
Former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence



362 Albert Street Sebastopol



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Location

362 Albert Street SEBASTOPOL, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO194

Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 5, 2024

What is significant?

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street, Sebastopol dates from the mid 1860s and was the third site of the Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Mine.

The site comprises the following significant elements:

- Mine shaft opening (filled)

- Pieces of concrete which may have been part of the pump bob pit (near the shaft)
- Blocks of stone in the grass north of the shaft
- Large dam 70 m by 50 m 50 m north of shaft
- Two mullock heaps, defining the west and north sides of an area from which mullock has been removed
- The mine managers/administration residence (which may have been built as late as the 1880s)
- Scatters of stone and brick between the mine shaft and the mine manager's residence
- Building foundations to the south of the mullock heaps
- A small section of bluestone lined channel and simple wooden bridge
- Several fruit trees dating from the late nineteenth century/early twentieth century: Apple, Pear, Cherry Plum, and a particularly fine Apple tree at the rear of the residence
- Two Elm trees at the entrance to the mine shaft - possibly associated with the residence.

How is it significant?

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street Sebastopol is of historic, scientific (technical), architectural and archaeological significance, and has aesthetic value as part of Sebastopol's cultural landscape.

Why is it significant?

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street Sebastopol has historical significance as a mining site that represents the southernmost point of extraction on the Guiding Star and Albion Lodes; two of the three main lodes in the area. It was one of the last quartz mines at work in the Ballarat area. It was worked by the Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company that grew to become one of the most successful of the period. Historically, it is particularly significant as it provides the most intact example of a mine site in Sebastopol. Also of historical significance is the early mine-related residence, surrounding fruit trees (planted most likely after the close of the mine) and mature Elm trees. (Criteria A & B)

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street Sebastopol has scientific (technical) significance as the surviving physical remains of the mining works provide evidence and understanding of the arrangement and workings of a mid-nineteenth century mine and the changes which occurred into the early twentieth century. It is of technical significance for its ability to illustrate a previous way of life (work) and industry in Sebastopol in this period, and more broadly, 19th century gold mines in the area. (Criterion C)

The timber residence is of historical significance as a rare surviving example of a Victorian timber house that has survived in context to its mine site. Two nineteenth century mine manager's residences survive within Sebastopol, but the other (located at 122 Albert Street, Sebastopol) no longer has a clear relationship with the mine it was associated with. It is of architectural significance as a representative example of a mid-Victorian timber house which is highly intact and retains an unusually ornate verandah. (Criteria B & D)

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street Sebastopol is of archaeological significance as the Prince of Wales and Bonshaw mine site, with its surrounding mining landscape. It is significant for its archaeological deposits and remains which survive on the site, including building and machinery footings, mullock heaps, the mine shaft and its surrounds. These are likely to contain archaeological deposits which could provide information concerning the mining methods employed during this period, and the lives of the miners themselves. Moreover, the mullock heaps, although somewhat disturbed, are still prominent features in the landscape to the south of Sebastopol and clearly illustrate the previous land use practice of this area. (Criterion C)

Theme

4. Transforming and managing the land 6. Building towns cities and the garden state

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;

Other Names Glyn Neath,

Hermes Number 183755

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The former Prince of Wales and Bonshaw Company gold mining site and mine managers residence at 362 Albert Street Sebastopol is situated at the southern edge of the study area. Its southern boundary is formed by Bells Road, historically known as the 'Three Chain Road' or the 'Portland Road', and this represents the extent of the City of Ballarat administration area.

The wider mine site

The following is an extract from Context (2011:51-52):

The mine site at 362 Albert Street, Sebastopol, has been described in previous studies (Supple 1999, Bannear 1999, and Ecology Partners 2010) as a 'mullock heap obscured by trees' but, while in quite poor condition, it is still relatively intact and retains a number of archaeological features relating to its gold mining history that are now not visible at other mine sites in Ballarat West.

The most prominent features are two mullock heaps which run south and east, from a point just to the south of the mine shaft. These heaps (which measure 25m x 25m x 4m high and 50m x 25m x 5m high) define the west and north sides of an area approximately 50m x 50m, from which mullock has been removed. Although each of the extant heaps have also had material removed from it they are still quite large in height and area compared to others in Ballarat West and, despite their tree coverage, remain prominent landscape features. The mullock heaps are surrounded by plantings of *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress) which date from around the 1960s onward. A number of these are not planted, but have colonised the mullock heaps. The *Cupressus macrocarpa* are not considered to be significant to the site, although they do represent a clear move away from the industrial use of the site to becoming a residential home.

