted. The layout of the grounds occurred in 1870 to a design by William Crellin, Engineer, who was also responsible for the design of the Sexton's Lodge in 1871.

The Stawell Cemetery is aesthetically significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates important visual qualities. These qualities include the open grassed setting with mature perimeter Cypress trees, numerous graves of varying designs and sizes constructed of marble, granite, slate and Grampians freestone arranged in regular rows, cast iron grave surrounds and the front wrought iron entrance gates supported by rendered brick piers. The Victorian Picturesque Gothic Revival styled Sexton's Lodge, with its steeply pitched gable roof form, encircling verandah supported by timber posts formed point-arched arcades in the gable ends, pointed arched leadlight window, lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding and horizontal timber weatherboard wall

cladding, also contributes to the significance of the place.

The Stawell Cemetery is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of the Stawell around the time of the surveying of the Township of Stawell in 1858 and represents the resting place of many locals, including a number of prominent 19th century identities that contributed substantially to the town. The Cemetery also has associations with William Crellin who was responsible for the design layout in 1870 and the design of the Sexton's Lodge in 1871, and Francis Watkins, one of Stawell's early monumental masons who was responsible for the artistry in a number of the headstones. The cemetery has further associations with P. Whelan of Whelan the Wrecker who donated the iron gates in the early 20th century. These gates were originally part of the Bijou Theatre in Melbourne which was demolished.

The Stawell Cemetery is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised and valued by the Stawell community and the surrounding district for cultural, spiritual and commemorative reasons.

Overall, the Stawell Cemetery is of LOCAL significance.

Description

The Stawell Cemetery, Cypress Street, Stawell, comprises a large open space on sloping land nearby a built up residential area.

The open, grassed cemetery contains numerous and highly elaborate surviving graves with headstones and cast iron surrounds. The headstones vary in design, size and elaboration, from simple head pieces to large obelisks constructed predominantly of marble, slate, granite or Grampians freestone. Decorative cast iron surrounds are a feature of several of the graves. These graves are arranged in regular rows separated by grassed paths. The main thoroughfare through the centre of the cemetery has been asphalted. There is also a more recent brick memorial wall.

The main entrance is adorned by introduced wrought iron gates supported by prominent rendered brick piers. Along the perimeter boundaries of the cemetery are several large, mature Cypresses.

Immediately within cemetery is the modestly scaled single storey Victorian Picturesque Gothic styled Sexton's Lodge. It is characterised by a steeply pitched gable roof form clad in lapped green-painted galvanised corrugated iron which extend beyond the building to form an encircling verandah. This verandah is supported by timber columns formed point-arched arcades on the gable ends. The walls are constructed of horizontal timber weatherboard cladding and there is a pointed arched leadlight window on the gable end.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	112084
Property number	

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online