Cultural Landscapes Study of

Creswick Goldfields Area

for

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Chris McConville and Associates Pty. Ltd.

Prepared by Chris McConville and Chris Oliver

Contents

We can think therefore we are able to see an entity called "landscape"

YF Tuan

The study

The purpose of this study is to

(1) Examine aspects of the heritage value of the Creswick gold fields area. The particular aspects to be examined are those which can be illuminated by the notion of " a cultural landscape"

(2) The second aspect of the study is to establish guidelines by which cultural landscapes can be employed in recommending places for Listing on the Register of the National Estate

The study was prepared for the Australian Heritage Commission and is not intended to be a complete conservation study of the Creswick area. Its first purpose is generally to examine the idea of cultural landscapes. It is concerned with documenting sites within the Creswick area, but is restricted in interest to sites which fit a broad notion

of cultural landscapes. As a result many important historical sites in the Shire will not fall within the terms of reference of the study. Individual buildings, and individual remnants of mining and farming activity have not been considered in the course of the study.

The report has three parts ;

(1) it deals first of all with the abstract notion of a cultural landscape and processes of identification and assessment

(2) It secondly applies this process to Creswick and identifies areas within the Creswick gold fields area which can be understood as cultural landscapes and assesses these for Listing on the Register of the National Estate

(3) As a result of this process and its application the report suggests general guidelines by which other areas could be examined employing the notion of a cultural landscape.

Part One

The idea of cultural landscapes

Introduction

The old gold fields of Victoria extend in a great arc to the north and west of Melbourne. The two best-known towns in this region are Bendigo in the north and Ballarat in the west. Yet for much of the period during which gold was mined, the real work of mining went on in a sprinkle of smaller townships. Many of these have now vanished, leaving behind little more than an empty street plan, here and there a church or school or heaps of tailings from a worked-out mine.

A few of these smaller mining settlements have been able to survive by finding a new local industry or because they are near to a large provincial town. One such place is Creswick.

The town of Creswick lies 130 kilometres west of Melbourne. The township runs in a long line down between forested hills; unlike other old gold towns it has few closed shops or derelict houses. Instead its buildings and open spaces are cared for and there is a lot of movement about the streets. Creswick now supports more than 2000 people. Smaller hamlets within the Creswick Shire fit more closely with the common image of a dying gold town. At Allendale the wide streets run past empty blocks and straggling rows of trees, overgrown hedges but few houses. The gold rush in the twentieth century has moved on beyond Allendale and other little towns like Broomfield, Rocklyn or Bullengarook.

The miners may have gone but the remnants of their work remain. Near to Allendale are rows of giant mounds running along a wide valley. These mounds mark the shafts of the Berry mines, for a short time the richest mining field in Australia. To the south of Creswick, in what is now forest, a walker will stumble on round excavations, like a doughnut; the circles left by the puddling machines of miners. Even the forest itself has been made by people. The miners scythed down trees like a gardener cutting grass. From the end of the nineteenth century foresters have made the forest anew. In the towns

botanists have laid out gardens, shop-keepers and government architects put up attractive buildings like the forestry school at Creswick or the shire hall and hotel at Kingston. And right through the shire at several stages in the past, Europeans have trapped water in creeks, to dam gullies or redirect the flow down winding races so that the water could drive a mill or mining machinery. Even through the comfortable farmland of Creswick the hawthorn hedges which run up hills, the turns and abrupt endings of pine tree rows or fences reflect the way in which farmers cut up the land after sales in the 1850s.

These signs on the surface don't capture our attention immediately; they only appear to us once we know something of the history of the shire. Once we do, we can set out to "read" the landscape ; to interpret the layers of human action which create the world around us. Such a reading of the environment is sometimes called "identifying cultural landscapes". Since Creswick is an area which has had an intensive and varied land use from the initial white invasion onwards, it makes a good starting point for exploring this idea of cultural landscapes and identifying ways we can use this idea.

Historical background

While Creswick is best known as a gold town, it has played a part in many other aspects of Victorian history. Ten years before gold was discovered, the Creswick brothers took up a squatting run which spread across the present shire. To the north of the shire, John Smeaton followed the "Major's Line" (the route of Major Mitchell) after taking a south-easterly course from Mount Macedon to settle near Melbourne. After returning to Sydney he pushed further west to discover the Coghill brothers had squatted on land at Glendaruel and the Learmonths had a hold on grazing country and lakes to the west. John and Charles Creswick grabbed land to the south in forested country around a fast-flowing stream. [1]This was renamed Creswick's Creek and once gold diggers rushed to Ballarat in the 1850s a few

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[1]CE Sayers, ed., <u>Letters from Victorian pioneers</u>, Melbourne 1983 reprint, pp. 57-83.

broke off and crossed the Great Dividing Range to this creek valley. On this Creswick's Creek run, gold was discovered in 1852.

Between 1852 and 1854, Creswick was rushed by thousands of miners and at one stage the town's population reached 25000 people. Most of the gold sought by these miners was located quite close to the surface - usually at a depth of 20 metres. The town straggled along the valley of the creek where two leads were joined, the government camp stood at the northern end of this town and the Chinese camp at the southern limit. Shops, pubs and mine workings were jumbled in between.[1] A formal town plan followed the establishment of courts, police station and other trappings of civil order.

The instant wealth of gold quickly disappeared and miners deserted the town, taking off to new rushes at Stawell, at Beaufort or further north at Avoca, Maryborough or Dunolly. Chinese miners followed Europeans and alongside the fossickers who stayed in Creswick, they puddled through the heaps of earth left by the first diggers.

During this time, miners in nearby Ballarat had tunnelled deep into quartz rock in search of gold. The small miners found themselves ousted by companies with expensive equipment and a paid work force. These firms exploited gold from the deep leads - the old river beds at several thousand feet beneath the surface of the land. By the 1870s even these mines showed smaller profits - in Ballarat at least. In 1870, 1871 and 1872 yields of gold in the Ballarat region averaged more than 150000 ounces.[2] Production fell by more than half in the years that followed. When mining revived in the 1880s it was largely due to new fields opened up in the Creswick area.

In 1872, miners found gold at Broomfield near Creswick. This began a new phase of deep-lead mining in the area. During the 1870s and 1880s miners tested for gold between Creswick and Kingston. Along one of Creswick's rich farming valleys, miners began sinking shafts and throwing up the huge mounds which are still to be seen - the last remnants of this search for gold at a great depth below the surface.

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[1] John Graham, Early Creswick, first published 1942, reprint Creswick 1987, pp. 49-66.

[2] W. Bate, Lucky City, Melbourne 1978, p. 193.

These mines – the Berry Deep Lead System – produced astonishing yields. The Berry system ran north from Creswick towards Smeaton in two arcs. Thirteen of these mines produced more than 2000 lbs. of gold in their brief existence in the 1870s and 1880s. Richest of all was the Madame Berry mine from which miners took more than 12000 ounces of gold.[1]

By the end of the nineteenth century even these mines had become uneconomic. During the 1890s a new phase in local mining commenced with dredges and sluices used to wash out the last specks of gold.[2] In recent years miners with new techniques have sought to extract wealth once again from the mines of the area.

As gold production slowed, so the town of Creswick stagnated. The valleys around the towns had been recognised as rich farmland from the time that the first pastoralists arrived. Because they lay close to rich mining fields, Creswick's pastoral runs were a ready target for miners intent on becoming small farmers. Much of the lowlands of the Shire of Creswick were taken up by small farmers during the 1860s so that the Shire now bears the marks of generations of small farmers. Land sales here predated those the selection acts, so that the farmlands around Dean and Kingston are amongst some of the earliest small farms in Victoria. As well since much of the shire was auriferous, land tended to be taken up on occupational licenses. The southern sections of Creswick shire in the 1860s was largely given over to men who tried to keep up mining while they ran a few cows and chooks on twenty acres. They might as well have tried a bit of wood cutting and timber gathering on the side.[3] Lines of trees, fences and the remains of houses and sheds are reminders of these generations of farmer-miners. They and their families often sought to combine small farming with occasional work on a mill or down a shaft or even odd jobs in Ballarat.

Creswick's close links to Ballarat extended back to the 1850s – gold diggers had marched into Ballarat to join the men of the Eureka

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[1] Charles Fahey, The Berry Deep Leads: an historical assessment, Historic Places Branch, Conservation, Forests and Lands 1986.
[2] Graham, Early Creswick, p.66.
[3] Mark Richmond, Phd thesis, ANU, pp.217-219.

Stockade. In later years the deep lead mines drew investors and working miners from Ballarat. But Creswick was tied more closely to the fortunes of Ballarat by the expanding railway system of the 1870s and 1880s. During 1873 the Ballarat railway reached Creswick. In the following decade a second line ran east from Creswick to Daylesford and on to meet the Bendigo line at Kyneton. A later branch line ran from just south of Creswick to the town of Waubra.[1]

Ballarat had become a great railway centre by the turn of the century. The railway allowed solid industrial expansion in the 1880s in Ballarat, especially in those industries which could put the metal-working skills of miners to another use. Creswick was a part of this changing provincial economy. The railway lines drew Creswick into the orbit of Ballarat. They also tied the town into a web of other small towns, easily reached by one of the three lines through the Shire of Creswick. Through the railway, Creswick ceased to be a largely independent centre and became what it has remained to date – one amongst a string of satellites which depended on Ballarat for their life.

To some extent though, Creswick has retained a streak of independence. Much of the Shire remained wild and unused forest well into the twentieth century. The enormous destruction of the forest through mining struck observers as early as the 1870s. In 1871 for example a commentator in the Creswick Advertiser warned that Creswick would soon be treeless since "the young timber is constantly destroyed for firewood and farming purposes and also by wood-cutters who supply the town within".[2] By August of that year the Ballarat Council had taken up the same refrain and in September the Commissioner of Crown Lands recommended that 9000 acres be set aside for a forest reserve and placed under the management of the Creswick Shire Council.[3] The Ballarat and Creswick state forest was gazetted soon afterwards (April 1872). The forest didn't please everyone and the drifting crowd of fossickers and wood-cutters saw

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[1] Ibid.,pp.259–266. and M Osborne, Timber, spuds and spa: a descriptive history and lineside guide of the railways in the Daylesford district, 188-1978, Melbourne 1978

[2] Creswick Advertiser, 7 March 1871.

[3] Ibid., 4 September 1871.

this as yet another step by Melbourne bureaucracies to tamper with their independence.

Such people of the forests didn't really carry that much weight. The Annual Report of the Forest Conservator in 1891 called for foresters to turn a blind eye to many of these people. Many of them it seemed were Chinese "mostly all fossicking with the exception of those two or three who have vegetable gardens .. they are old men and likely to die off soon and there does not seem to be any new ones to take their place". [1] By then the conservator, Perrin, took more interest in the state of the new forest nursery at Creswick where different species of imported trees were tended. During the 1890s foresters renewed efforts to drive out the last of the fossickers and timber-carters, a drive which drew angry responses from within the shire. By the turn of the century with the decline of mining some of this local interest in the rights of wood cutters declined and the new breed of forest managers began to reshape the landscape of Creswick. In 1909 Creswick was chosen as a site for training officers for Victoria's new forest industry. The Creswick School of Forestry was later attached to the University of Melbourne. Since 1909 the plantings of imported trees in the Shire have increased so that forestry is now the main staple of Creswick. The industry gives the town a new staple - at the same time it has reshaped much of the appearance of the Shire through reforested areas and management of the native forest.

These have been the principal economic forces shaping the physical environment of the Creswick area. Gold mining fell into three main stages - alluvial, deep-lead and dredging; alluvial mining again could be divided between the initial European diggings of the 1850s, and the later, largely Chinese-dominated, puddling and fossicking of the 1860s. Land settlement, wood-cutting and small-farming followed the first phase of alluvial mining; railways then tied the fortunes of Creswick to Ballarat, and in the twentieth century the area became central in Victoria's forestry industry.

Outside their working lives, the people of Creswick created a society like that of many other small towns. There are prominent

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[1] Annual report of the conservator of forests, 1891, report on the Chinese in the Forests, 3 March 1891, Victorian PRO.

churches in the town of Creswick itself, in smaller places like
Kingston, Allendale and Smeaton, and in the rural parts of the Shire.
The Creswick Mechanics Institute was always a focus for local life
and pubs, halls and parlours at home sustained a rich and varied social
life. Creswick probably again gained from being so close to Ballarat
and many local families seemed to be involved in the musical culture
of Ballarat. And of course Creswick will always have a place in
Australian cultural history as the home of the Lindsay family. Norman
Lindsay's long-banned lampoon of the town, Redheap drew an acid pen-
portrait of Creswick worthies -the post master with the face like "a
ginger-whiskered bulldog", or Robert Piper striving to make small
talk with the new parson's daughter as his wit deserted him and his
ears went red hot. Creswick to Lindsay was "one of those eruptions of
human lunacy called a mining centre".[1] Nevertheless he has left us a
vivid sketch of the social life, such as it was, of a dying gold town.
During his time in Creswick the old landscape of mining attracted him
more than did the stuffy social routine of the town itself. He loved to
leave the town streets behind and clamber through the scarred
landscape around the town , not then cloaked with the handiwork of
the Conservator of Forests:

*It was a ravaged earth, treeless and devastated forever of all that
may sustain life in the human body . . . for me the perfect earth,
timeless and forgotten, drowsing under the legend of man's furious
rapacity for its hidden store of gold . . . timelessness in those old
diggings went on from days to weeks to months between the hours of
nine and four . . . I retain a conviction that all days spent there were
of still, windless, sunlight[2].*

Many of the self-righteous leaders of Creswick society felt that
Lindsay had unfairly singled them out. No doubt they had some right to
take offence at his writing. After all, Creswick life was not all that
different to that of other declining gold towns in central Victoria.
Local politics was structured along lines similar to those of other
country towns where shopkeepers and publicans took a lead. But for a
long time even the once great gold centre of Creswick was ruled from
afar; after the joining of the Borough and the Shire of Creswick, the

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[1] Norman Lindsay, Redheap, Sydney 1979, first published London 1930
[2] Norman Lindsay, My Mask, Sydney 1979 first published 1970.

seat of the local council was in the village of Kingston. However, Creswick is different from other towns in its central place in the history of the Australian labor movement. The town can look back on a proud tradition of working-class politics. Two great labour leaders spent parts of their lives in Creswick – WG Spence, the mining organiser, and John Curtin, the war-time Prime Minister. Spence organised the miners of the Berry Leads and Curtin took a lead in the local anti-conscription league; a strong and active branch of the movement to defeat compulsory military service for the Great War. Jim Scullin, ALP Prime Minister destroyed by the 1930s depression, in his youth worked around the Creswick area as well.

Then too with the decline of mining and the reshaping of the environment through forestry, Creswick sought to re-establish its prestige and wealth by tourism. In the 1920s an energetic debate arose over the best way to attract travellers to the Shire. One enthusiast wrote to the local press and reminded readers that

As a tourist resort and a place of weekenders – so much in demand in these days – Creswick has exceptional advantages . . . the miniature lakes at Calembeen Park are second only to Corio and Hobson's Bay for bathing and sportsmen will find excellent shooting in the country around the town . . it is true that the accomodation for visitors is somewhat limited at present but the success of the town from the tourist point of view would soon lead to all necessary provision of accommodation . . for beautification and commercial purposes alike, Cambridge Street could easily be brought up to the standard of St Kilda Rd and also would produce plantations of pines which in a few years would bring great financial benefit to the citizens[1]

Tourism did bring a few visitors, although not in the numbers expected. The town has survived since the Second World War more as a dormitory for Ballarat and not as a great attraction for holiday makers. Nevertheless hopes of bringing tourist did lead some locals to look at the town around them with fresh eyes.

Each of these aspects of the history of the area, from grazing stock in the 1830s to tourism in the 1920s has left a mark on the physical

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[1] Creswick Advertiser 16 January 1920.

environment. Most noticeable of all are the heaps of mullock left behind by mining ventures. The Berry Deep Lead Mines in particular have left massive mounds visible over a great distance between Allendale and Kingston. Other phases of mining have also left their mark. Near to the Creswick township stand the smaller remnants of surface mining. In another part of the Shire is St. George's Lake, excavated to provide water for mine workings.

