

Locality: BUSHY PARK
Place address: ROAD RESERVE, MAFFRA-BRIAGOLONG ROAD
Citation date 2016
Place type (when built): Memorial
Recommended heritage protection: Local Planning Scheme
Local government level: Yes
Vic Heritage Register: No
Heritage Inventory (Archaeological): Yes

Place name: Angus McMillan Memorial and Pencil Pines



Architectural Style: Inter War Vernacular
Designer / Architect: Not known

Statement of Significance

This statement of significance is based on the history, description and comparative analysis in this citation. The Criteria A-H is the Heritage Council Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance (HERCON). Level of Significance, Local, State, National, is in accordance with level of Government legislation.

What is significant?

The Angus McMillan Memorial at Bushy Park, including the land to the extent shown on the map, the landscape setting and Pencil Pines (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) are significant.

How is it significant?

The Angus McMillan Memorial is historically, socially, aesthetically and scientifically significant at a local level to Wellington Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Angus McMillan Memorial is **historically significant at a local level** for its associations with Angus McMillan who completed several expeditions in Gippsland from 1840. In 1859 McMillan was the first representative for South Gippsland to the Victorian Legislative Assembly. The site is significant as part of Angus McMillan's original landholding in Gippsland, leased from March 1844. McMillan built a station homestead at Bushy Park, which he lived at until 1861, and the remnants of it are located opposite Angus McMillan's memorial cairn, which was unveiled at this site in April 1927 by Governor Lord Somers. (Criteria A, D & H)

The Angus McMillan Memorial is **socially significant at a local level** as part of a series of cairns which have been erected by local communities, to perpetuate the memory of the explorer Angus McMillan throughout Gippsland, and to mark the routes of his main explorations. It is also significant for the committee who raised funds for the monument, and who organised the monument and unveiling ceremony in April 1927. It was declared during the unveiling that the cairn 'was also an honor to all the early pioneers'. (Criteria A & G)

The Angus McMillan Memorial is **aesthetically significant at a local level** as a vernacular monument of unpainted random rubble stones, with a marble plaque with lead lettering, surmounted by a fluted metal column and flaming orb. The four Pencil Pines (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) are a significant aesthetic feature associated with the memorial. (Criterion E)

The Angus McMillan Memorial is **scientifically significant at a local level** for potential to yield archaeological evidence in the land around the monument. (Criterion C)

Statutory Recommendations

This place is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wellington Shire Planning Scheme with the boundaries as shown on the map.

External Paint Controls	Yes, including cleaning
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	Yes
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place	Not assessed

Map of recommended boundary for Heritage Overlay



KEY

- Recommended for Heritage Overlay
- Title boundary

**Angus McMillan Memorial and Pencil Pines
Road Reserve, Maffra-Briagolong Rd,
Bushy Park**

Project: Wellington Shire Stage 2 Heritage Study
Client: Wellington Shire Council
Author: Heritage Intelligence Pty Ltd
Date: 12/5/16

History

N.B. The following history outlines the period of post-European contact based on the local histories cited. Although the positive achievements of Angus McMillan's explorations have been widely reported and recognised, it is also recognised that there have been allegations suggesting McMillan and his Highland Brigade were responsible for the massacre of Aboriginal people in Gippsland. An expert in Aboriginal history is required to conduct further research into the association between Angus McMillan and the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area.

Thematic context

This place is associated with the following themes from the *Wellington Shire Thematic History* (2005):

1. Exploration:

- 1.2 Pioneer Explorers

9. Developing cultural institutions and way of life:

- 9.2. Memorials

The following is based on information taken from the *Wellington Shire Thematic Environmental History* (Context 2005:45-6):

Memorials are erected throughout the Shire in honour of pioneers and district explorers, significant events and people, and those who served in world wars and other conflicts.

The soldiers' memorials that are spread throughout the Shire show the impact that the two world wars, and subsequent conflicts, had on so many communities and families within the Shire. It must be remembered that while commonly referred to today as 'war memorials', these memorials were originally erected in honour of, and to commemorate, the soldiers and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The memorials were often funded by the community and erected with great community pride, in honour of the locals who died or served and returned.