The opening of the mine shaft is still visible, although the shaft is now full of rubbish including a couple of pieces of concrete which may have been part of the pump bob pit. There are a few blocks of stone in the grass north of the shaft and scattered brick, ceramic and glass. Most of this material probably relates to the demolition of 20th century buildings at the site, but some blocks of blue stone and red brick visible on the ground surface near to the shaft appear to be *in situ* foundations and may relate to the time of the mines operation.

However, a site inspection carried out by Neil Wright of the Sebastopol Historical Society in October 2011 noted the lack of engine beds; brick or bluestone beds that provided the foundations necessary to hold engines, pumps and other machinery, which normally remained after the close of a mine (Wright, pers. comm., Oct 2011).

The house (see below), which is currently occupied, is located c50m to the west of the mine shaft opening, and a large rectangular dam (70m x 50m) is located c50 m to its north. The mine shaft has two mature (c1890-1910) *Ulmus* sp.(Elms) adjacent. The species of the Elms could not be identified as no leaves, fruits or flowers were present at the time of inspection.

During the survey a number of newly identified features were recorded at this site. These include two sets of building foundations to the south of the mullock heaps, of an uncertain origin but probably building or machinery foundations, and a small bluestone-lined channel with a simple wooden bridge. The channel is near the end of a Cyprus pine row at the southern end of the property.

Underground components of the mining sites may still remain intact but these could not be assessed within the scope of this study.

A row of *Salix* sp. (Willow) leading towards the driveway from the residence are not significant.

Key site features:

1. Mine shaft opening - filled with of rubbish
2. Pieces of concrete which may have been part of the pump bob pit
3. Blocks of stone in the grass north of the shaft
4. Large dam 70 m by 50 m 50 m north of shaft
5. Two mullock heaps, defining the west and north sides of an area from which mullock has been removed
6. The mine managers/administration house (now a private residence)
7. Scatters of stone and brick between the mine shaft and the mine manager's house
8. Building foundations to the south of the mullock heaps
9. A small section of bluestone lined channel and simple wooden bridge.
10. Two Elm trees at the entrance to the mine shaft - possibly associated with the residence.

Bonshaw Mine residence

The Bonshaw Mine residence is set far back from Albert Street, behind an open paddock and clumps of trees, although it faces the road.

It is a weatherboard house, with an M-hipped roof clad in corrugated iron. It has three bi-chrome brick chimneys with stop-chamfered corners and a moulded brick cornice (missing from the rear chimney).

The front verandah has a slightly convex roof and retains unusually ornate cast-iron columns (with Corinthian capitals and fluted shafts) and a floral frieze with continuous brackets (NB: the frieze and brackets have few paint layers and could be a recent addition). The floor is edged with basalt blocks.

The facade is symmetrical, with a central six-panelled door with heavy mouldings. The windows to either side are one-over-one double-hung sashes. The three windows on the north side elevation are also single-pane, and these are protected by simple timber hoods with ripple-iron roofs. It is apparent by a corner stop between the rear two windows that the house has been extended to the rear. As the rearmost chimney at the back of this extension has the same detailing as the front chimneys, this raises the possibility that the chimneys were all added at the time the extension was made.

At the very rear is a much later skillion extension, clad in fibro sheeting.

Alterations include the recent re-cladding of the roof and the replacement of the verandah floor with a concrete slab. The front picket fence is a reproduction.

There is a small timber shed to the south of the house, which is clad in unpainted weatherboards. Its roof is gabled, with a skillion to the east side. It was not examined in detail.

The land immediate to the residence retains some early twentieth century and possibly late nineteenth century plantings. The range of surviving trees clearly illustrate that the residence was permanently occupied. There are cultivars of the following fruit trees surrounding the residence: - *Malus domestica* (Apple), *Pyrus comminus* (Pear), *Prunus cerasifera* (Cherry Plum), *Prunus cv.* (unknown plum). The owners of the property also recall that in previous years there were specimens of Walnut and Fig (now gone).

Sources

Context PL (2011), *Ballarat West Growth Areas, Bonshaw Creek and Greenhalghs Road Precincts, Historic Archaeology Assessments*.

Wright, Neil (of the Sebastopol Historical Society), personal communication, October 2011.

Integrity

The residence is in good condition externally and retains a high degree of integrity. The mine site has lost a large amount of fabric, but retains a number of significant elements that are intact.

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/>