Much of the land surrounding these remnants of mining bears the marks of changing forms of farming since the 1850s. In several areas of the Shire of Creswick, native vegetation has disappeared. Windbreaks of European trees follow some of the first fence lines. As the scale of agriculture has increased, smaller complexes of farm buildings have been left to disintegrate, leaving ruined frames or piles of brick as reminders. Near Dean, potato growing has been for a long time a major local staple. This gives the area an appearance different from most other parts of central Victoria.

As well, the extensive forestry work in the area has left an imprint on the land. Around Creswick itself the hills are covered with both plantations of imported trees and carefully managed native forest. Within all of the townships of the area, from Creswick to the smallest places such as Kingston, buildings can be linked to several aspects of social and political history. In Creswick, small cottages remain from different phases of mining activity; alongside them are public buildings once again created so the State could manage the mining economy.

All of these items are spread through a broad area. The whole of the Shire of Creswick (and neighbouring areas which once formed a part of the Shire) bear the signs of human activity. Sometimes, especially in the towns, buildings are grouped with a coherence appealing to the architecturally aware. In other parts of the town there are often buildings in which styles are mixed and which even clash. Often there are open spaces between the buildings. In the towns and in the countryside the environment assumes a muddled appearance with bits and pieces of mining remnants interspersed amongst a farming scene. Even in the farmed areas of the Shire the material environment is once again broken up in different patterns - these might reflect a

variety of the historical themes discussed above. Some buildings and
certain streetscapes in the towns might appeal because of their
aesthetics or because of their stylistic uniformity. But other
material parts of Creswick, while they may be places in which
important historical events occurred, are scattered widely and form
no uniform whole. To assess and then to interpret these areas,
geographers sometimes use the idea of a "cultural landscape".

Identifying Cultural Landscapes

"Those who attempt an explanatory description of a cultural landscape are confronted with a daunting task . . . landscape is in its very essence a totality, composed of a multitude of interrelated elements which cannot be separated or divided for analysis without the unity being violated and the overall concept lost . . . landscape is neither a careless jumble of artefacts nor a loose assemblage of necessarily evolving or progressing themes, but a complex entity rooted in a specific time and a particular place" [P. Coones & J. Patten, The Penguin guide to the landscape of England and Wales, 1986]

Historical geographers have long been concerned about the idea of a "cultural landscape". In studying the material world around us, geographers have tried to distinguish the evidence of various layers of human activity. All parts of our environment, pure wilderness apart, bear the marks of human action – all are in some way cultural artefacts. They are at the same time historical, in that they generally represent activities which have taken place over a broad time span and have been shaped by events recognised as significant by historians.[2]

Perhaps the starting point of British investigations of cultural landscapes began with WG Hoskins, The making of the English landscape(1955). Hoskins stressed that by using our imagination in looking at the world around us we could picture the environment as it looked in the past. We could read the material world for signs of past societies and events from pre-Roman Britain through to the present. Since this book became widely-read during the 1960s many people in England went out into the countryside and began to discover all sorts of items which existed as visible remnants of life from perhaps five or six hundred years earlier.

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[2] Lewis, P., "Learning from looking: geographic and other writing about the American landscape" in Schlereth, T.J., Material Culture: A Research Guide, University of Kansas, 1985, pp. 35-56.

Yet at the same time the way in which cities grew and farming changed were both erasing many of these small signs of the past. During the 1970s, new farming techniques began to transform the environment of rural Britain. "Agribusiness" replaced small-scale farming. Large producers had often had no interest in maintaining hedgerows, fences, outbuildings or coppices which may have survived from the nineteenth century or earlier. At a Conference on Historic Landscapes, geographers, archaeologists and farm managers themselves discussed ways of dealing with these problems. Speakers argued that if much of the documents of past life were not to disappear before the end of the century, new ways of looking at the land had to be devised. The first step, they insisted, was to distinguish "wild" from "tamed" landscapes. Within the "tamed" landscapes, they went on to identify a range of important items. Before turning to these specifically, the Conference dealt with the notion of a landscape itself. Landscape, as one speaker pointed out, was "defined within visual boundaries – the ambience of the beholder in any one place".[3] This approach runs through most of the geographical writing about historical or cultural landscapes – that the landscape is, in the first place, defined by the view of an observer – as some geographers indicate, it is the distance between an observer and the horizon. So for example, SR Aitken gave what he regarded as a layperson's definition of landscape:

"What is landscape? It is part of environment. The layman usually thinks of landscape as "scenery", the visible (objective) world of the observer on the earth's surface or a segment of the earth that can be captured at a glance".[4]

While suggesting that a geographer might have a broader and at least in the first instance, less subjective definition of landscape, Aitken conceded that understanding began with perception – a landscape was composed by the viewer; for Aitken, travel through a particular place was a means of altering landscape – the term for this point of view

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[3] J. St. Bodfan Gruffyd, "Classification, recognition, synthesis and recording", Historic Landscapes, Conference 1978, North London Polytechnic, 1978, p. 19.
[4] S.R. Aitken, "Towards landscape sensibility", Landscape, vol. 20, no. 3, Spring 1976, p. 21.

refers to an area seen in passing, as to one visible from a fixed vantage point.[5]

Hoskins and later students of the English environment have taken a similar position. As Coones and Patten wrote, "for most people nowadays the term conjures up the idea of a scenic view". [1] To them the landscape need not be scenic but rather capable of being understood and its elements explained - the landscape was composed by being read and each item within it related to an historical event. The observer still had a part to play in setting boundaries and distinguishing elements. These boundaries and landforms did not need to look pretty. Instead they had to tell us something about past life. Landscape then meant rather more than an environment. As David Lowenthal remarked "environment sustains us as creatures; landscape displays us as cultures".

What to look for

Within the observed landscape, geographers have identified several obvious elements, all of which reflect human activity. While a series of historical stages are visible in the landscape, these stages produce a range of physical elements. We could list these as follows:

1. Land form and its components

2. Urban areas

3. Farmland

4. Non-farmed vegetation, especially forest

5. Industrial artefacts

6. Water features

7. Transport networks

8. Parks and gardens

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[5] Ibid.

[1] P. Coones and J.Platten, The Penguin guide to the landscape of England and Wales, 1986,p.25.

9. Non-urban buildings

This list does not exhaust all the elements out of which a landscape is composed. Nonetheless, these are the essential features in any landscape; particular combinations of these elements distinguish one landscape from the next. As we have already seen, any landscape, wilderness apart, bears the marks of human activity; most in that sense are historical landscapes. In trying to identify a landscape, the first step is to take look closely at the land and to identify elements from the list above and then to look for patterns which link them together.

What to do after we have found interesting places

The idea of a landscape has regularly been distinguished from an environment. Landscape is something which we behold, an imaginative reading of the world around us; something like Lindsay's reading of the old mining landscape of Creswick or the vision of the Creswick resident who pictured the shire as a haunt for weekend holiday makers.

The process of identifying landscape begins with us looking at the world around us and discerning some pattern within it; we draw in a our own mind an order or a process in the world around us which might not appear on maps or in photographs. It will probably not be distinguishable in the way that a natural scientist or a geologist represents the world to us. In order to understand landscape we must distinguish cultural events of importance and examine landform features for evidence of these. The cultural practises for an area like Creswick and the resulting patterns on the land can be identified if we proceed to draw up a check list. An initial check list might be as follows.; by using historical stages as headings and identifying features which reflect these.

1. Exploration and invasion

-routes of explorers(Mitchell)

-white black-battle grounds

-squatting run boundaries

-homestead sites

2. Early mining

-sites of rushes

-leads followed

-gullies,puddling wheels,shafts,mullock heaps

3. Later mining

-tailings and wash heaps

-machinery

-footings

-building remnants

-water races

4. Agriculture

-fence lines

-subdivision pattern

-farm buildings

-crop and treeplanting remnants

-commons boundaries

-hedges and dams

-farmhouses

5. Forestry

-replantings

-nurseries

-forestry buildings

-forestry tracks

-coppicing systems

-cutting pattern

-institutional buildings

6. Town Life

-government camp site

-urban divisions,commercial, civic, residential

-class patterns in residential lay-out

-service supply

-domestic routines

-formal associational life

-political networks

-unionism

-recreational sites

-religious life

7. Transport

-coach routes

-railway links

-roadways

-waterways

8. Cultural perspectives:-socially valued sites

-changing landscape perspectives

-treasured shrines in the district

-favourite views

Deciding which ones are more important

This is not an exhaustive checklist but it gives a starting point against which any area can be measured. We could go on creating historical themes and checklists endlessly;we (living in the present) decide what pattern we will lay over the past, the material world does not give us a pre-ordained set of priorities for which we can set out in search. Secondly just as the range of valued activities and relics is quite open-ended, so the manner in which we arrange these into patterns on the ground is also unbounded. Once we start to view the world around us as a cultural landscape we can begin to draw up any number of ways in which we can link items together.

For example, once we have decided that use of water makes an important historical theme we can choose many different ways of physically representing that theme. We could decide to focus on the first or longest-lasting dam site. We might want to broaden our view to include the networks of water supply in one area. Creswick is an area with a number of water races running through the forest and with many dams. We could decide that the system of water supply at its peak was important and identify the whole of this network as the important pattern. The whole of the shire of Creswick is a cultural landscape. The concept of a cultural landscape gives us a way of looking at the history and the material form of the shire; it does not define a particular place for us or allow us to draw boundaries around a site. It is a way of seeing rather than a way of defining special places.

Nevertheless, someone who discovers a previously hidden pattern to the world around them often decides that somehow this pattern ought to be protected; once discovered it ought to be identified, exposed for others to see and prevented from any future disappearance. The cultural landscape must proceed from the mind of the observer into the formal listings of the state bureaucrat. Inevitably something will

be lost in that process. When landscapes become considered for conservation or for listing on the Register of the National Estate how do we decide on which landscapes and what boundaries ought to be placed around them?

Selecting significant places

A first step is to distinguish the more significant areas from the less significant. Once we have understood something of the key historical processes in an area and created a checklist from these we can proceed to examine the country in detail – walking around or in a large area driving around and using our checklist to identify key places. The next step is to begin to mark key elements on a map and then draw boundaries around them. As a starting point, the following principles can be applied in assessing cultural landscapes.

Assessing Cultural Landscapes

1. OBSERVATION

The whole of the Creswick area bears the marks of human action, but in order to select certain areas as especially significant, this broad material environment needs to be broken down into smaller units.

1. The first step in analysing a cultural landscape is then to select certain vantage points or locations from which an observer can define a landscape.

2. Secondly, the particular routes through the area have to be identified. Principal avenues of approach and roads which afford differing views of the landscape need to be identified.

3. Thirdly, boundaries need to be established around distinct landscapes. These will be based on contour lines which limit a view; boundaries of particular land forms or land uses; or in the case of a landscape along a route, beginning and end points to particular environments.

The initial analysis then requires **exploration** of the area as a whole; **identification** of vantage points and key routes and locating of boundaries which enclose particular views. Once this has been done

the area as a whole can be broken up into smaller units which can then be investigated in more detail.

4. The fourth step is to divide the area under study into smaller units which have clear boundaries, which can be viewed from a certain vantage point or which follow a particular route through the area. The exception to this is when we identify networks which seem to be important. In Creswick the network of water races would be the most likely candidate. But the water races of the shire form no overall system; they are generally confined to small areas anyway and so can be dealt with in the method suggested above.

2. ENUMERATING ITEMS

Which vantage points to chose and where boundaries ought to be located will depend on the items visible. These need to be enumerated and put into categories under the general headings identified in the initial checklist (see above)

3. REFERENCE TO HISTORICAL THEMES

Once areas have been defined, vantage points and routes selected, and composing items identified, these can be related to historical themes. Phases in economic and social history always leave some imprint on the environment. Identified landscapes will often include items created by a variety of historical events. Once items are identified, an investigation of historical forces creating the area can be used to determine what aspects of the history of the area are represented in each landscape area.

4. ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE (DECODING)

In recent years, man-made environments have won the attention of others besides geographers and historians. The material environment is after all a sign of what human beings have done in the past. In other words, the environment signifies something to us. Identifying vantage points and routes, defining areas and items and linking these to historical themes allow us to "read" the landscape. Sometimes this is referred to as "decoding" the landscape – looking beyond the physical shapes and asking what it is that these elements tell us about human activity – in other words, what it is that they signify.

This is an important additional step to take in analysing landscapes. All landscapes reflect historical activity, but some signify more than others - we can read more in one landscape than another. Once our items are identified and placed alongside historical themes we need to begin a more precise step of mentally "taking the item apart". In other words we have to act in the same way as a draftsperson who creates an an exploded view of the inner workings of, say, a motor engine. We need to look at the items identified - water race and dam and then one by one identify a dam wall, stone watercourses, sluice gates, water sources, etc which make up the whole of the site.

Then we need to ask what each of the individual elements signifies - what broader events or actions does the item represent. Then having taken the site or the place apart we need to consider how the identified items or elements relate to each other. To use a comparison again, the exploded view of the inner workings of as motor engine is only presented to help us grasp how the engine as a whole operates; in enumerating items on a a site and asking what they signify, we are working in the long run towards reassembling the site in our mind's eye and considering what it tells us as a whole. For since identifying cultural landscapes required us to find a pattern, our next task is to be certain that all the items we have located are essential to the pattern. If not then we can discard them. The process of decoding then is one of making certain that we have found a pattern which throws light on an historical theme.

The process of decoding or reading the landscape depends in the first place on the steps already discussed. It depends further on asking what it is that the landscape and its items signify.[6]

In summary, identifying and assessing cultural landscapes requires:

   . **Identifying routes and vantage points**

   . **Defining boundaries to areas**

   . **Identifying items which compose each area**

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[6] See M. Gottdeiner and A. Lagopoulos, The City and the Sign: an introduction to urban semiotics, New York, 1986.

. **Relating these items to key historical themes**

. **Decoding or "reading" the identified landscape, bit by bit and asking what each element signifies. Then we must reconstitute the distinct parts into a pattern which tells us something about the past.**

Assessment for inclusion on the Register of the National Estate

Once the environment has been broken up into areas (sites), the next step is to assess the importance of each. In other words, more significant sites within cultural landscape need to be distinguished from those of lesser significance. From the group selected of greater significance, areas considered suitable for inclusion on the Register of the National Estate can be distinguished.

As indicated earlier, all landscape is in one way or another significant; all places tell us something about human behaviour. Not all will be equally significant. What they signify to us will depend on what we see and what we bring to the landscape in our historical knowledge and our imaginative reading.

The issue of significance then depends on the items in the landscape and the knowledge and the reading which we bring to these landscapes. What criteria allow us to select some landscapes as superior to others? The first and most obvious criteria has to do with aesthetics.

1. Aesthetic value

Some areas give more pleasure because of their beauty. This usually depends on the land form and location of dominant vegetation. Often, distinctive buildings and water in a scene elevates the aesthetic quality. The pleasing configuration of a landscape can be by accident – a by-product of farming, forestry etc. On the other hand the aesthetically-pleasing landscape may be a planned area – a designed park or garden deliberately composed to please the eye. Botanical gardens are designed to be observed and walked through; their elements are specifically created to please they eye.

2. Historical value

Conversely, a place can be seen as significant because it has an historical value which distinguishes it from other places. These more significant historical sites can be identified on the basis of the following criteria.

2.1. A place might be deemed more significant if either it includes items of greater historical importance or it its existing state is such that it reveals more about events to which it can be related.

2.2. When compared to other places, those of greater significance will be:

(i) Places which can be linked to important turning points in history - not necessarily the first event of a type, but an incident or event from which important consequences have stemmed, such as a key mine in expanding the local mining industry for instance. The first mine in an area might prove a total failure but subsequent mines may have been richer and so begun a rush to an area. Perhaps the whole of a mining field may have been sustained by the returns from one mine - the Berry Deep Lead system was by and large sustained by the Madame Berry Mine itself. In some ways we might want to see this one mine as of greater significance than other nearby mines.

(ii) Places which include a broader than usual range of items relating to historical events. Houses, trees, fences might relate to a key event, for example. In the Creswick area there are some farming districts which have trees as windbreaks, some hedge rows and farm sheds in configurations which differ from the broad-acre farmlands in this and nearby Shires. These small-scale farmlands register more of the landform of the nineteenth-century farming environment. Looking at this composition of buildings, trees and land we get a clearer understanding of what goes to make up a farming landscape.