The group of Rosedale memorials comprises two soldiers memorials and an Angus McMillan memorial. Among the names listed on the soldiers memorials are those of James Wilfred Harrap and Ernest Merton Harrap, brothers from Willung who were killed on the same day at the battle for Polygon Wood near Ypres in 1917. Listed on the Briagolong soldiers' memorial are the names of six Whitelaw brothers, three of whom were killed on active service and one who died later from wounds received. A memorial to their mother, Annie Whitelaw, was erected at her grave in honour of her sacrifice, and to all mothers of sons who served at the front. Soldiers' memorials also remain at Maffra, Stratford and Yarram, to name a few. While St James Anglican Church in Heyfield stands as a Soldiers' Memorial Church. There are also remnants of avenues of honour. The pine trees at Stratford lining the route of the former highway were planted as a memorial to soldiers who served in the First World War. Many of the memorials also have plantings, such as a lone pine, planted in connection with the memorial.

Among the many other memorials in the Shire are those to district pioneers. The cairns erected to Angus McMillan and Paul Strzelecki in 1927 follow their routes through the Shire and were part of an orchestrated campaign of the Victorian Historical Memorials Committee to infuse a sense of history into a landscape that had no ancient monuments.

The struggle for road access in isolated areas is remembered by a cairn dedicated to the Country Roads Board, erected in 1935 at the intersection of the Binginwarri and Hiawatha roads. Transforming a landscape from dryland grazing to irrigated pasture is symbolised by a dethridge wheel mounted on a cairn on the Nambrok Denison estate. A memorial is planned at site of the West Sale Holding Centre to commemorate the migrants who came to settle in postwar Australia. Bronze plaques, designed by Sale artist Annemieke Mein and on display in Sale, document the contributions of several famous Gippslanders, including singer Ada Crossley and writer Mary Grant Bruce.

Angus McMillan

Angus McMillan (14 August 1810 - 18 May 1865) was a Scottish explorer and pioneer pastoralist in Gippsland. He completed several expeditions and while he was not necessarily the first to visit many locations, his expeditions were the most important in terms of European settlement of Gippsland. McMillan crossed the Tambo, Nicholson, Mitchell, Perry, Avon, Macalister and Thomson Rivers, realised the possibilities of the lakes system and reported enthusiastically to Captain Macalister, who funded the expeditions, on the quality of the country. In 1841 he located a suitable port for the region at what is now Port Albert (Monuments Australia; ADB 1967).

McMillan settled at the Bushy Park Station in 1844 (Figure H1) at which he hosted newly arrived Scots. He was elected as the first representative for South Gippsland to the Victorian Legislative Assembly on 22 September 1859 but resigned after fourteen months. As a result of his mortgages and debts, all his lands but Tabberabbera passed to mortgagees in October 1861. Following this, he led the government's Alpine Expedition to open tracks in the mining areas of Omeo, Dargo and Matlock. In May 1865, he set out along on the last task, to blaze a trail from Dargo to the Moroka River, during which one of his pack-horses fell and rolled on him, causing severe internal injuries. He reached as far as Iguana Creek, where he died in Gilleo's Hotel on 18 May 1865. He was buried at Sale cemetery (ADB 1967).

Eighteen cairns or tablets to McMillan were erected in commemoration of his explorations. They were located at Bushy Park, Stratford, Sale, Rosedale, Yarram, Port Albert, Benambra (to Macfarlane, Pendergast, McKillop), Omeo, Swifts Creek, Ensay, Bruthen, Mossiface, Sarsfield, Lucknow, Calula (2), Bundalaguah and Tom's Gap (Monuments Australia). The cairn at Bushy Park is one of the largest of the McMillan monuments.

Governor Lord Somers is known to have unveiled some of the Angus McMillan memorials. On 2 April 1927, *The Argus* reported that a party including Sir James Barrett, the under secretary for Lands (Mr H. O. Allan), and members of the Historical Society committee left Melbourne for Gippsland yesterday where they will unveil a series of cairns which have been erected to perpetuate the memory of the explorers Strzlecki and Angus McMillan, and to mark the routes of their chief explorations.

Place history

The Angus McMillan memorial is located at the intersection of Bushy Park-Valencia Creek Road and Briagolong-Maffra Road, Bushy Park, which is the site of Angus McMillan's original landholding in Gippsland, leased from March 1844. McMillan first built a hut on the banks of the Avon River, before building a station homestead which he lived at until 1861 (Cox 1973:109; ADB).

