

Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The William Fancy Company mining complex is situated on both sides of Sykes Road, within the township of Berringa. The former Mine Manager's Residence, located on allotment 1A, on the northern side of Sykes Road, is a large conservative house of at least eight rooms built within the first decade of the twentieth century. The residence is in good condition and retains a very high degree of integrity. The William Fancy Mining Company site contains a number of industrial elements from nineteenth century and twentieth century quartz mining activity. Including brick and concrete foundations attributed to the air shaft, battery, gas plant, pumping and steam engine operations. A mullock heap and sluicing dam located south of the main shaft and a second dam located to the north of the main shaft, across Sykes Road.

How is it significant?

The former William Fancy Company mining complex is of historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former William Fancy Mining Company site is of historical significance for its association with the goldfields of southern Victoria and its relationship to the mining township of Berringa (formally Kangaroo). The site is also historically significant due to the continued works that took place on the site, long after the mine had closed, when subsistence prospecting and cyaniding were undertaken during the depression of the 1930s.

The former William Fancy Mine Manager's Residence is of architectural significance for demonstrating the success of the mine within the early twentieth century.

The former William Fancy Company mining complex is of archaeological significance for its potential to yield artifacts and evidence to document the varied extraction methods from a number of phases during the operation of the mine.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 2, Heritage Matters P/L, 2009;
Hermes Number	31667
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The former William Fancy Company mining complex is located on allotments 1 and 1F, Section 16, within the township of Berringa. The site is split into two parts intersected by Sykes Road, with the former Mine Manager's Residence located at No. 15 Sykes Road, linking the northern and southern parcels of land.

The former Mine Manager's Residence, located on allotment 1A on the northern side of Sykes Road is a large house of at least eight rooms. The conservative residence is symmetrical, with weatherboard cladding on the south facing facade and vertical corrugated iron on the side elevations. A recessed six panel front door is set within a traditional glazed door frame. The windows of the front rooms are paired double hung sashes. Two red brick chimneys protrude from the corrugated iron roof and serve as fireplaces opposite the front windows. The bull-nose verandah runs along three sides and is supported by timber posts, with simple timber brackets, featuring a crossed timber balustrade. A projecting wing is externally accessed from a door on the side verandah and serves as a dining and service wing, linked by a red brick chimney. The outbuildings located on the eastern side of the allotment are not significant. Based on stylistic details and the materials used, the residence appears to have been constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century. The former Mine Manager's Residence is in good condition and retains a very high degree of integrity. A large dam is located north of the residence and is associated with the former mining site.

The second section of the site is located on the southern side of Sykes Road and contains features from a number of phases during the operation of the mine. The first part of the site is located around the shaft includes substantial concrete and brick winding and/or pumping foundations to the west of the shaft, part of the pump bob pit, a 40 m x 30 m dam and a large, 70 m x 30 m mullock heap, which runs south from the shaft. East and slightly north of the main shaft is an air shaft with low walls running along two sides. Further east are the foundations of the gas producers, suction gas plant and the battery, plus the foundations of the steam engine that preceded the more recent gas powered plant. The foundations at the battery and gas plant are within an area of 50 m x 50 m, the foundations are in good condition and reflect the various up-gradings that took place. (Description of remains taken from Ray Supple, *Historic Goldmining Sites in the Southern Mining Divisions of the Ballarat Mining District: Report on Cultural Heritage*, Victorian Goldfields Project, 1998).

Historical Australian Themes

The Australian Heritage Commission devised the Australian Historic Themes in 2001. The following themes have influenced the historical development of the former Williams Fancy Mining Company site.

3 Developing Local, Regional And National Economies

3.3 Surveying the continent

3.3.3 Prospecting for precious metals

3.4 Utilising natural resources

3.4.3 Mining

5 Working

5.1 Working in harsh conditions

5.1.2 Coping with dangerous jobs and workplaces

Physical Description 2

Extent of Registration: the extent of the former William Fancy Company Mining complex including: the former Mine Manager's Residence located at No. 15 Sykes Road being Allotment 1A Section 16 township of Berringa (excluding the outbuildings) and the former Williams Fancy Mine, comprising above and below ground industrial material including: mine shaft, air shaft, plant and battery foundations, mullock heap, and sluicing dams being Allotment 1F, Section 16 township of Berringa.

Integrity

The former Mine Manager's Residence is in good condition and retains a very high degree of integrity. The foundations at the battery are in good condition and reflect the various up-gradings that took place.

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/>