(iii) Places which represent a wider number of aspects of a particular event, state in social life etc. So for example, a farming area might reflect farming techniques over a long period of time, as well as reflecting household routines and domestic life and the place of the farmer in local politics. Often a farm complex will include

buildings which are products of different types of farming, from self-sufficient mixed farming to monoculture. A particularly complex series of buildings which reflect these different aspects will be more interesting than groups of buildings which have a lesser range of activities represented.

(iv) Places which relate to a succession of historical phases or themes. So a place might include items from small-scale alluvial mining in the 1850s, deep lead mining in the 1880s, and sluicing in the 1890s. Or it might include remnants of forestry work over different periods. Another are might be deemed more important because it includes a combination of the remnants of mining, forestry and farming. We need to look for some logical link between all of these - the area will have greater significance if the successive stages of economic activity can be seen to be connected in some manner.Or on the other hand a group of buildings in a town will date from successive eras in the town's history; they might have no stylistic uniformity but together they represent a tracing of the key phases in a town's rise and decline (in some ways the municipal buildings of Creswick have this quality). By representing these changes they constitute a cultural landscape rather than having an aesthetic appeal through any stylistic uniformity.

(v) An area might have a substantial number of items which relate to the life of one important individual or a group of people. For example, a street in a town in which there lived several key local families might be seen as more important than nearby streets. In Creswick itself it is possible to identify groups of buildings which have played a part in the writings of Norman Lindsay and which tell us something about the cultural contributions of the Lindsay family. These might interest us as a group of structures. At the same time the interest in these is because we know of the Lindsays and do not know about lesser people in the town. We could extend our understanding of typical families and give the same importance to a group of buildings which for the moment we have not identified as unique or relating to an important local family.

(vi) An area might have greater significance if it is already locally viewed as having special significance - a local landmark or a place

with great sentimental attachments might be regarded as having greater significance than surrounding areas. In Creswick local social spots like St. George's Lake would figure more highly in any search for cultural landscapes since we are linking a place such as this to the lives of the people of the area and we are trying to place their reading of the landscape in the context of broader significance.

2.3. Areas can have greater significance when the elements which compose them are set out in a way which allows them to be more easily or more fully interpreted. When compared to other landscapes, those of greater significance will be:

(i) Defined by clear and more readily discernible boundaries – so that the landscape has perceivable dimensions; if not, then items within it might best be treated individually.

(ii) One which is visible from an especially revealing vantage point – from where items can be more easily identified than in similar areas, but without such a vantage point.

(iii)   Areas in which built items, landforms and vegetation can all be linked to historical turning points, themes, individuals etc – in other words, areas in which there are not just scattered items of historical interest, but where the whole arrangement of space and elements within it are of historical importance.

(iv) Areas which can be decoded or read more completely. In other words, while several areas might be objectively linked say to mining, some might, through careful analysis, reveal more than others about the event. Often a more readily available documentation will make a place more culturally significant.

Summary

Any view of perceivable space can be called a "cultural landscape" once we are able to see a pattern in the view, a pattern which tells us something about human behaviour. Cultural landscape is not a special place but a way of looking at all places. Within such a perspective some will be more significant than others either

1. because of the historical events linked to them, or

2. because of the material elements which constitute them.

In selecting sites of greater importance we need to ask the following questions about their links to history.

1. Is the place linked to an historical turning point in any way?

2. Does it have a range of items linked to that event?

3. Does it represent a broader range of aspects of an important historical theme or phase?

4. Does it relate to a succession of historical events or phases?

5. Does it relate to the life of an important individual or group?

6. Is it already accorded a social or sentimental significance?

We then need to ask questions about the place itself.

1. Does it have coherent boundaries?

2. Is there a key vantage point from which the landscape is revealed? - either one fixed viewing point or along a route through the area.

3. Does the historical association extend through landform, vegetation, built structures, transport links and water? How far is the landscape as a whole significant rather than items within it?

4. How rich are the indications of history? How much can we tell of historical events or people from looking at the landscape and carefully analysing the elements which compose it?

Once areas are selected by using these general standards, they then might be considered sufficiently significant for listing on the Register of the National Estate. This means that the criteria presently used for such listings have to be interpreted so as to apply to landscapes.

Guidelines already exist for selecting individual items for the National Estate. Cultural landscapes are able to be analysed and included under these guidelines.

Cultural Landscapes and National Estate Guidelines

In looking at an environment we all make a distinction between areas which we value as culturally important and those not considered of broad enough interest to warrant legal recognition. The Register of the National Estate lists places which have been considered as significant to Australia. Through the Register and other listings of culturally significant places, specific places are recorded. Cultural landscapes as much as wilderness areas or individual structures and buildings ought to be considered for such listing. In the preceding section, ways of looking at the environment were suggested. These could be employed in analysing and assessing landscapes in Creswick. The following section of the report indicates the manner in which the more significant cultural landscapes could be assessed for listing on the Register of the National Estate.

National Estate Guidelines

There are two obvious types of places which appear on the Register. Firstly areas of wilderness - places unaltered by European intervention are valued places. Secondly individual buildings or building complexes are included on the Register. The individual building and the untouched environment have cultural significance for good reasons. Yet in both urban and rural Australia most open space can no longer be described as wilderness. At the same time most individual building structures do not warrant listing on the Register. Some are considered as more significant because they are grouped together in an unusual pattern. Individual towns or areas within towns are recognised as significant in National Trust Registers, the Register of the National Estate or under State and Local Government planning controls.

There are other arrangements of space which do not fit into any of these categories. In large parts of urban Australia buildings are not arranged in the ordered patterns which might attract attention as an urban conservation zone. In older parts of cities, buildings are scattered in ways which do not evoke any aesthetic response. Houses are often jumbled together with industrial or other land uses. In rural Australia, buildings are scattered in fields or forests.

In terms of their historical significance, these groupings of buildings, or of buildings with open space, all register historical change in one way or another. Yet their historical importance might escape our attention because the buildings and landforms are jumbled together; houses, sheds, fences, tree plantings might date from different historical eras or relate to different key events. The environment is a series of layers each deposited by different people in the past. What we see when we look around are the jumbled relics of a mixed lot of activities. Spaces and buildings might reflect a range of historical events. Because of the apparent disorder of much of the urban and rural environment, such areas do not immediately appeal to conservationists.

The idea of a "cultural landscape" provides one means of dealing with this difficulty. Geographers have discussed the significance of landscape for some time now. Historians too have come to recognise the role of landscape as a register of historical change. The cultural quality of most environments will usually be historical – the product of a series of past human actions. At the same time the notion of a landscape implies human perception (indeed the notion of cultural significance implies an observer as well as an object observed). Definitions of landscape generally refer to the view from an observer to the horizon – landscape then is an arrangement of spatial elements visible from a certain vantage point. Alternatively the landscape is the form which we discern as we travel through a particular environment; it is something we observe in following a route across the surface of the earth. The landscape has an observer; it also has elements within which are arranged by the observer into some sort of pattern. Further it has particular limits or boundaries. If it is a

cultural landscape then it has a cultural meaning to the observer – it shows something about the historical process which created the elements within the environment or else it is invested with meanings by people looking at the space or using it.

Of course all parts of the environment could be composed by the observer to give cultural meaning. The Register of the National Estate seeks to isolate environments of more significance than others. In order to do so there are guidelines by which each place nominated for the Register can be assessed. These criteria distinguish between places which might be included on the Register and others which will fall short of requirements. The criteria for Evaluation of Places to the Register of the National Estate provide a starting point for assessing the cultural importance of particular landscapes.

Cultural landscapes and the Register of the National Estate

Of the eight National Estate criteria, one, Criterion 5, refers directly to places which have value as "cultural landscapes". Under this Criterion, (5.1), eligible sites are those which "demonstrate characteristics peculiar to a particular land use, process or function". A site might also be listed on the Register because it has "historical significance"; thirdly because it illustrates a phase of "man/land relationships". And finally it might demonstrate "a cultural phase of particular interest". Landscapes then can have four characteristics which might identify them as significant cultural landscapes. These are:

1. Demonstrate a particular and unique land use.

2. Have historical significance.

3. Demonstrate a phase of man/land relationships.

4. Demonstrate a cultural phase of particular interest.

While these criteria refer directly to cultural landscapes, they can be extended by reference to other criteria for National Estate listings. While most of these other criteria relate directly to

specific sites rather than broader locations, some individual criteria can be used in evaluating cultural landscapes. These are as follows:

Criterion 1.2.1

Places associated with specific events i.e. labour strike, exploration, immigration and government reserves. These have to have wider relevance than simply the local area.

These specific events might be associated with an arrangement of space - it could be a strike in which important events took place in more than one building in a group of industrial buildings. These individual events may not be individually significant in the course of one strike; together they may illustrate the character of the strike. The buildings, their relationships and the spaces between them may in turn illustrate the important event.

At the same time events in exploration might be associated with a particular small space. But at the same time an explorer's path through an area, the route of a journey, might have significance - if we think that it is the phase of the journey which is the important historical event rather than what the explorer did in a particular place.

Criterion 1.2.3

A place with a "distinct combination of characteristics central to ... a cultural phase". This pertains directly to the idea of a cultural landscape. Groups of buildings, their siting, land subdivision and plantings around the buildings might together illustrate a cultural phase i.e. a particular phase in the history of farming for example. Taken individually these items may have no historic value at all. Together they make up a landscape illustrating a cultural phase which may have significance beyond the local area.

Within the Creswick area there are small towns such as Allendale in which most buildings have disappeared over the last fifty years. The remaining buildings are hardly distinctive individually. Yet taken as a whole, the town lay-out, tree plantings, location of the school and railway station, illustrate much of the social character of a mining town; in this case a distinctive town since it was not designed

around an official town survey but grew up under the direction of a mining company.

Criterion 2.1

Outstanding natural or modified landscapes are acceptable for listing. For listings as cultural landscapes, the elements which make them "outstanding" would need to relate to some aspect of cultural life.

Modified landscapes of this sort might include the landscape of a farming district, but one which could be distinguished from nearby farming areas. It might be so distinguished by the range of farming landscape elements visible, by their linking together in space so that the phases are readily perceivable; because the modifications are aesthetically pleasing - by accident rather than design. The modified hills (modified by being denuded of vegetation by farmers) which frame the valleys of Creswick are a case in point; Green Hill is a good example. They illustrate farming techniques and at the same time they are outstanding in a physical sense.

Criterion 2.2

A landscape may be the product of a way of life which has disappeared. Since this "way of life" usually encompasses a range of activities, it is more likely that a landscape rather than an individual building will capture the distinctiveness of a way of life which has disappeared. For example, the rural way of life associated with nineteenth century land selection has disappeared. Many aspects of this way of life will not be captured in one building. Farmhouse, sheds, milking yards etc. together will register the character of this way of life. Often the areas around these buildings - the surviving fencing, vegetation, water supply courses etc. - will extend our knowledge of the whole way of life of the selector. It is the landscape of the selection and not any one building which tells the story.

Criterion 3.1

Typical landforms of a region fall readily under the notion of a cultural landscape - as long as their typicality is a product of human intervention.

In Creswick the typical landform of farm dams distinguish many of the valleys around the town. The dams themselves might be considered sufficiently typical to warrant inclusion on the Register since they indicate a particular way of life - the intensive farming of the area. Similarly the mullock left behind by the deep lead miners could be considered a typical landform - one representative of a particular way of life.

Criterion 3.2

Likewise again under 3.2, groups of sites are significant in embodying distinctive characteristics of a type of life (similar to 2.2 above). So in the case of mining, the grouping of mullock heaps along a favoured lead indicate the process of mining more completely than a single heap. Indeed the enormous scale of mining activity might not be recognised if only one of these heaps remained intact.

Criterion 3.2.2 - 3.2.3

Areas and landscapes can represent a "type" of land utilisation, in a way in which an individual building represents a type of building. So a landscape might represent a type of mining - sluicing for example or fossicking or deep lead mining.

Again one area rather than one place can represent the life or work of one individual. The various places would need to be visited habitually - to form part of the routine or of a key journey of a particular individual. In the case of Creswick, Alexander Peacock's involvement in the Berry Mines give them an added interest because of their link to the life of this key individual.

Criterion 5.2

The overall impact of design qualities - in either landscape or civic design - can make a cultural landscape worthy of inclusion on the Register. In the case of Creswick there are significant design qualities in the overall lay-out of the government building precinct of

the township. There are also important design elements in the Botanical Gardens, in the arrangement of space in the Forestry School Grounds and in the plantings of the Creswick Avenue of Honour.

Criterion 6.1

Landscapes of course can readily come under criteria for listing places of aesthetic value. General configuration and choice of vantage point are the keys to assessing such places. These aspects have already been considered in this Report. However those points can be stressed again. Beyond vantage points and routes, boundaries need to be defined; the place needs to be linked to historical events; the items within the landscape need to be linked in some way - to both themes and to each other; and the place needs to be especially rich in what it can reveal - through the process of decoding.

Criterion 7.1

Sentimental landscapes are recognised and valued. Under this criterion, the attachment would need to extend from individual buildings to the overall quality of the area or landscape. Again the attachment would need to be of greater significance than a purely local attachment. In Creswick, the site of the Australasian Mine disaster would be a place with particular emotional attachments, as would the WG Spence House site. However in these cases the question remains of whether the place can be considered a landscape or whether the attachment might be to one item in the landscape. In Creswick a broader area of such sentimental attachment might be the St. Georges Lake Area, a place important to people even beyond the local area.

Criteria 8.1 - 8.2

Landscapes or ensembles of buildings and land are likely to add to knowledge in a broad sense which would not be the case with an individual buildings. Landscapes can typify modes of production, or mark key transitions in social life or economic activity. Where the boundaries, configurations of space, siting of buildings and connecting pathways reflect such transitions then the landscape ought to be considered for listing on the Register. In Creswick the

mining landscape around Kingston and Allendale can add to our understanding of mining techniques. In the same way the Forestry Department's Nursery site can add to our knowledge of early techniques in forest management. These are landscapes which, under this criterion, would be deemed worthy of inclusion on the Register.

Summary

This section of the report has considered the existing criteria for listing sites on the Register of the National Estate and indicated the manner in which these might be used to assess cultural landscapes. In general any of the present criteria could be adapted to refer to cultural landscapes. However there is a crucial question which needs to be asked in each case. Might the significance of one building or item within the landscape be as great as that of the landscape as a whole? By proposing whole landscapes rather than individual items for the Register, we assume that the landscape has significance as a whole - it does not just form a backdrop to one key item. In each case it is the sum of the various parts which gives the landscape significance. Any landscape proposed for listing must have significance in its individual items, their spacing, the links between them and their relation to the underlying landform. If not, then individual items ought to be specified as distinct sites and considered on their individual merits.

Part Two

Landscape Analysis of the Creswick Gold Mining Area

This section of the report takes the general points made in preceding sections and interprets the area of Creswick Shire (in some places the sites extend just beyond shire boundaries) in the light of these general guidelines.

The gold mines of Creswick once ran north from Creswick to Ullina. These deep lead mines followed two arcs, with the westernmost mines along the Australasian lead and to the east, a band of mines along the Berry lead. Earlier alluvial mining in the area was concentrated around the town of Creswick itself, along creek gullies like Slaty Creek or Mopoke Creek. To the west of Creswick there were a group of deep lead mines at Bald Hills. In general, the Creswick Gold Mining Area extended in the north from Ullina to the south of Creswick, east to Smeaton and Kingston and west as far as Bald Hills and Mount Hollowback.

The area

Nowadays, this area is either devoted to mixed farming or else it is forest. Grazing land and pine forest take up much of the area; in the south-west of the shire the "rurban fringe" of Ballarat reaches into Creswick. South-west of Creswick on the main Ballarat road, semi-urban land uses extend to Mount Rowan

Selecting routes and vantage points

The town of Creswick itself is set in upland on the northern edge of the Creswick State Forest. A large part of this forest is planted with pine

Contours within the forest rise to 560 metres. Around Creswick itself are several higher points. Principal amongst these are Spring Hill (668 metres), Forest Hill, Mount Moorookyle and Smeaton Hill (677 metres). Most of the vantage points are not readily accessible.

