

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** YULECART MEMORIAL HALL AND RESERVE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Dartmoor-Hamilton Road YULECART

**STUDY NUMBER:** 156

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 3      **SECTION:** 7      **PARISH:** PARISH OF YULECART

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 431 F63;

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

Yulecart Memorial Hall and Reserve,

Dartmoor - Hamilton Road, Yulecart

**Image Date:**



Yulecart Memorial Hall tennis courts

Dartmoor - Hamilton Road, Yulecart

**Image Date:**

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. A) All of the land and all of the plantings and structures within a 120 metre radius from the centre of the oval.

B) All of the memorial hall, including the interiors and all of the land within a radius of 20m of any edge of the hall.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Yulecart Memorial Hall is a small dressed bluestone hall, with a gabled roof in corrugated iron. It assumes a traditional and conservative form. The south facing facade contains no windows, but has large timber doors opening outwards. The gable point has a wooden finial, and the date 1924 appears on a cement tablet immediately below the gable. The west wall has three two-paned double sash timber windows, with wall ventilators. Originally symmetrical, the hall has been altered on the east side, by the addition of a 1970s cement block structure. A second unsympathetic extension in cement block and aluminium sheeting has been added at the rear at a similar time.

A timber and wire fence, with a wrought iron and wire garden gate bounds the hall on the south side, facing the Dartmoor-Hamilton road. Inside the fence, adjacent to the hall is a war memorial.

The memorial, built of dressed bluestone blocks, takes the form of a flat topped pyramid, approximately 1.5 metres high. A bronze plaque at the base of the structures states, 'Erected in the memory of Yulecart citizens who made the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II.' Small bronze plaques commemorating the fallen have been attached to the sides of the pyramid.

The hall and war memorial are located within a large reserve adjoining Muddy Creek. The sporting complex comprises three tennis courts and a football oval with two corrugated iron sheds. The northern side of the oval is planted with a row of mature cypress trees (now incomplete). The oval has been constructed by cutting and filling the sloping land beside the creek, which must have entailed an enormous amount of earth-moving. On the north side of the oval, the remains of an boundary planting of *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monteray cypress) survive. These were probably planted at the same time the oval was constructed, and only four remain now.

## **HISTORY:**

The Yulecart Memorial Hall was established on the same site as the Yulecart school, which prior to 1900 had never had more than twenty children. The enrollment at the Yulecart School increased in the new century to about seventy, and in 1913, a committee was established to collect funds to build a new hall. Committee members included leading residents J. Simpson, W. Loats, W. H. Francis and J. G. Habel. Tenders were called for the construction of the hall in July 1914, but the plans were suspended on the outbreak of the war and did not progress until the 1920s (HS 13/9/1924). The hall was constructed using bluestone from the old Strathkellar Homestead, and was finally opened in September 1924 (*ibid.*, 11/09/1924). Garden (214), states that the village of Yulecart, along with many others, declined and disappeared due to the centralization of services and shopping into Hamilton after the 1960s. A war memorial was also erected on the site to remember those from the district who had served and fell in World War One and Two.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities  
4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.1 Organising recreation  
8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sports  
8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens  
8.5 Forming associations  
8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

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8.8 Remembering the fallen

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

**CONDITION:**

The bluestone hall and war memorial are in good condition.

**INTEGRITY:**

Fair

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Yulecart Memorial Hall, located on Dartmoor - Hamilton Road, Yulecart is a small conventional stone hall with a corrugated iron gabled roof. Other structures within the reserve include a War Memorial to those who served in World War One and Two, three tennis courts and a football oval with two corrugated iron sheds. The northern side of the oval is planted with a row of mature cypress trees (now incomplete). The hall and reserve were developed in response to the surge in population caused by Closer Settlement in the early part of the twentieth century. The hall was built by volunteer labour, recycling stone from nearby Strathkellar Homestead. The complex represents a strong sense of determination amongst settler families in the district. Many of the descendants continue to live in the area. The complex is relatively intact and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Yulecart Memorial Hall and reserve is of historical and social significance to Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Yulecart Memorial Hall and reserve is of historical significance for marking a major chapter in closer settlement. It is of social significance as an example of cooperation for community self-improvement and as a continuing focus for that community. The oval is historically significant as a central meeting place and social institution for many years. The cypress represent a previous practice, when the whole of the oval was commonly planted with cypress or pines at the time it was constructed.

**COMPARISON:**

437 Memorial Hall and Park, Scott Street, Cavendish.

286 Public Hall Complex, Victoria Valley Road, Victoria Valley

476 Mirranatwa Public Hall, Mirranatwa School Road, Mirranatwa

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

1/12/2003

**EXISTING LISTINGS:**

**HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

**REFERENCES:**

Author	Title	Year	Page
	Hamilton Spectator 13/09/1924	1924	
	Hamilton Spectator 11/09/1924	1924	
Donald Garden	Hamilton, a Western District History	1984	164, 218
Harold Bradley	War memorials of Victoria : a pictorial record	1994	