BAIRNSDALE PUMPING STATION

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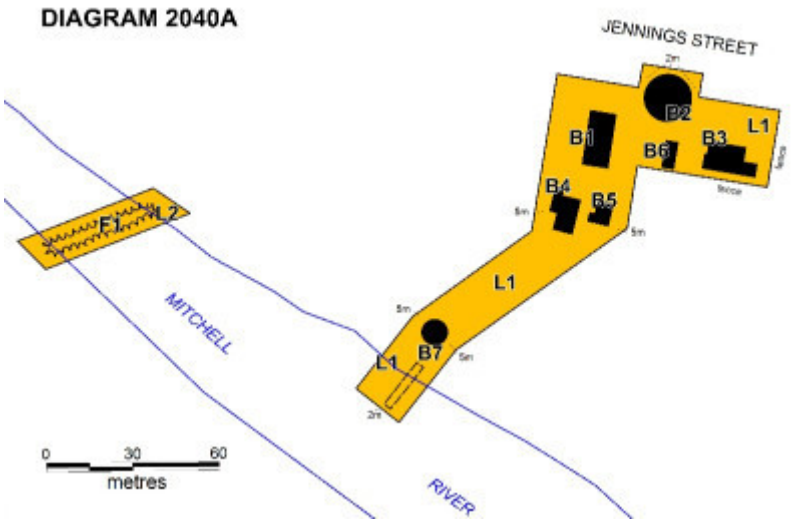
h02040 bairnsdale pumping station 1888 brick tank

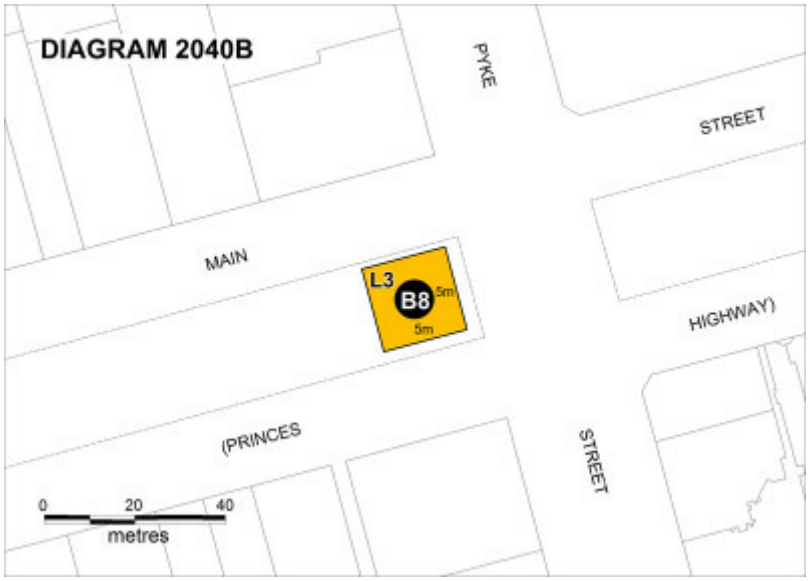
h02040 bairnsdale pumping station 2 2002

h02040 bairnsdale pumping station 2002

h02040 bairnsdale pumping station monier 1906 tank



Amended registration 2011



Amended registration 2011

Location

JENNINGS STREET (PUMPING STATION) AND MAIN STREET (TOWER) BAIRNSDALE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2040

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO45

VHR Registration

September 18, 2003

Amendment to Registration

March 8, 2012

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 29, 2003

What is significant?
The Bairnsdale Pumping Station complex comprises: a 380,000 litre in-ground water reservoir, a pumphouse and a residence, all completed in 1888; a 1.3 million litre above-ground concrete tank and a pumphouse added nearby in 1906; a weir on the Mitchell River below the pumping station; a 1930s pumphouse; a 1950s workshop; and a 30 metre high 303,000 litre water tower built in the town centre in 1926.