However, there are several important vantage points along routes through the area. The main ones are:

1. Intersection of Dean-Mollongghip and Millers Road

2. Dean-Creswick Road

3. Creswick-Newlyn Road

4. Kingston-Smeaton Road

5. Smeaton-Daylesford Road

6. Allendale-Kingston Road

7. Creswick-Smokeytown Road

8. Ascot-Creswick Road at intersection of Clunes-Ballarat Road

9. Creswick-Allendale-Broomfield Road

10. Creswick-Newlyn Railway

11. Mildura rail line through Creswick Shire

12. Mt Brackenbury Forest Track

13. Cowpit Gully Road and Oak Gully Road

14. Slaty Creek Road, through Creswick State Forest

15. Daylesford-Clunes Road

Cultural Landscapes of Greater Historical Significance

The shire was surveyed using these routes as axes and the space of the shire divided up into smaller units on the basis of these routes and focal points (approximately sixty units). The historical issues central to the shape of the shire were then related to each of these areas. Boundaries were then adjusted to accord with historical themes and a smaller number of areas selected from the initial list. These were placed in relation to routes and vantage points. Along each of these routes are several cultural landscapes which, when ranked by the standards already indicated, seem to be more significant than other parts of the local environment. Several of these seem worthy of listing on the Register of the National Estate. These sites are listed as follows with recommendations for Listing or otherwise.

1. Township of Mollongghip

<u>Location</u>

At the intersection of the Mollongghip-Dean Road and the Mollongghip Road. Extending on either side of the Mollongghip-Dean Road to Millers Road, bounded by 660 metres contour to the north of the road and 670 metres to the south, and then along roadway to the intersection. From this intersection with Millers Road, taking in the view north to 610 metres contour, and south-west to the peak of Tipperary Hill.

<u>Description</u>

Mollongghip is a small dairying township strung along the roadway. It includes:-

1. a timber church, St. Peter's Church of England

2. a wooden hall

3. farmhouses, mainly twentieth century

4. stands of conifers linking buildings together

5. views from Millers Road intersection

6. In the background is the boundary of the Wombat State Forest. This forest lies outside the study area. However through mining activity and forestry it played an important role in the Creswick economy.

These items line the main roadway through the town and are framed by high wind breaks of cypress. The locale has a sense of enclosure because of these plantings. The town is a group of buildings but a group with some open space between the houses and a shop. They form a landscape of houses, shop, church and farmland the items together are combined by the boundary of trees and their focus on the roadway.

History

Mollongghip has not figured prominently in any of the local histories of the area. The land around the town has been subdivided at a later date than areas to the west and the east. The area from here through the Wombat State Forest was for much of the nineteenth century timbered and used by wood-splitters and some fossickers. As the name implies, Tipperary Hill indicates the nineteenth-century Irish character of the farmers in this district.

The agricultural history of the town appears to date from much later than the nineteenth century and the surviving houses, with few exceptions, are all post-World War Two. Historically there is little to distinguish the area from any other farming district in the Shire.

Significance

Within a small space several stages of local farming are registered in this landscape and distinct characteristics of small farming have left their trace. The background of trees, the church, the farmhouses and outbuildings make up an ensemble of elements which reflect the progress of small farming in this part of Victoria. While this is a pleasant and to a degree complex scene, it does not really met the requirements for listing on the Register of the National Estate. It reflects a lot about the character of the Shire of Creswick but cannot without more detailed investigation be considered as of any wider significance. It is unlikely to have any wider significance, although individual buildings and plantings may be important.

Local Significance. Not for Listing on the Register of the National Estate. Investigate the stages of land subdivision and the appropriate Land Acts in any local conservation study of the Shire

MAP ONE: Dean-Mollongghip Road and Dean Township: site 2
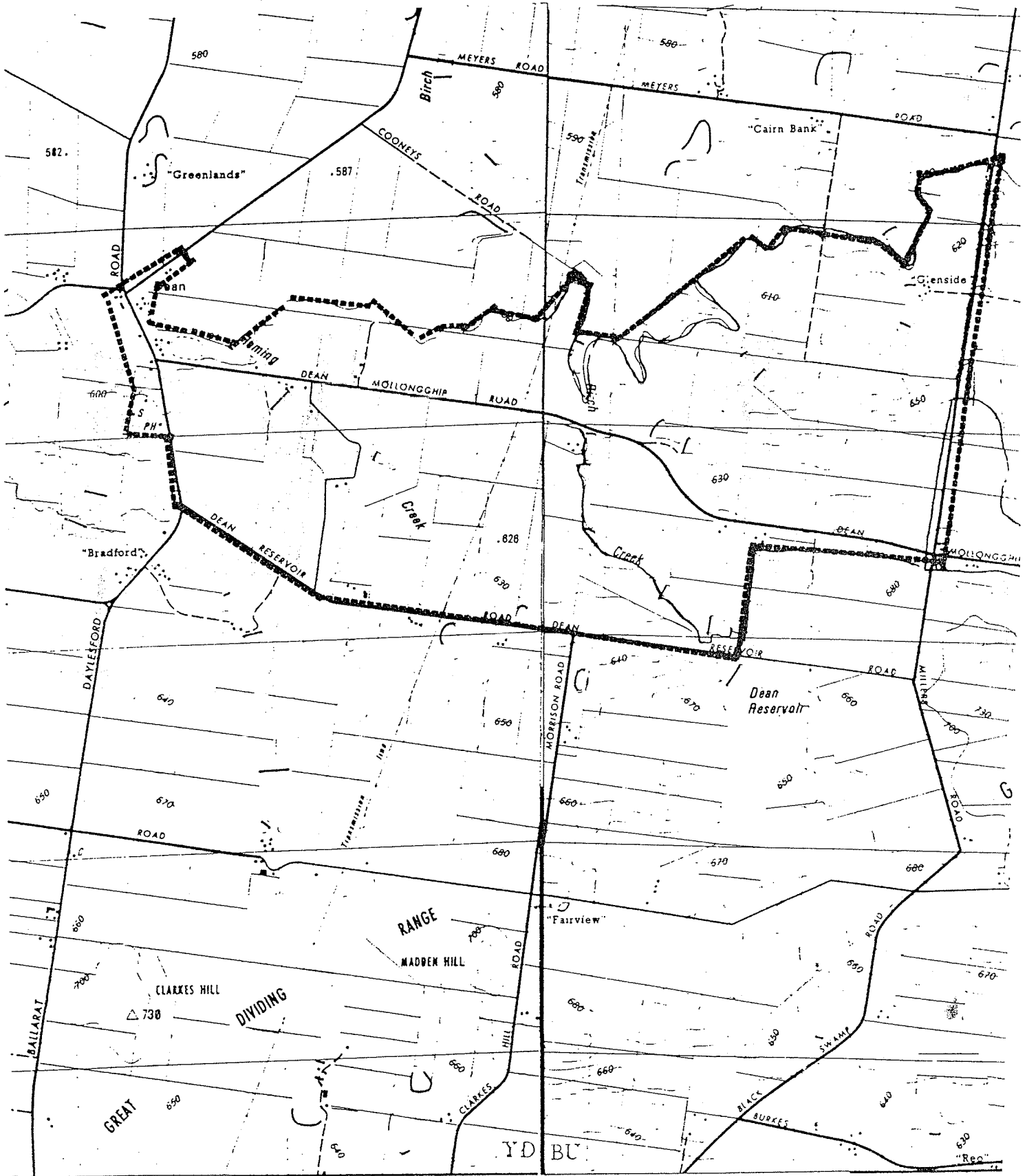
2. Dean-Mollongghip Road and Dean Township

Location

Dean-Mollongghip Road at junction with Millers Road. Millers Road North to where 600 m contour crosses Millers Road (South of intersection with Meyers Rd.). Follows countour deviating north-west to take in the larger water storage on Birch Creek. Continues along the 600 m contour to Fleming Creek. Runs Northward along the boundary of the Dean Sportsground and runs north and then north-east taking in township buildings. To west of Daylesford-Ballarat Road taking school and public hall to intersection with Dean Reservoir Rd. Follows the Dean Reservoir Rd to the east to Dean Reservoir. Runs North to meet 650 m contour and thence east to Dean-Mollonghip and Millers rd junction.

ick landscape study

ription

…n Millers Road, the Dean-Mollongghip Road descends into a valley
…he township of Dean. The road affords extensive views to the
… On either side are series of dams following the courses of the
…ing and Birch Creeks. At intervals along the roadway are
…tantial farm houses from the later nineteenth century and inter-
…period of the twentieth century. These form an important group.
… significance is augmented by the linking together of vegetation
…uildings, the water storages along the roadway, and the approach
…e township of Dean. The township of Dean has an avenue of
…rted trees. The two key buildings are the school and a large
…len public hall.

…ory

…in was one of the first areas subdivided in land sales which
…eded the Victorian Selection Acts. The character of that initial
…ivision is only at points apparent in the present landscape. The
…n was also an important timber-gathering centre. Historically the
…es here date from the early twentieth century and most of the
…tings seem to be from this period. The hedgerows lining the
…way and the roadway itself bear some relation to land sub-
…sion prior to the Selection Acts.

Significance

The balance of vegetation especially the groupings of exotic species of trees and the lower bush hedgerows along the roadway make for a pleasing and very unusual setting for this shire and beyond. Added to this the backdrop made by the forest, the siting of water courses and dam storages and the several distinctive buildings along the roadway (these are substantial turn of the century or later houses and cannot be linked directly to land sub-division in the nineteenth century) combine to make an aesthetically pleasing scene. The road descends from a high point to the town of Dean and as an attractive and varied landscape with some historical associations as well as distinctive but by no means unique buildings, this place has merit as a cultural landscape.

Recommended for the Register of the National Estate

*has importance in the overall land-use pattern

*prominent viewing points

*plantings, buildings and land-use pattern all relate to one another effectively

*the whole not any one part is the significant aspect

*some historical associations in the overall land form not just in individual buildings

andscape study

OWNSHIP

Dean roadway view
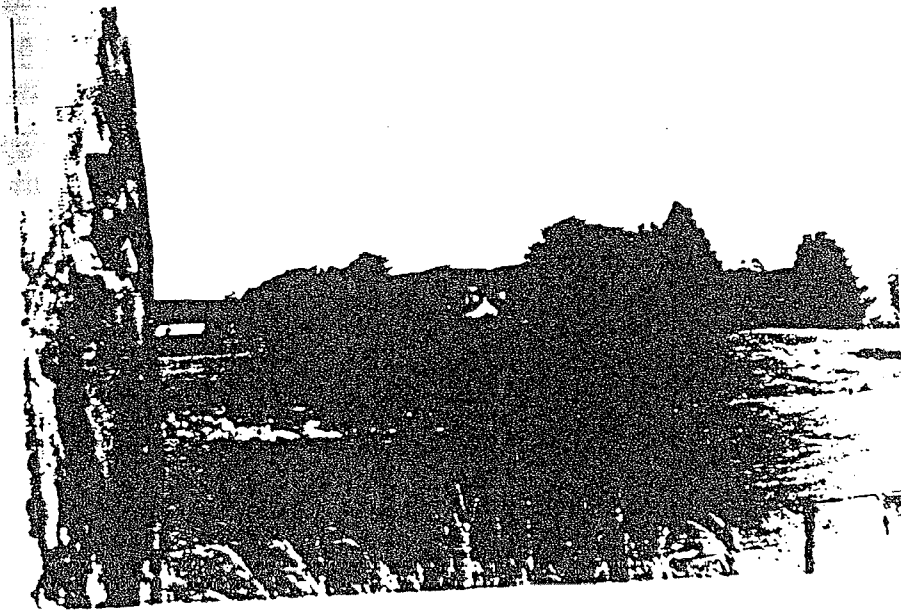
ງ 2 Dean Hall
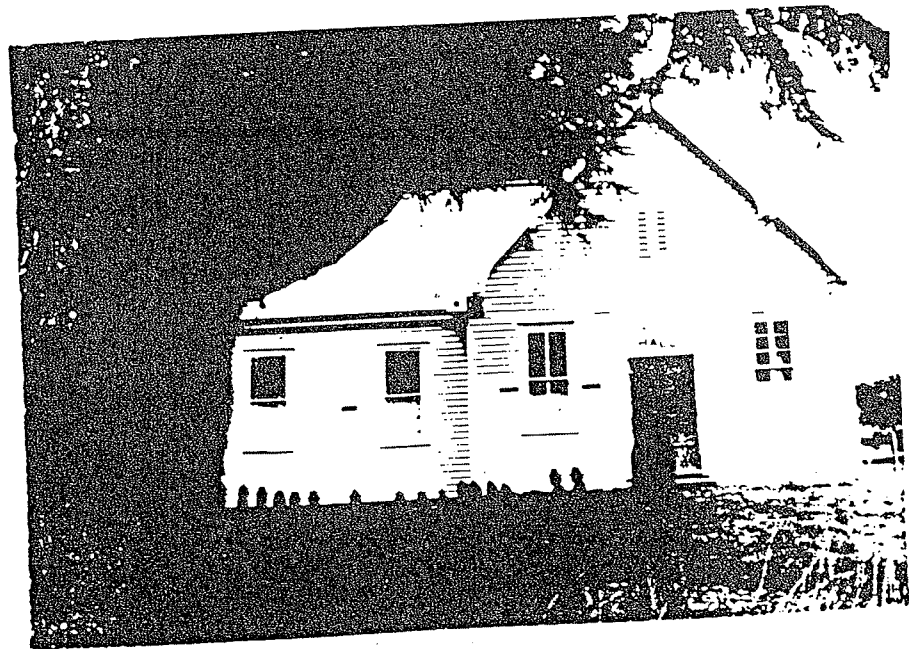
fig 3 Dean school and
memorial entranceway

andscape study

OWNSHIP
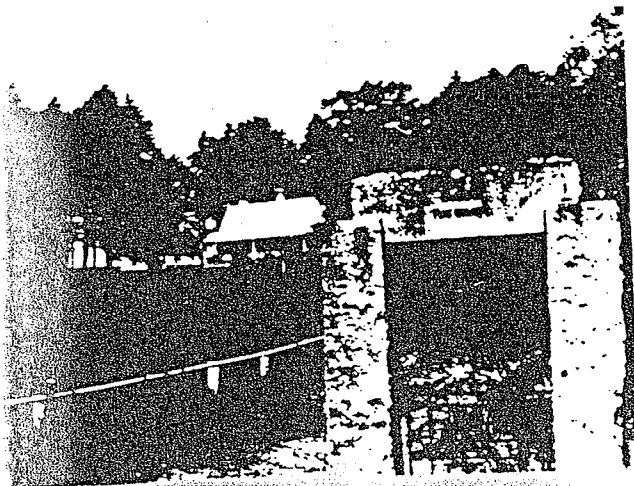
Scrub Hill Churchyard

cation

: the intersection of Sawmill Road and Ballarat-Daylesford Road.
udes Scrub Hill (620 metres) and Scrub Hill farmhouse and
:ing. Bounded on the south by forest and the Fleming Creek, on the
h to a distance of 200 metres from Sawmill Road, on the west by
sted area crossing Sawmill Road, and on the east by the base of
Jb Hill. Includes church and church grounds.

scription

itral features are the dominant hill (Scrub Hill), the Uniting
rch, (basalt) founded in April 1869, the church hall (rendered),
ner church building and plantings in the churchyard. The view
)ss the dams on Fleming Creek is another important part of the
iscape.

nificance

ile the broad setting of the church adds to the general impression
ch it leaves with an onlooker, the real interest in the scene lies
i the church and its immediate surrounds - the trees which frame
building. There is a pleasant aspect from the high ground at the
i intersection across waterways and farmlands to forested
ance; such views are common within the shire. The church and the
distinguish this particular view. Yet without the church the
scape here would not be different from many others within the
e. No special characteristics distinguish the church or the
ounds. While this is a pleasing view, and while the church and its
and grounds ought to be protected under any local conservation
me in general this landscape is typical of many local views.

cal Significance; not recommended for listing on the
ster of the National Estate; the church to be considered
y local conservation study of the Shire.

Location

South of the intersection of Boundary-Church Road and Ballarat-Daylesford Road. All of the area within the 660 metre contour to the peak of Clarkes Hill (730 metres).

Description

An important landscape feature and dominant local landmark. Clarkes Hill is one of the higher of a series of peaks of volcanic origin which run across the Creswick Shire. They are similar to but smaller and more closely grouped than like peaks which are to be found through the Western District of Victoria (i.e. Mt Elephant or Mt Noorat) Clarkes Hill has the same general form as the hills which frame most of the area. In this case, the landscape has an added importance because of the plantings on the slopes - especially the solid hedgeline running right up the hill. This is a dramatic example of a common local farming technique.