The memorial is located across the road from the site of McMillan's homestead. In 2005, the remnants of the station buildings included the chimney of the house, remnants of a possible early outbuilding and archaeological deposits (Context 2005).

The large cairn was erected in 1927 in honour of McMillan at this significant location. The memorial plaque reads 'In memory of Angus McMillan who discovered Gippsland 1840 AD. He owned the Bushy Park Estate and his home was adjacent to this memorial, April 1927'. The memorial was unveiled in April 1927 by Lord Somers, the Governor of Victoria (Figure H2). Lord Somers declared during the unveiling that the cairn 'was also an honor to all the early pioneers' (*Age*, 7 Apr 1927:8; Manning 1994).

A photo of the memorial dating to 1975 (Figure 3) showed the memorial in good condition, with the metal ball at the peak of the cairn (since deteriorated) (SLV).

In 2015, four Pencil Pines, or Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*), (3 that are mature) stand like sentinels in front of the memorial. The Pencil Pines date to the c1930s (Hawker 2016).

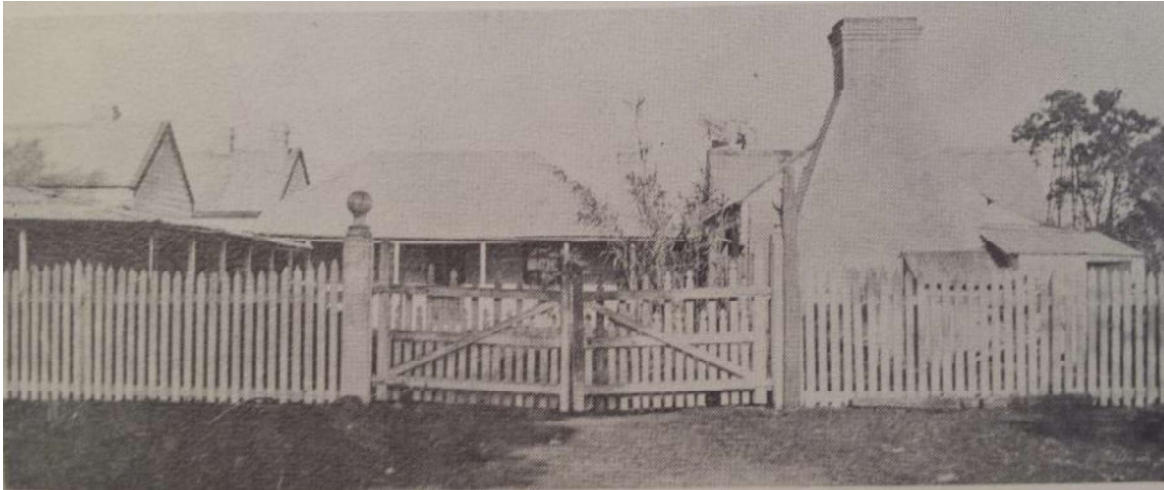


Figure H1. Angus McMillan's Homestead in Bushy Park in 1923-24, the remnants of which remain at the site near the memorial (MDHS 1923-1924).



Figure H2. The unveiling of the monument to Angus McMillan at Bushy Park, by Lord Somers, the Governor of Victoria in April 1927 (Manning 1994).



Figure H3. The memorial in 1975 (SLV).

Sources

Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB) (1967), 'Angus McMillan (1810-1865)', <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/>>, accessed 17 Dec 2015.

Context Pty Ltd (2005), 'Wellington Shire Heritage Study Thematic Environmental History'.

Hawker, John, Heritage Officer (Horticulture) at Heritage Victoria, personal communication, March 2016.

Maffra & District Historical Society (1985), *Maffra Past and Present*, Maffra (Vic).

Manning, Laurie (1994), *Discovering Briagolong*, Briagolong

Monuments Australia, 'Angus McMillan', <<http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/>>, accessed 17 Dec 2015.

State Library of Victoria (SLV), picture collection 'Angus McMillan Monument, Boisdale', <<http://slv.vic.gov.au/>>, accessed 17 Dec 2015.

The Age

The Argus, as cited on Monuments Australia.

Description

This section describes the place in 2016. Refer to the Place History for additional important details describing historical changes in the physical fabric.

The 1927 monument is located directly opposite the ruins of Angus McMillan's 1840s homestead, on the road reserve of the Maffra-Briagolong Rd, so that it can be seen and visited by the public.

