
ITINERANTS CAVE

Location

690 DERRIMUT ROAD TARNEIT, WYNDHAM CITY

Municipality

WYNDHAM CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0140

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

No surface artefacts or associated material remains from the site's European use are located in the area. The site's function would be classified as a shelter and activities at the site may be social and domestic, but no evidence of this exists on the surface.

Archaeological Significance

Although no surface remains exist to reveal the caves usage patterns, artefacts discarded by travelling swagmen (or lost) may remain in and around the subsurface layers of the cave. Archaeological excavation may prove fruitful. However, this is only a maybe and therefore the archaeological significance of this site is low.

Updated 15/8/2011: It is possible that archaeological remains exist within the cave in subsurface soil deposits. If such deposits exist , they have the potential to contribute substantial information relating to the habitation and possibly inhabitants of the cave. Therefore, H7822-0140 (Itinerants Cave) has been assessed as having moderate archaeological significance.

Historical Significance

As a reflection of the large scale social effects of the 1930s depression, the cave holds medium historical significance.

Hermes Number 8786

Property Number

History

It's European use is supported by oral history that suggests the cave was used by swagmen during the 1930s depression.

Updated history 15/8/2011: Du Cros and Watt (1993: 21) wrote that oral history sources indicated that the cave was utilized "by itinerants during the 1930s depression who would call at the adjacent farm house for food and then camp at the creek overnight". During discussions with the present property owner who currently resides in the 'adjacent farm house' and has lived within the activity area since the early 1960s informed that 'hobo type people' were still occasionally using the cave as a temporary residence when he was a child in the 1960s (personal communication, 15 August).

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/>