History

The Red Streak lead tapped by alluvial diggers in 1853 and 1854 ran through this region and miners worked over Clarke's Hill and Clarke's Flat on several occasions. Most of the alluvial mining relics from this location have been erased. The Hill takes its name from Tom Clarke, father of one of the pitmen in local deep alluvial mines. Water was pumped from here to hotels and a store called "Marny's" supplied diggers in the area.

Significance

A dramatic local landmark with its mass accentuated by the hedgerow climbing its slope. An early mining area but one distinguished by no great collection of relics. The hill is typical of local landforms and is perhaps a more dramatic example of these features of the shire. It has a strong local presence but has no distinguishing historical characteristics nor any overall land -use pattern which would warrant registration. Its significance lies in its landmark quality and the manner in which it represents the broader character of the area.

Local significance; Not for National Estate Listing.
Consider in any local conservation study of the shire.

5. Creswick Township – Government Precinct

Location

West side of Albert Street in Creswick township, from Hall Street (including building on south-west corner) to rear of properties on north side of Raglan St. Runs to intersection with Napier and takes in State School grounds. Follows the rear boundaries of Raglan Street properties to railway line. Includes railway station buildings (goods shed, signal box platform and station building) as well as footpaths and plantings at station. Includes adjacent properties to north of railway land. Runs along border of railway property to west, south and east. Follows Raglan St and from watercourse to the south-east and follows rear of properties on southern side of Raglan Street.

Description

Along Albert Street are a row of public buildings and prominent commercial premises. Most of these were built between 1860 and the turn of the century. The later additions include the Fire Station, dating from 1936.

In Raglan Street are the basalt lock-up, former court house building and police station. There are rows of timber cottages of varying dates. The railway station, school, present community centre and former timber church, as well as the Curtin Memorial, War Memorial and band rotunda are other key elements in the environment. The railway station itself is a valuable complex with goods shed, station buildings, several lines of track and railed walkways with grouped plantings.

History

The first centre of administration for the Creswick gold fields stood to the north of the present township on the intersection of the Daylesford and the Clunes roadways. In 1856 the Victorian government bought the Union Hotel and established a new centre of administration in what had become the centre of the commercial strip of Creswick township, After 1856, miners began to drift away from the township and the civic core seemed to have been a lavish

investment which was no longer required in the much smaller town of post-gold rush Creswick.[1] Nevertheless over the remainder of the century and into the twentieth century the location has had several additions so that it now combines a range of building styles all of which relate to the civic or the formal associational life of Creswick. Principal structures are

1. The Courthouse which dates from

2. The lock-up built in 1860

3. Police station 1861

4. On the grassed area opposite the police station is a small memorial to John Curtin, Australian war-time prime minister and leader of the Australian Labor Party. Curtin was born in a Church Street house rented by his father. But his father was was a Constable at the Creswick Police Station. Area includes a War memorial and a fountain erected in 1906. The local role of Curtin as an anti-conscriptionist in the Great War and his national role as a wartime leader and sponsor of compulsory military call-ups is in an ironic sense brought ought in this precinct(the anti-conscriptionists met in the Mechanics Institute)

5. Opposite in Raglan Street stands a fire brigade building dating from 1936. The fire brigade in Creswick was one of the oldest volunteer brigades in the colony dating from 1854. Its great challenge came in 1860 when much of the town was burned down. A new station was later constructed but it too burned down in 1935. The present building was opened 20 August 1936.

6. Post Office. The first post office in Creswick was built in 1854. The present building dates from 1862. It occupies a prominent corner site and has a colonnaded verandah on two sides.

7. The band rotunda opposite dates from 1897 and was erected to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and has a foundation stone laid / the then mayor Mrs WP Northcott. Volunteer bands were common in

in A Graham, Early Creswick, Creswick 1987,pp. 98-99.

many gold towns and in Creswick a volunteer band was formed in 1862, the same year in which the new post office was completed.

8. Alongside the post office stands the former Creswick Mechanics Institute. This was built in 1892. The mechanics institutes represented the ethic of self-improvement which so distinguished the gold towns of Victoria in the later nineteenth century. One function of the Mechanics Institute was to provide a free library in a town. In Creswick the first such library was located at the Clunes end of the shopping strip. The new hall brought the mechanics institute into the heart at least geographically of the civic town.

9. Alongside the Mechanics Institute is a former School of Mines building, later a state savings branch (1897-1912) and then a private residence.

10. On the opposite side of Hall Street stands the former building of the Bank of New South Wales

11. Raglan Street itself and the intersection with Albert Street form important elements in the tow with a central grassed strip in Raglan Street (with a dense plantation of exotic trees) and a triangular grassed area at the road junction.

12. Alongside the civic buildings stand a row of cottages which together make a harmonious row of buildings.

13. Opposite these cottages stands one of the most distinctive private residences in the town, a large red-brick Edwardian house with distinctive woodwork around the verandah.

14. Behind the Mechanics Institute stands a basalt gold office, one of only a few to survive in Victoria from the alluvial gold-rush period.

15. the railway station buildings, although not all dating from the same period form an interesting grouping and are sited in a dominating position at the western end of Raglan St.

Significance

The civic, commercial and community buildings in this precinct are all valuable as individual structures. They have an added landscape quality because of their siting around a distinctive street arrangement. The Albert Street section of the town widens here to encompass street plantings. The civic buildings to the west do not directly run parallel with those to the east. The triangular land formed by the curve in Albert Street is taken up by the band rotunda and the Curtin Memorial. The whole arrangement forms a striking town centre. The interest is extended by the tree plantings and the private residences. Central to the significance is the way in which the whole history of civic life and the important institutional life of the town (voluntary associations like the mechanics institute, fire brigade and band) are displayed by individual buildings and then linked by the street pattern. The cottages on the south side of Raglan St., the forestry plantation in the central grassed area of the street and the large private dwelling on the north of the street all suggest other aspects of the town's history (mining in the cottages, civic growth in the brick home and forestry in the plantation, communications in the railway). This is the key landscape in the town.

Recommended for the Register of the National Estate.

*Strong visual form

*thematic linking of all elements

*strong historical messages in all elements

*the overall relations add to the individual importance of each structure

CRESWICK
GOVERNMENT
PRECINCT
fig 4
Bandstand

fig 5 Mechanics
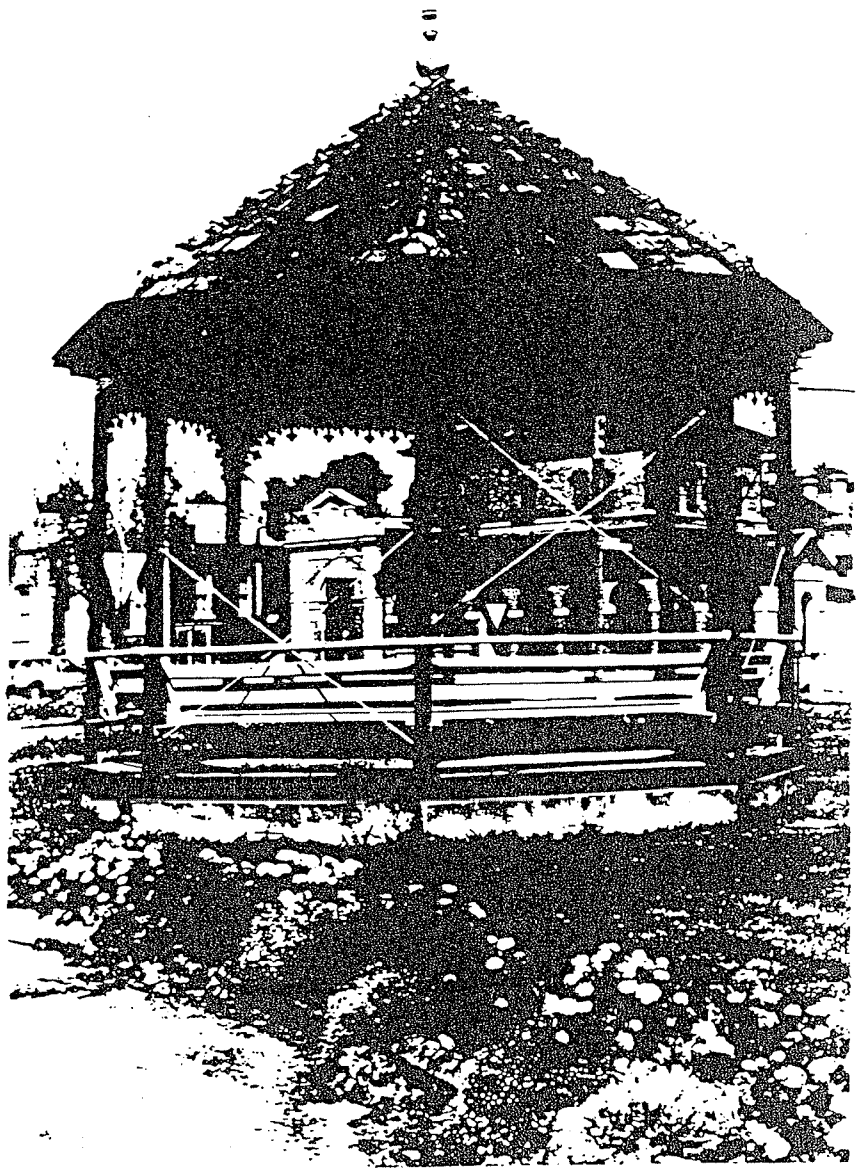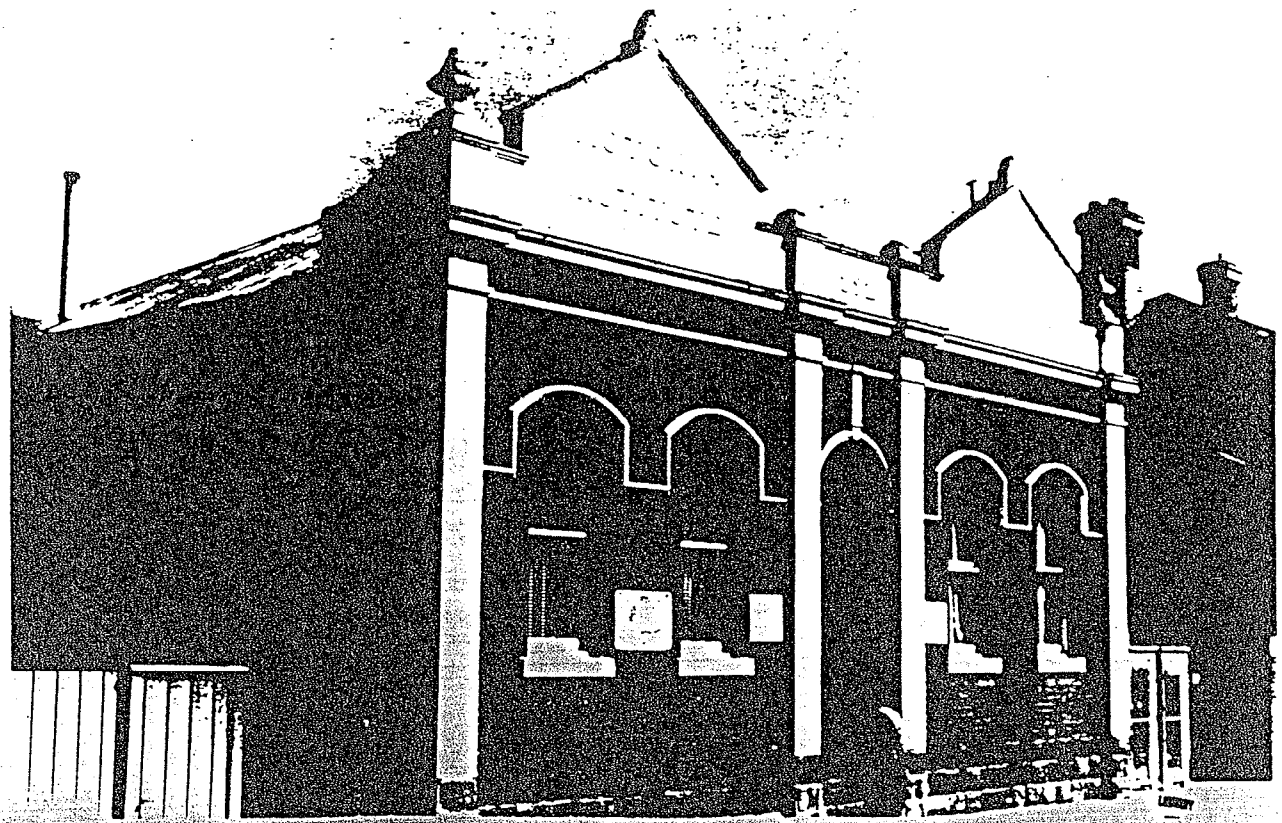   Institute

CRESWICK
GOVERNMENT
PRECINCT

fig 6 former bank building

7 post office
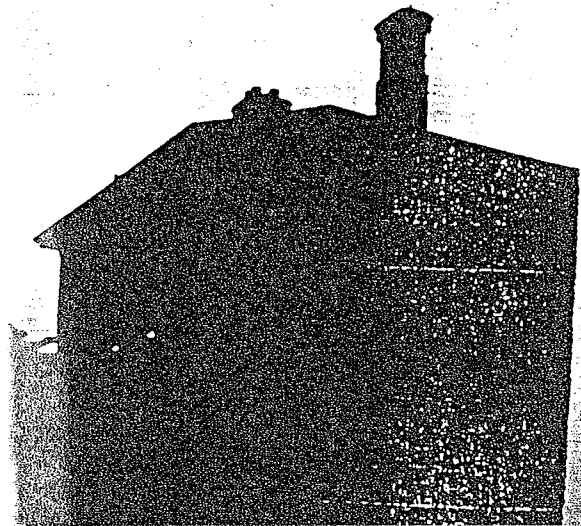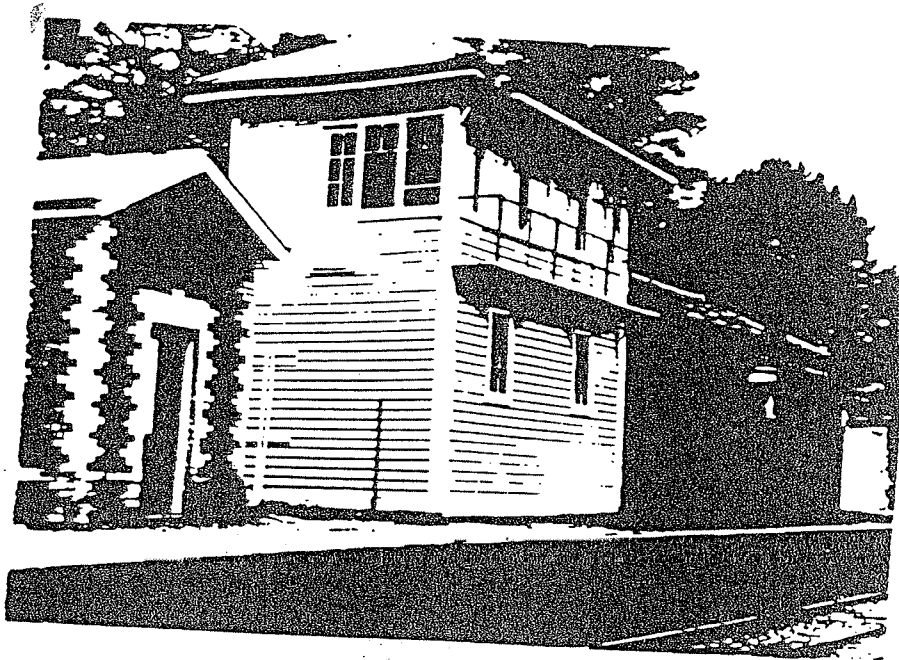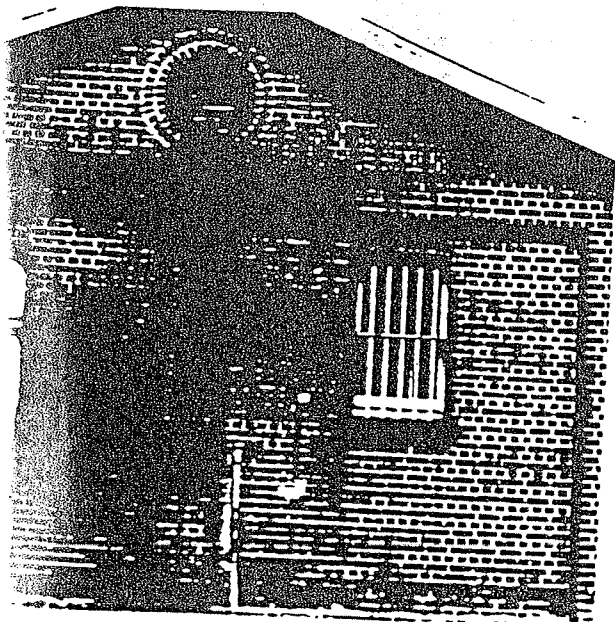
fig 8 railway station

