

Former Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company pumping site Statement of Significance

Heritage Place: Former Eureka Lead Gold
Sluicing Company pumping site

PS ref no: HO224



What is significant?

The following features contribute to the significance of the precinct:

- The former Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company pumping site at 113 Lofven Street and Crown Allotment 22C Section AA Nerrina was built c.1934 and operated for about a decade to pump water for gold sluicing operations along the Eureka Reef. It is located next to the large sluice hole and nearby tailings which were produced by the sluicing operation.
- The elements of significance include the corrugated iron pump shed, concrete machinery foundations associated with the former suction gas engine and producer plant within the shed, and all associated artefacts and archaeological deposits both within and outside the shed.

How is it significant?

The former Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company pump shed is of technological, archaeological and historical significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

The former Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company pumping site is historically and technologically important as characteristic and well-preserved archaeological evidence of hydraulic sluicing technology involving a suction gas engine and producer plant. Evidence of the actual mining that was undertaken also survives nearby in the form of a large sluice pit. The hydraulic sluicing carried out at this site was associated with the revival of gold mining in Victoria in response to the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company was the foremost mine of

the Ballarat gold mining revival in at this time. Mining-related heritage is of crucial importance to the City of Ballarat because of the role gold played in the development of Ballarat as a city. (Criterion A & C).

The pump shed is significant in its own right as a rare and authentic industrial building associated with the operations of the Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company. The shed demonstrates the size and type of machinery being used for hydraulic sluicing during the 1930s, and is also illustrative of its former use as winding house for an underground mine. (Criteria B & C).

The place is of significance for its rarity as surviving evidence of mining activity in the Ballarat area, as most evidence of both the early alluvial mining and later reef mining, sluicing and dredging has been obliterated by modern development. It is the only site in the City of Ballarat where substantial gold mining production structures survive in their original position. It is one of a small number of places in Victoria that demonstrate the process of hydraulic sluicing and is believed to be the only remaining built fabric in Ballarat related to this important phase in Ballarat's history. (Criteria B).

The place is of archaeological significance because it is associated with Ballarat's gold mining history, is more than 75 years old, and has buried evidence which can be investigated using archaeological methods to produce a better understanding of a significant 1930s gold mining operation. Works around this building have exposed artefacts and buried features likely to contain deposits and artefacts. There is therefore significant potential for historical archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. (Criterion B & C).

The place and its history are also important in understanding the surrounding gold mining landscape preserved on public land (Criterion A & C).

Primary source

Biosis 2019. Former Eureka Lead Gold Sluicing Company pumping site CMP Peer Review. Report for Ballarat City. Gary Vines, Biosis Pty Ltd, Melbourne.

This document is an incorporated document in the Ballarat Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*