It is a unique vernacular design, most likely made by local craftsman and reflecting the tradition of building with locally available materials where possible, as McMillan did when building his house (the small stones may be from the local river).

It is a large cairn constructed of (possibly local) uncut small stones. It sits on a very low plinth of small stones, with a thin smooth concrete screed on top. Above the plinth is a square pedestal of small stones embedded randomly with mortar but sitting proud of the mortar, and the whole pedestal is tapering slightly to a flat top. Traditional mortar mixes were commonly 1:3, lime:sand. Sitting on this is a curved round annulus resembling a shallow bowl in which sits the base of a tall, but slightly tapering column of small stones embedded in (lime mortar) but the outside surface sitting proud of the mortar, giving the memorial a strongly articulated finish which has strong shadows cast by each stone. At the top of the tapered column, a concrete screed tapers to a cone shape, in which a thin metal fluted column is fixed and on top of this is a 'flaming' metal orb. The symbolism of the design is worthy of a detailed study.

The marble plaque to the face of the pedestal has been damaged, possibly with a screwdriver.

Four Pencil Pines, or Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*), (3 that are mature, planted c1930s) stand in front of the memorial. The pines are good examples of the species. A picnic table is located just to the east of the memorial, within the reserve.



Figure D1. View of the front elevation showing the 7 levels of construction.



Figure D2. Detail view of the white marble plaque with incised lead lettering, and black staining.

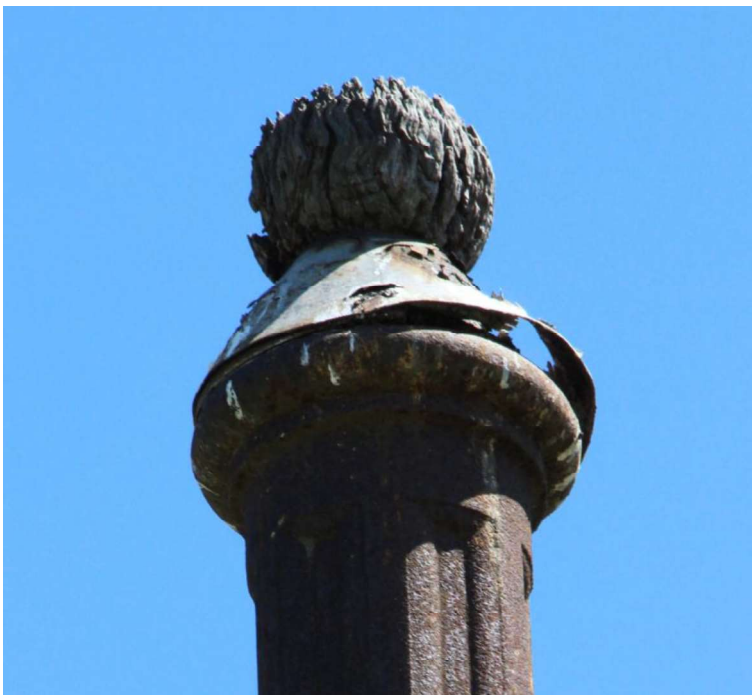


Figure D3. Detail of the fluted metal column, capital and 'flaming' metal orb.



Figure D4. Detail showing the cracking to the tapering column, travelling around the small stones allowing water in.

Sources

All photos taken in 2015 by Heritage Intelligence Pty Ltd as part of Wellington Shire Stage 2 Heritage Study.

Comparative analysis

The Angus McMillan Memorial at Bushy Park is one of the largest of the McMillan memorials in the Gippsland region. It was erected in 1927 adjacent to the remnants of McMillan's Bushy Park Station (1844), which increases its historic significance in comparison to the other memorials, which mark the routes of his explorations.

Eighteen cairns or tablets to McMillan were erected in Gippsland in commemoration of his explorations. They are located at Bushy Park, Stratford, Sale, Rosedale, Yarram, Port Albert, Benambra (to Macfarlane, Pendergast, McKillop), Omeo, Swifts Creek, Ensay, Bruthen, Mossiface, Sarsfield, Lucknow, Calula (2), Bundalaguah and Tom's Gap (Monuments Australia). The cairn at Bushy Park is one of the largest of the McMillan monuments.