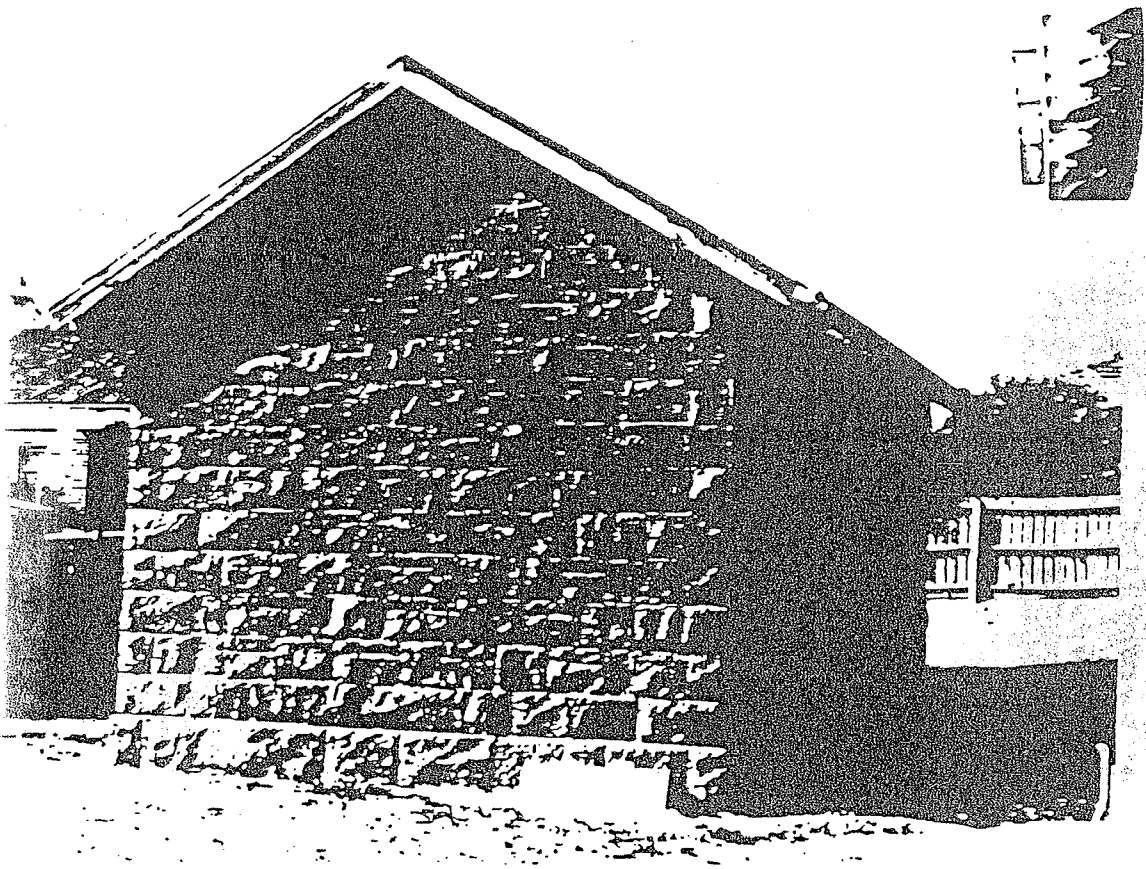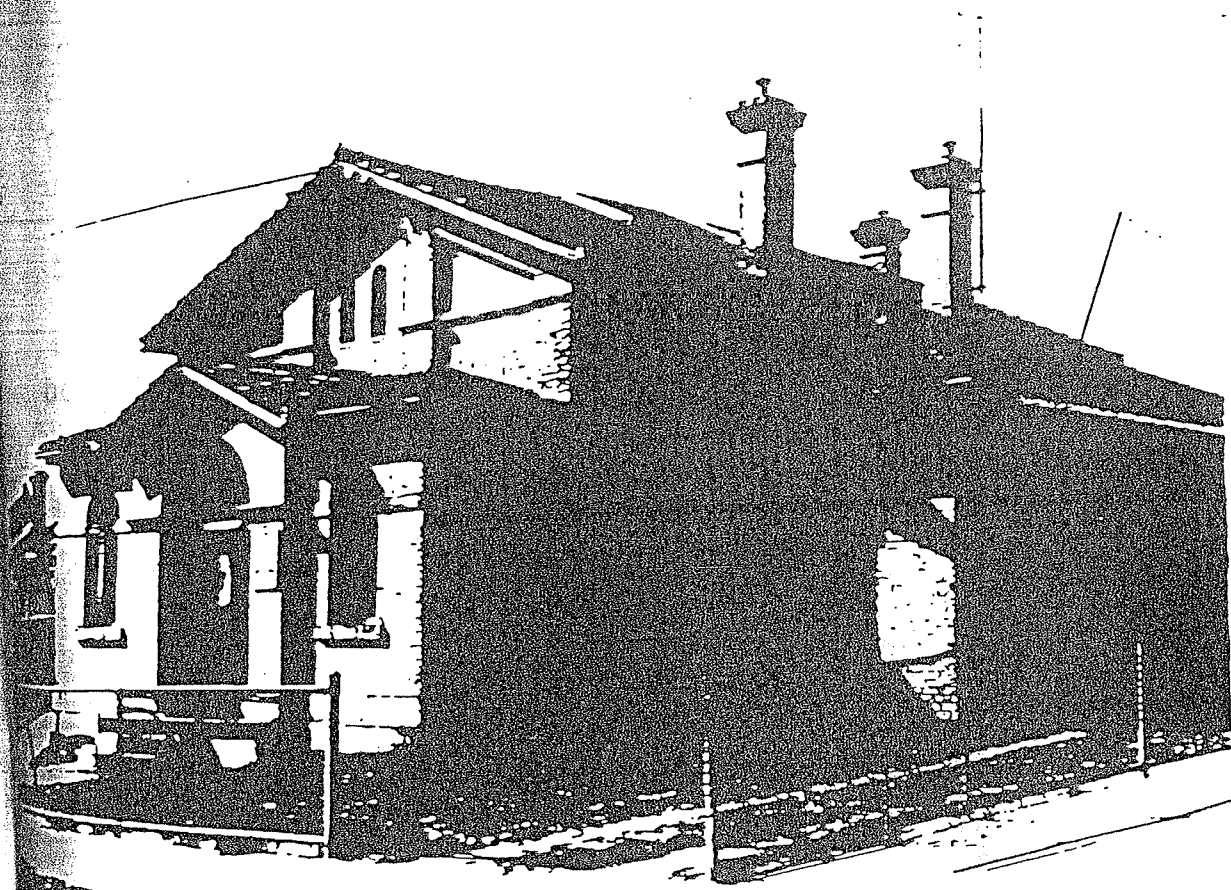fig 9 goods shed

Curtin memorial

!! LOCK UD

fig 12 Court house

6. Creswick Township – Commercial Precinct

Location

Along west side of Albert Street from Raglan Street to Victoria Street, including the triangular parkland at the Albert Street-Victoria Street intersection.

Description

A row of mainly two-storeyed commercial buildings following the curving street alignment. Wide footpaths, tree plantings and deep guttering make this a distinctive environment. The park and the unusual facade of the British Hotel complete the environment.

History

Local significance. Not for National Estate Listing. Ought to be researched as individual buildings and for streetscape value in any local conservation study in the shire.

7. Creswick Township - Community Buildings

Location

East side of Albert Street between Water Street (including town hall on north-eastern corner) to Melbourne Road, following north-west side of Melbourne Road to Ford Street. Includes properties in block bounded by Ford Street, South Street, Melbourne Rd and Albert Street. Follows rear of properties facing eastern side of Albert Street.

Description

A group of distinctive buildings, some of them commercial premises, but others key community centres. These include the town hall, 1856 shop front, American Hotel, Masonic Lodge, Tatts Store (1861), and Salvation Army Barracks. Takes in the view from Albert Street and Melbourne Road along Creswick Creek.

History

1. Central to this group is the Masonic Lodge. The Creswick Havilah Lodge held its first meeting in 1859 in Anthony's American Hotel. The Lodge continued in the town with strong support from both civic and commercial leaders. This temple was opened in 1890. The name is inspired by a biblical text "the whole of the land of Havilah where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good" [Genesis 11:11-12]

2. The Salvation Army first appeared in Creswick in 1886 under the charge of Lieutenant Grace Carr. The Army first met in the Creswick Town Hall. The hall dates from a later stage in the Army's local activity, when most of the ready targets provided by a mining town had vanished out of range.

3. An important commercial building in this block is the American Hotel. This was once owned by Thomas Anthony one of a small group of Americans who lived in Creswick and were active in the 1850s.

4. At the corner of Water St. and Albert St. is a shopfront which once identified the Creswick Mining Exchange. It dates back to 1856 when it housed the first branch of the Bank of New South Wales. In 1858

when the bank was moved to another site in Albert St. this building became Spargo's Hotel. The Mining Exchange operated in part of this building

4. Across Water St. stands the Creswick Town Hall. The initial town hall building dates from 1876, with later additions through to the 1960s. Some of the internal detailing of the building is unusual, including an outstanding basalt spiral staircase with cast iron balustrading.

5. The "Tait's " Store is a prominent commercial building. It dates from 1861 and was built by James Orr Tait, a Clydeside shipbuilder mined for gold in the district and then turned to blacksmithing. He purchased the Bull and Mouth Hotel alongside the store but later demolished this structure. The Tait Store remained a local landmark for many years and although no longer identified by that name it is still a building well known in the town.

Significance

This group of buildings runs from the town hall to the juncture of the Ballarat and Melbourne Roads. They occupy a high ridge on the eastern side of the main commercial strip. The ground falls sharply away behind them to the Creswick Creek valley and the site of early alluvial diggings. The precinct is valuable for this linking of mining., commercial activity and the nearby town hall, mining exchange and religious and associational structures. Along with the civic precinct opposite, this is a critical group for the character of the town and for demonstrating the connections between alluvial mining, mining investment commercial prosperity, associational life and then municipal politics. Much of the history of the town can be told through these structures.

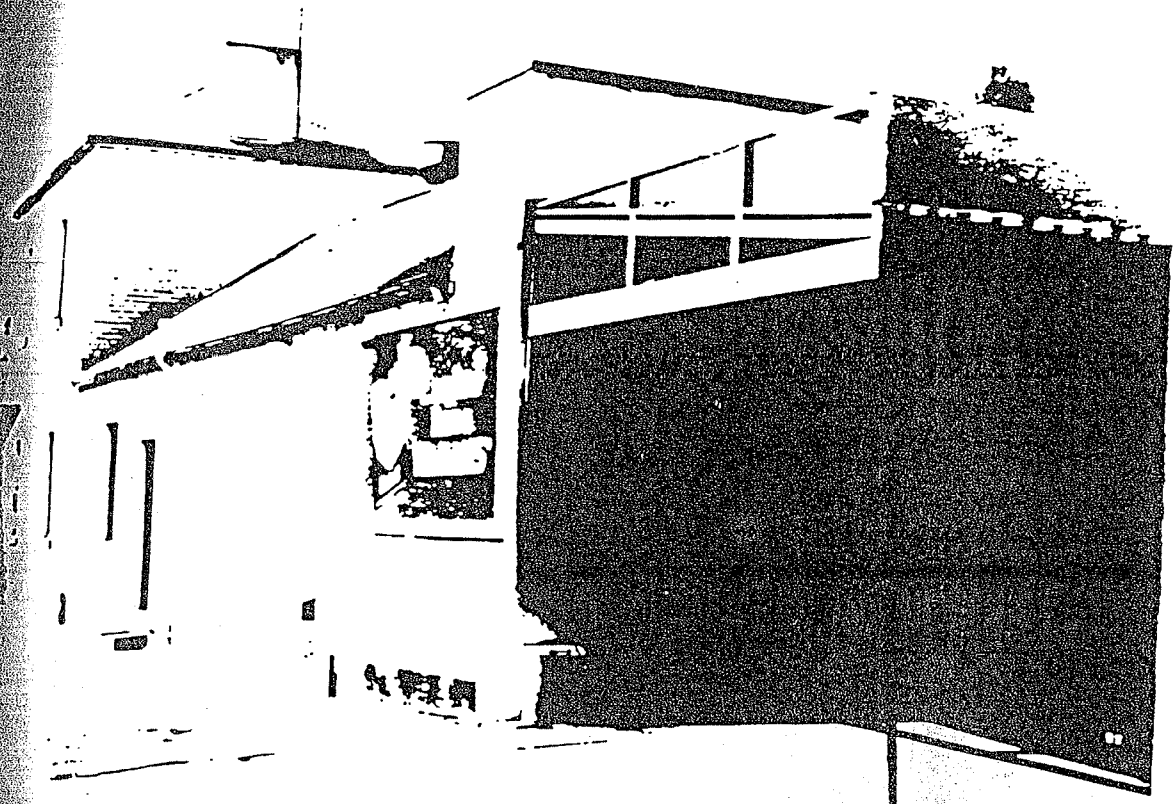**Recommended for listing on the Register of the National Estate**

*key theme runs through all structures

*buildings and environs together are important

*views through to the creek valley add to the worth of the
   individual buildings

CRESWICK COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

fig 13 Tait store
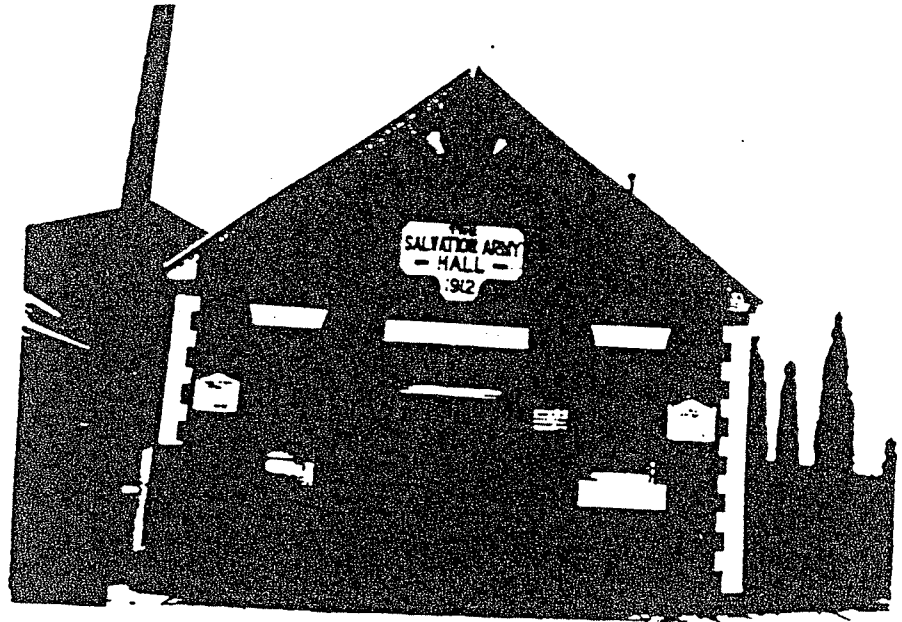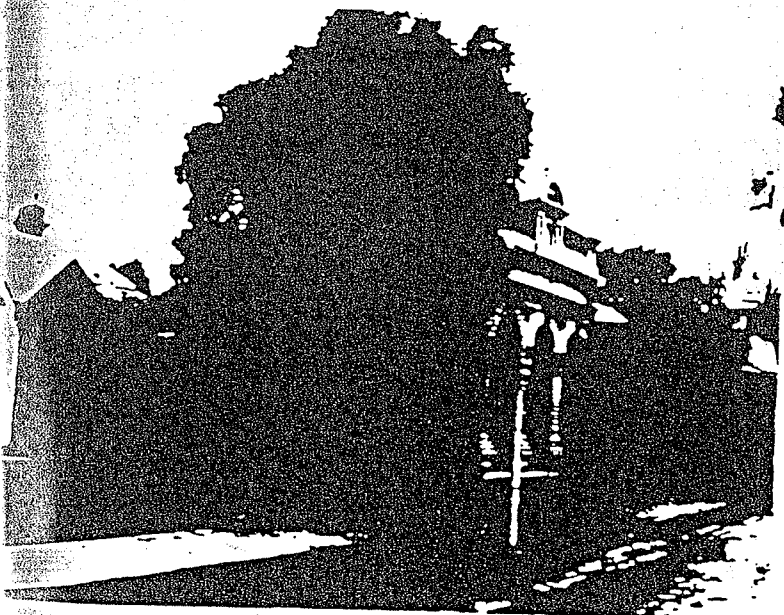
ST JOHN'S LODGE