The Bairnsdale Shire Council called for proposals in 1884-5 to construct a water supply system for the town, and in 1886 accepted the design of the prominent architect and civil engineer John Harry Grainger (1854-1917). Grainger was already well known as the designer of the Princes Bridge in Melbourne (built 1886-8, VHR H1447) and the Swing Bridge over the La Trobe River near Sale (built 1880-83, VHR H1438). The first phase of the pumping station, completed in 1888, pumped water by steam-driven pumps from the Mitchell River up to an in-ground reservoir, and from there it flowed by gravity through a pipe to the town. An engine driver was housed in a small cottage on the site. An upgrade to the station in 1906 included the installation of a new cylindrical concrete tank designed by (Sir) John Monash's Reinforced Concrete and Monier Pipe Construction Company. A new pumphouse was also built, which initially housed a steam-driven pump. The plant was electrified in 1926, and a pair of X-pumps, a new Victorian invention, was added. A reinforced concrete water tower designed by the civil engineer Svend Haunstrup, a specialist in reinforced concrete construction, was built in 1926-7 in Main Street to provide higher and more consistent water pressures. In 1935 another pump house with five electric booster pumps was built on the upper level. A workshop was added in the 1950s. The pumping station continued to operate until the 1980s, when the new Wy Yung storage basin at Glenaladale was complete.

The former Bairnsdale Pumping Station is located on the Mitchell River to the west of the township. There are three original 1888 structures: a water tank, a corrugated iron pump house and a weatherboard cottage, all now located on flat ground above the river. The rectangular in-ground water tank has brick walls above ground and mass concrete walls below, and is covered by a gabled corrugated iron roof. The original steam pump house was originally located next to the river but was moved in the 1930s to a site near the water tanks and used as a garage and later as a store. The 1906 structures are the cylindrical reinforced concrete tank and the lower pump house next to the river, which has a circular base of reinforced concrete with a timber-framed 16-sided super-structure (which may have been added in 1926 to house the new X-pumps, which still remain inside), which is clad on the walls and roof with corrugated iron and the roof is lined with Oregon boards. Immediately downstream of the lower pumphouse is a rubble-stone weir built to prevent saline tidal water entering the river above. The 1930s pumphouse is a weatherboard shed, which contains five electric centrifugal booster pumps, and has a corrugated iron addition. The corrugated iron 1950s workshop also contains original machinery.

How is it significant?
Bairnsdale Pumping Station is of historical and scientific (technical) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?
Bairnsdale Pumping Station is historically significant as the most intact example in Victoria of an early municipal pumping station. The site has an unparalleled collection of buildings, tanks and machinery that demonstrate the operations of a nineteenth and early twentieth century municipal water pumping station. The station is a reflection of the growth of Victorian towns in the late nineteenth century and the need to provide reliable and safe water supply systems for them. The two key phases of the development of the pumping station were designed by two of Victoria's leading engineers, John Grainger and Sir John Monash.

Bairnsdale Pumping Station is scientifically (technically) significant for its ability to demonstrate changes in water delivery technology from the 1880s, especially relating to the evolution of pumping, tank construction and water treatment. The 1920s X-pumps are significant as the only in situ examples of their kind in Victoria, and demonstrate the innovations which were taking place in engineering design in the state at the time. The 1906 tank is significant as the earliest known Monier-type reinforced concrete water tank in Victoria.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don’t harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Construction dates	1888, 1906, 1926, 1930, 1950,
Architect/Designer	Grainger, J,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	11691
Property Number	

Plaque Citation

This is Victoria's most intact early municipal water pumping system. The two main stages of development were designed by John Grainger (1888) and Sir John Monash (1906), with the tower in Main Street added in 1926-7.

Extent of Registration

1. All of the land marked L1, L2 and L3 on Diagrams 2040A and 2040B held by the Executive Director being part of Lot 3 on LP209511, parts of Crown Allotments 22A and 2014 Township of Bairnsdale and part of Crown Allotment 7A1 Parish of Wy-Yung and parts of the road reserve of Jennings Street and Main Street Bairnsdale

2. All of the buildings and features marked as follows on Diagrams 2040A and 2040B held by the Executive Director:
B1 1888 water tank

B2 1906 water tank

B3 1888 engine driver's house

B4 1950s workshop and machinery

B5 1930s (upper) pumphouse and machinery

B6 relocated 1888 steam pumphouse

B7 1906 (lower) pumphouse and machinery

B8 storage tower

F1 Weir

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/