Management Guidelines

Whilst landowners are not obliged to undertake restoration works, these guidelines provide recommendations to facilitate the retention and enhancement of the culturally significant place, its fabric and its setting, when restoration works or alterations to the building are proposed. They also identify issues particular to the place and provide further detailed advice where relevant. The guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive and a pragmatic approach will be taken when considering development proposals. Alternative approaches to those specified in the guidelines will

be considered where it can be demonstrated that a desirable development outcome can be achieved that does not impact on a place's heritage integrity.

1. Location and Setting

- 1.1. Ensure all future roadworks, services and landscaping works respect the original location of this monument. Manage design developments which make it practical and safe to leave the monument there. Ensure there is room for large crowds during memorial services.
- 1.2. Retain the tall Pencil Pines which flank the monument, and the informal landscaping of tall trees.
- 1.3. Retain clear views to the monument from the streets.
- 1.4. Do not put signage in the view lines to the monument.
- 1.5. New interpretation storyboards should be placed to the side of the monument, not behind or in front of it.
- 1.6. If ground works are proposed (e.g. a concrete apron around the monument), the place should first be subject to an archaeological assessment prior to works.
- 1.7. Ensure concrete has exposed aggregate to match the colour of the earth.
- 1.8. Ensure the concrete does not adhere to the monument itself. Insert 10mm x 10mm grey polyurethane seal over a zipped Ableflex joint filler around the stone plinth, to protect the stone from concrete adhering to it and to allow expansion joint movement and prevent water from seeping below the monument.

2. Care and Maintenance

- 2.1 Refer to the Resources list below. These were written by Jenny Dickens, Senior Conservator of Heritage Victoria. They are in plain English, well illustrated and have very important instructions. Further assistance is available from the Shire's heritage advisor.
- 2.1. The biggest risk to memorials is permanent damage by the use of cleaning materials, agents and methods. E.g. acid washing dissolves the marble which and the damage cannot be undone; sand and water blasting remove the stonemasons skilled decorative works, the polished surfaces and lettering and allows water to enter.
- 2.2. Memorials are meant to develop a patina of age to imbue them with a sense of timelessness, and gravity of the memory. They are not meant to look bright and super clean, apart from when they were built.
- 2.3. Overall, this memorial is in fair to good condition, and requires some maintenance and repairs.
- 2.4. **Water damage:**
 - 2.4.1. There is a long crack down one side of the monument (Fig D4) which may be due to water getting into it from above. In any case water will be getting into now and the source of the problem need to be remedied, and then the crack is to be filled with matching mortar.
 - 2.4.1.1. It is recommended that a structural engineer (experienced with historic buildings and the Burra Charter principle of doing "as little as possible but as much as necessary") be engaged for advice.
- 2.5. Never use modern products on these historic stone monuments as they will cause expensive damage. Use lime mortar to match existing.
- 2.6. **Do not seal** the monument with modern sealants. Allow the structure to evaporate water from the surface and to expel water that may enter from cracks, corrosion, etc.
- 2.7. Cast iron column and flaming orb:
 - 2.7.1. This is corroding and the rust will run down the historic stone monument and lettering and cause expensive damage and staining. The connection between the column and the top of the stone memorial may have opened up do to the corrosion process.
 - 2.7.2. It is recommended that a professional materials conservator is engaged to :

- 2.7.2.1. Investigate the source of the staining on the marble plaque and
- 2.7.2.2. to clean and repair the marble plaque and
- 2.7.2.3. to repair the metal features before they disintegrate.
- 2.8. Never sand, water or soda blast the monument as it will blast out the mortar, permanently pit the surface, remove the lettering and make the stone quickly become porous and dirty.
- 3. Restoration**
 - 3.1. Research the original design, materials, design and colours of the column.
 - 3.2. Apply for a government grant to professionally restore the monument.

Resources

The following fact sheets contain practical and easy-to-understand information about the care and preservation of war heritage and memorabilia commonly found in local communities across Victoria. They can be downloaded at <<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/victorian-veterans-virtual-museum/preserving-veterans-heritage/preserving-war-heritage-and-memorabilia>>:

- Avenues-of-honour-and-other-commemorative-plantings
- Finding-the-right-conservator-tradespeople-and-materials
- General-Principles
- Useful-resources-and-contacts
- War-Memorials.