Fig 15 Salvation army hall

Fig 16 Albert Street community buildings
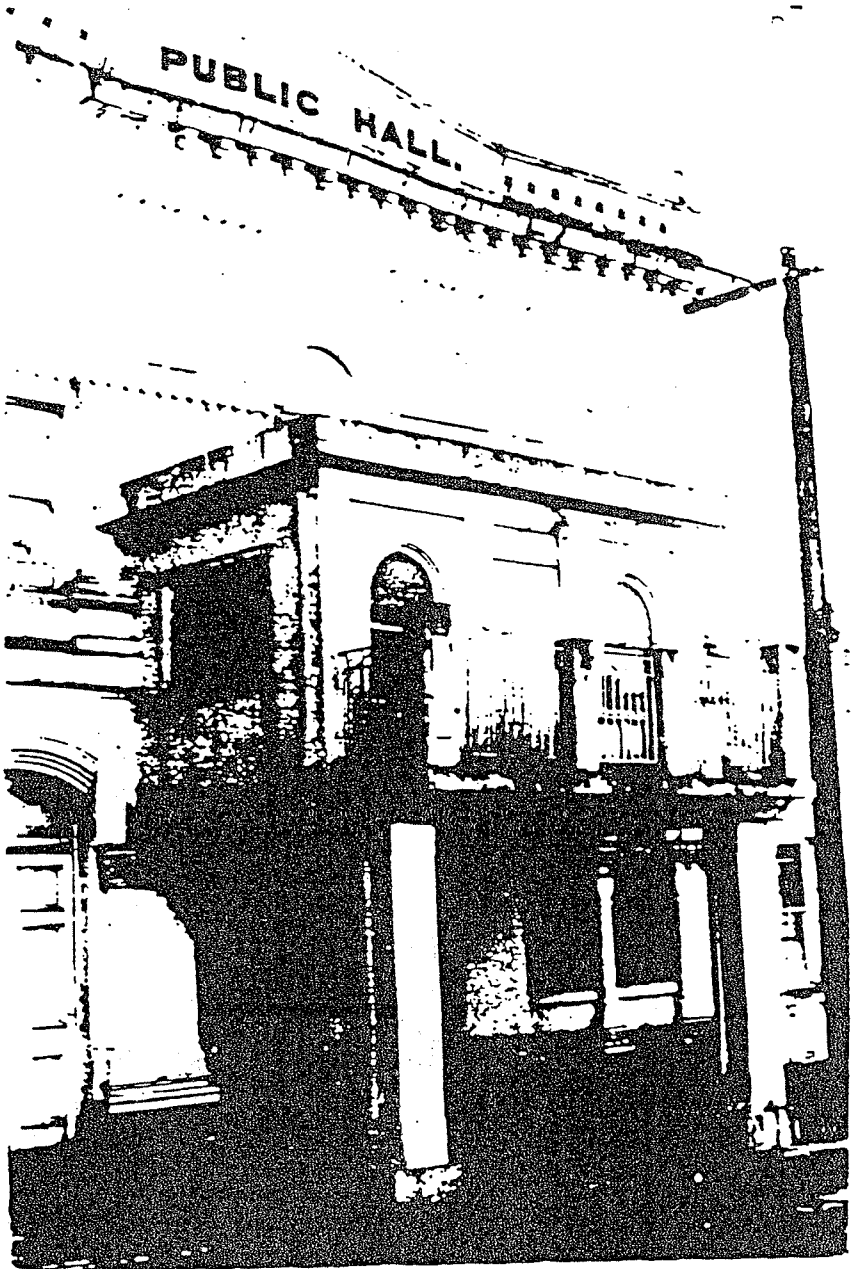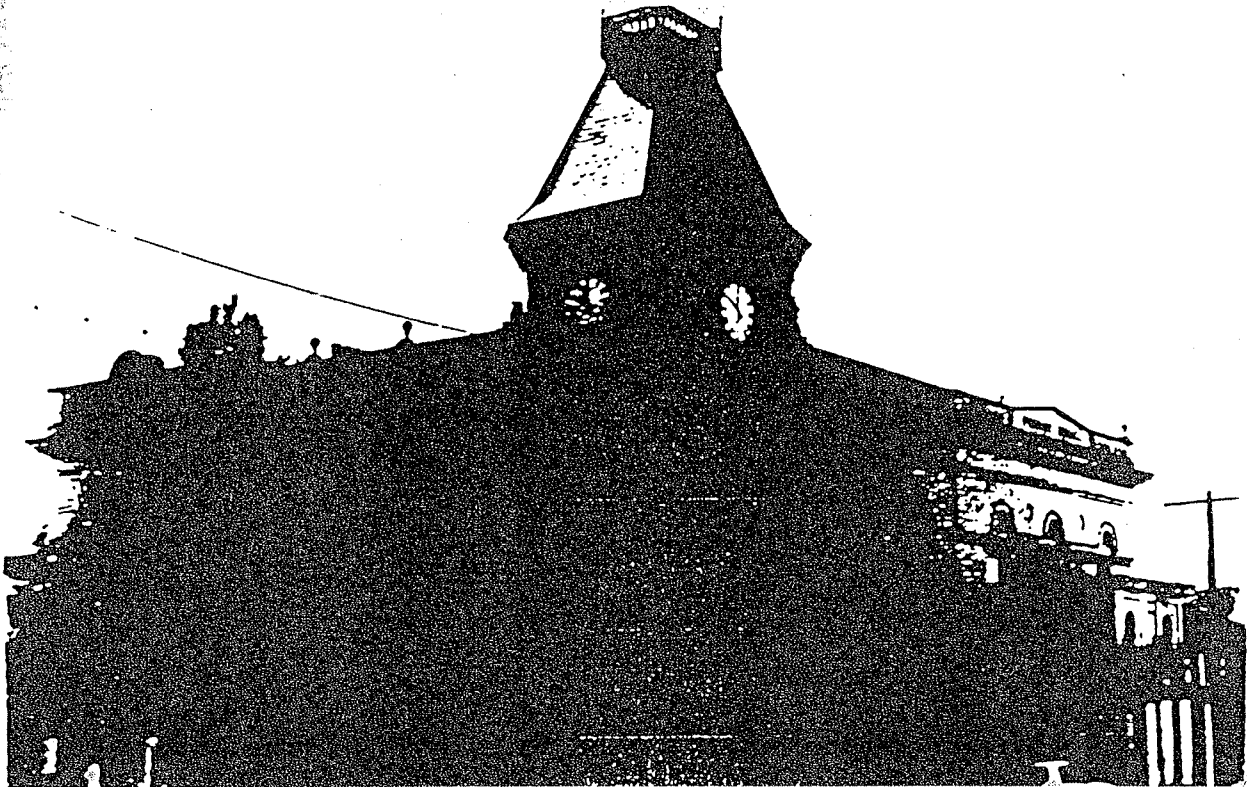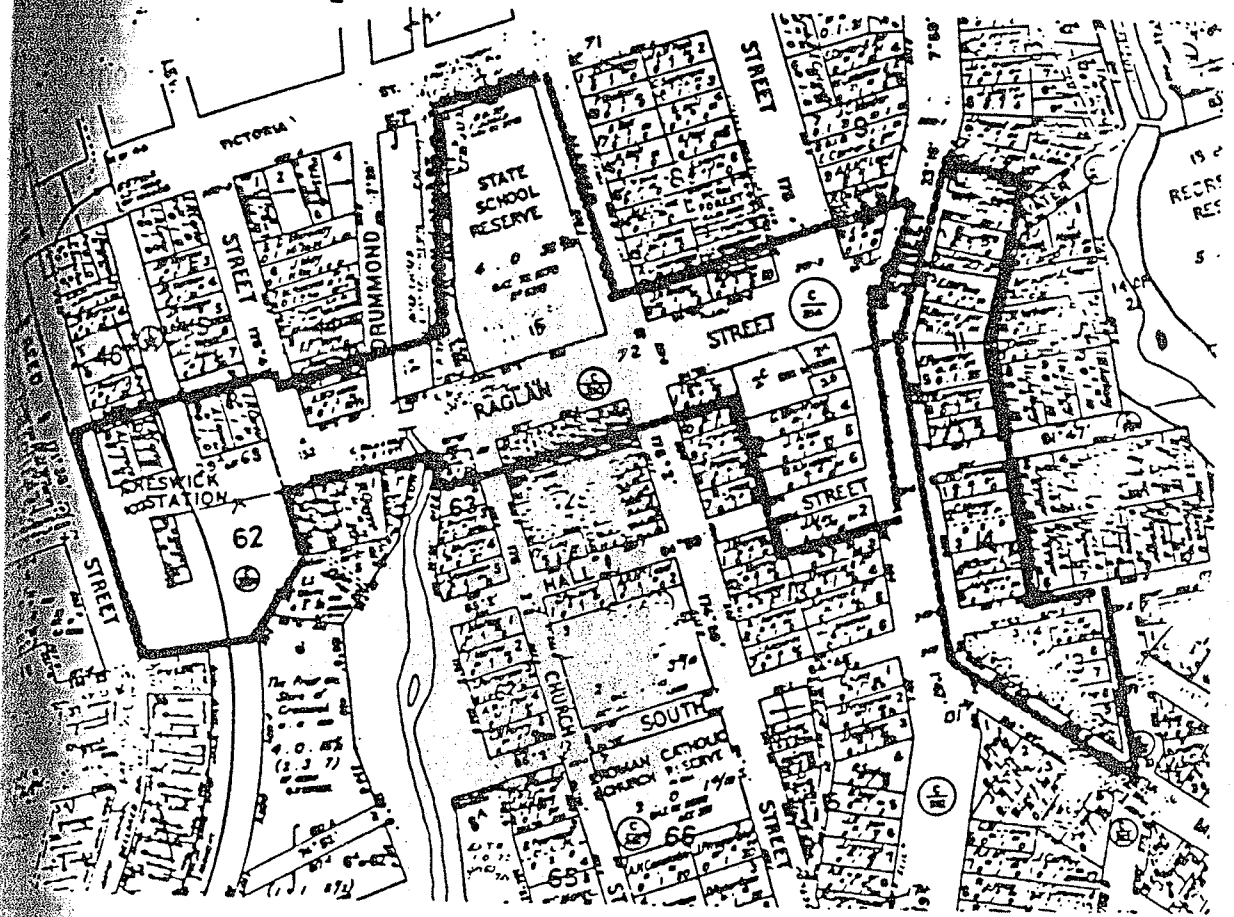
PUBLIC HALL.

fig 17

all additions

fig 18 Town hall

MAP TWO: Creswick government precinct: site 5

Creswick community buildings: site 7

3. Creswick Township – Residential Precinct

Location

On east side of Clunes Road, extending north along Clunes Road from ...rth Parade to Bendigo Road.

Description

...row of double-fronted, single-storeyed weatherboard cottages, ...st dating from the late nineteenth century, representing some of ...e character of a mining town of the period. The row varies in ...ndition and there is some dilapidation in the older cottages. ...nongst the cottages are some more modern structures.

History

Significance

...ese buildings make an attractive row of miners cottages typical of ...se to be found throughout the central goldfields area. These have ...ne more distinctive characteristics through their larger scale and ...ative uniformity.

...ese buildings are somewhat larger than others in nearby gold ...ns. Their appearance gains from the townscape around them; they ...set back from a wide roadway which dips suddenly at the southern ...to cross the valley of the Creswick Creek. As a group they would ...act attention in any local conservation study; they are a part of ...character of mining in Creswick and no doubt reflect something ...he character of local domestic life. In a broader context they are ...active but have no historical interest to make them worthy of ...ing in a register which is not specifically local.

...al significance. Not for listing on the Register of the ...ional Estate. Of considerable importance in any local ...servation study of the shire.

Creswick School of Forestry and Grounds

Location

At the eastern end of Water Street, enclosed by boundary fence and circumference roadway. The landscape ought to extend beyond the college grounds taking in the land between the college and the Creswick Creek and extending to the western bank of the creek between Water St and footbridge to east of Victoria St.

Description

Victorian School of Forestry, established in 1910, includes Tremearne House and former Creswick Hospital (built 1884). The area includes distinctive plantings and later buildings typical of structures for government departments in Victorian rural areas. Within the grounds is the main building of Tremearne House and then several additional structures from the nineteenth century. These are the former hospital buildings. Within the grounds too there are different arrangements of plantings and detached housing, mainly wooden. Roadways, parking lots and machinery sheds cover other parts of the grounds.

History

Experimental forestry in Creswick dates back to 1889. The School of Forestry is from a later period and was took in its first students in 1910 when the college was housed in Tremearne House. In 1912 the school extended to encompass the old Creswick Hospital.

Tremearne House itself was built in 1884 by Dr John Tremearne, the resident medical officer at the hospital from 1872 to 1888. The hospital was one of several goldfields hospitals set up in the 1860s. The opening of the hospital coincided with the creation of Creswick as a borough. A reserve for a hospital and benevolent society was set aside on Eastern Hill in the 1850s. On 20 February 1863, after a procession through the town, the Police Magistrate, Mr Dowling, laid a foundation stone for the hospital. The building was designed by Mr Doeppel of Daylesford and built by Mr Bacon. The hospital stayed on

...is site until 1912 and was moved to Napier St. after the forestry ...school opened.

...The School of Forestry itself was the first of its kind in Australia. ...The school was later administered by a board under the control of the ...University of Melbourne. Its main function has been to train staff for ...the Victorian Forests Department, then Commission and now the ...Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands.

...A Royal Commission into technical education in Victoria heard ...evidence at the end of the nineteenth century. In large part the ...interest in creating a special school for forestry education stemmed ...from this inquiry. Initial plans were for forestry education to take ...place at existing agricultural colleges (at Dookie and Longerenong). ...Since the Victorian State Nursery and Plantation were already sited ...at Creswick, the site of the forestry school seemed better placed her ...than in agricultural districts of the State. The hospital provided a ...perfect site for such a school and classes operated here from October ...1910, although it was not officially taking classes until May 1913. ...The first lot of six students were already working in the forestry ...service and took classes in basic science and surveying from staff at ...the Ballarat School of Mines. In 1920 an Interstate Forestry ...Conference reconsidered education in the field and proposed a new ...school for foresters. This was eventually set up in Adelaide and ...several Creswick graduates went on there for further training. Some ...went to the forestry college at Canberra, but in 1942 the university ...of Melbourne agreed to grant a BSc to graduates from Creswick. In ...1980 students could qualify for a degree in Forest Science with two ...years at Melbourne and two at Creswick. The College also awards ...(until 1990) a diploma in forestry.

...The gardens of the School are themselves of interest since they have ...supported experimental plantings over th course of the school. The ...outbuildings are more recent and date from the colleges expansion ...after the First World War.

Significance

The hospital building and Dr Tremearne's residence are both valuable ...nineteenth century buildings in their own right. Several of the gold

hospitals have either been demolished (Clunes) or altered
ly) where the first floor was removed. This is a rare survivor
ly because of its transfer to educational uses. The forestry
marks an innovative step in practical education. The
dings, residences and plantings in the grounds make a
ape of scientific value and a register of changing patterns in a
project in practical education. In many ways the history of
ege's constantly changing status is registered in these
s; they show a progression from a standard school birthplace
ed public building -through to a complex of school and
al training facilities which mark the uneasy status of the
between staff training centre and a branch of a distant
ty. The whole environment of the Forestry School makes up a
environment. The circling driveway provides a good vantage
n which this landscape can be observed.

ended for listing on the Register of the National

ual buildings important

ment and relations between buildings crucial

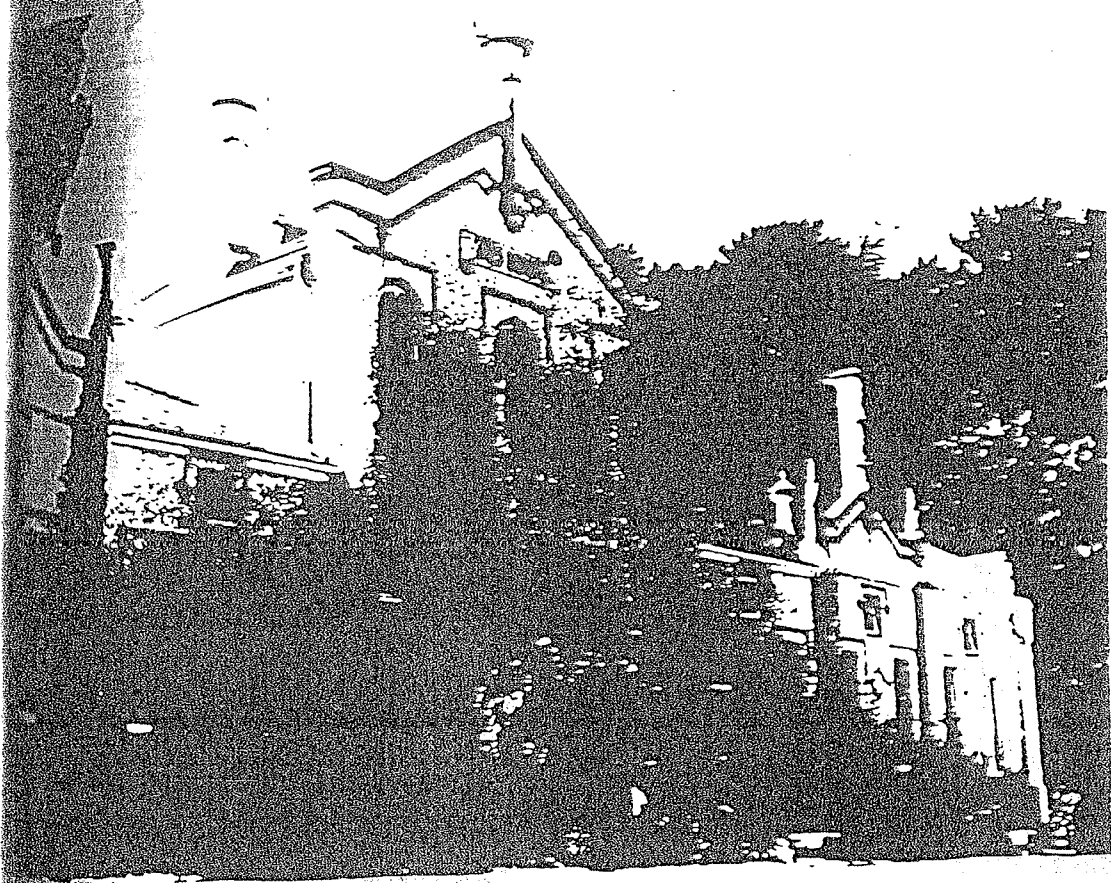s augment the individual strength of each item

lay-out is critical

THREE: Forestry school and surrounds: site 9

Sawpit Gully: site 11

Brackenbury Road:site 13

reference study

FORESTRY SCHOOL AND GROUNDS

fig 18 school of forestry

forestry school grounds

...scape study

Lake and Gardens

...by Castlemaine Rd, Bridge St and Bowen St.

...tion

...Lake area is covered with a formal planting of imported ... with an ornamental lake central to the landscape. It was ...d as a scientific reserve and includes several species of ...ree planted as a systematic selection of types from around ...orld there are also stands of eucalypt. The gardens and lake ...featured in tourist advertisements in the early twentieth ...tury. The gardens include an unusual picnic pavilion/ summerhouse ...ic inspiration. The eastern end of the reserve has been given ...to tennis courts and other sporting activities.

...tory

In 1852 police buildings and a gold office were erected on this spot. ...ing the alluvial mining period this was the site of administration ...the town. In 1868 the area was gazetted as a site for public ...rdens and the site was planted as flower gardens. In 1888 as part ...the experimental foresting works in Creswick, the Conservator of ...orests, George Perron, chose the site for a systems garden and ...troduced imported trees and began the process of converting a cricket ground on the site into an ornamental lake. Early in the twentieth century the gardens and the lake figured prominently in literature and maps designed to attract tourists to the area. The Victorian Railways featured the park in its brochures and station and railway carriage advertisement. Since the 1920s the gardens have not been cared for with the same enthusiasm as shown in their creation. However the National Trust has now considered trees in the gardens for the National Trust (Victoria) register of Significant Trees and revival of interest in provincial botanic reserves have lead to plans for the restoration of the gardens.

...landscape study

...icance

...ark Lake and plantings on the reserve form an essential part of ...ownscape of Creswick. They occupy an important approach to the ...and are visible from the main roads north and east. The site ...udes a number of significant individual plantings. As a landscape ...as significance in its origins as an experimental planting which ...es from the initial attempts at forest management in Victoria. The ...out of gardens , trees, open space and the lake and the system ...ich Perron and others sought to combine with an aesthetic appeal ...ake this area of great cultural significance. The adjacent sporting ...cilities (and fire drill strip have at best questionable significance ...need to be considered in any preliminary investigation of the site.

Recommend for Listing on the Register of the National Estate

*lay-out and general arrangement of constituent parts critical in explaining scientific and aesthetic attitudes of the past

*changes during the nineteenth century and twentieth century registered in elements, progression is a central historical code in the site, only recognisable in the overall pattern.

...wick landscape study
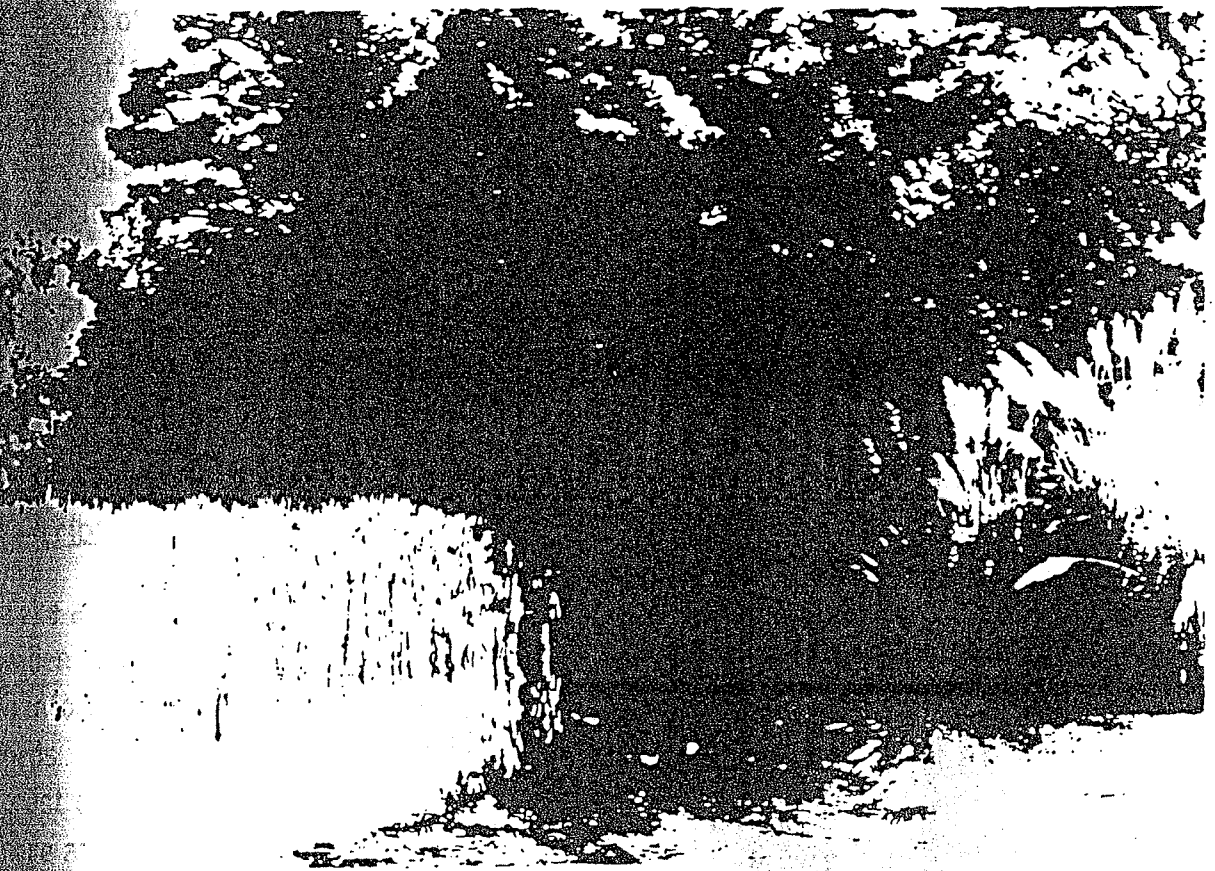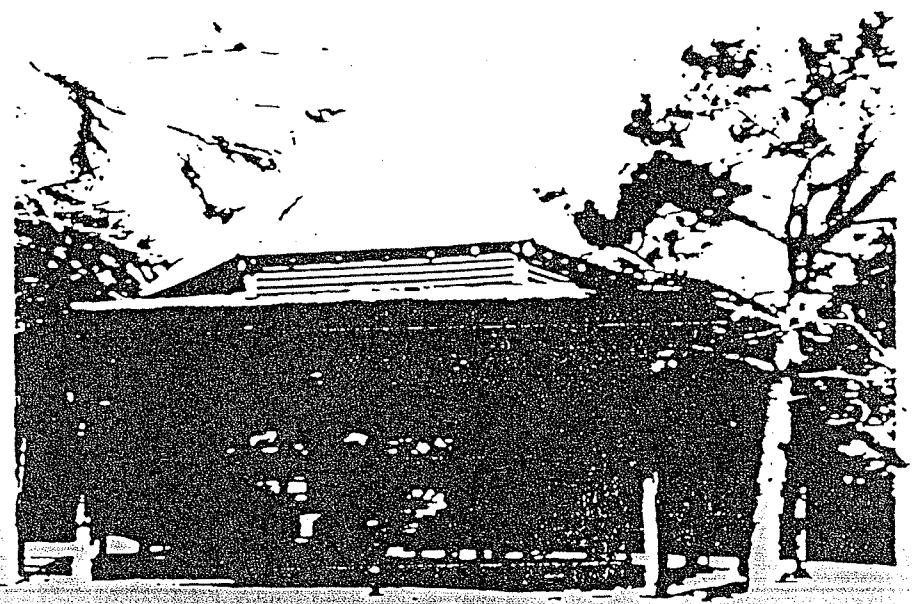
LAKE AND GARDENS

fig 23 Park lake

fig 24 Summerhouse

11.   Sawpit Gully

Location

To south of Midland Highway at access road to Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands Nursery (Sawpit Rd) Bounded by Port Phillip Rd on the south-east. North-west along Sawpit Rd to watercourse and thence north-west to meet track at rear of properties facing Midland Highway. Follows this track to Midland Highway. Along Midland Highway in a south-westerly direction to a point 50 meters south of Sawpit Rd. thence in a south-easterly direction to meet the juncture of Brackenbury forest track and Port Phillip Road taking in the Oak Gully plantings. Extends along Sawpit Gully and Oak Gully to Brackenbury forest track.

Description

Lake and garden plantings, fenced nursery with timber two-storeyed garden house (former forestry office) at entrance, stables at the rear, an information centre and glasshouses and clear synthetic planting sheds.. At south end of nursery, dam and stone water race. Pine forest on either side of nursery. In both Oak Gully and Sawpit Gully there are extensive plantings of deciduous trees.

History

The Nursery and surrounding plantings, along with the Park Lake make up one of the central elements in the landscape history of systematic forestry in Creswick. A Government Nursery was established in Sawpit Gully and in the following year, JA La Gerche. a government forester planted six tea plants for experimental purposes, two acres of Pinus Insignis, blue gums and acacias. When Perron was appointed conservator of forests plantings were extended. By 1904 the Sawpit Gully plantation covered 800 acres. These plantings were extended with the creation of the Forestry School in Creswick. The opening of the school too ended the confusion by which the Nursery was competing with a second Nursery at the Australasian mine site.

Constant moves were made of plants and staff between the two sites. The principal building on the site is the original district

forestry office, supposedly dating from prior to 1912. This is a two-storeyed wooden building clad in weatherboard and shingles with an iron roof and rendered and strapped gables. It has a distinctive hexagonal tower and unusual and irregular windows; its general character is of a fairy-tale cottage. Wooden stables occupy the rear of the nursery site with several more recent glasshouse and "igloo" planting sheds. In 1907 work began on damming the Sawpit Creek. At that time it ran into a degraded ornamental lake. The water race runs through the valley from a higher storage above the nursery to the lake at the nursery entrance. While bushfires have destroyed many of the initial plantings, the roadway which runs from the Midland Highway through the gully to Brackenbury Rd traverses long-standing experimental plantings.

Significance

This is a crucial site in the history of Victorian forestry. While it has not functioned as a government nursery continuously since 1888, the revival of experimental forestry here from 1907 onwards its role in supplying plantings to the state forests and its link to the forestry school make the site a key place in the shire. The forestry office is a unique building in its own right. Its links with surrounding vegitation, the water works and stables at rear of the site and the excellent access to the sight provided by the roadway as well as the definition of the site by the contours of the valley make this a good example of a cultural landscape. There are a variety of natural and built elements which all cohere to present an important and visible historical episode. Again there are clear boundaries and ready access from which to " read" the landscape.

Recommended for Listing on the Register of the National Estate

*elements all relate to one another as a landscape

*individual items do not each convey the message of the whole

*changes over time registered in part by landform changes from distinct eras.

SAWPIT GULLY

fig 25 Forestry office

fig 26 Sawpit gully Rd

fig 27 Oak gully plantings

12.   Creswlck Cemetery

Location

Clunes Road east side, north of the Bendigo Road intersection.

Description

Extensive array of memorial designs. The cemetery includes boundary plantings of exotic tress. There is also a monument to men killed in the Australasian Mine disaster in 1882. Iron rail fence around the cemetery.

History

In the initial gold rush through Creswick, a rough burial ground was carved out of the Black Lead. This served the transitory digging town until alluvial digging began to wane at the end of the decade. In 1858 a new and formal cemetery was opened on the Clunes Road in North Creswick. This cemetery had its first burial five days before Christmas in the same year when a child, John James Bunyan was buried. The cemetery has a formal lay-out and has a central main avenue as a distinguishing feature. Right in the centre of the main access stands the memorial to the men killed in the Australasian Mine Disaster of 1882. In 1942 the town's historian wrote of the cemetery " nearly every pioneer family in the district has members whose remains lie in a peaceful and hallowed spot. It is devoutly to be trusted that future generations will reverence and protect the resting place of their ancestors". [Graham, Early Creswick, p.117]

Significance

The hopes of the town's historian have not entirely been fulfilled. Although many of the key names in Creswick appear on memorials and the cemetery has a generally cared for appearance, it does not figure as a significant hub of Creswick socialising. The Australasian Disaster monument is an important site in its own right and the cemetery displays a wide range of styles in memorial architecture. Cemeteries are always cultural landscapes in that their lay-out, individual plots, plantings and individual chapels, gate-houses,

pavilions etc. convey important messages about attitudes to death.
Yet the Creswick cemetery, for all its significance as a landscape to
the town is not in any way different or more valuable than many other
country town cemeteries. Its significance is to the town and to
relatives of the deceased more than to outsiders. As an individual
structure the Australasian monument has perhaps national
significance.

**Local significance. Not for listing on the Register of the
National Estate. Mine disaster monument to be considered as
an individual item apart from the cemetery landscape.**

13.   Brackenbury Forest Road

Location

From Port Phillip Road intersection and extending within the border of the Forestry School. Views to the north over forest and view of Creswick township (from near 492 m point and from within Forestry School) ought to be taken into account.

Description

Road follows ridge from top of Sawpit Gully into Creswick. Key items are.-

.   view to north across forest

.   view of Creswick township

.   forest environment

evidence of forest workings

Roadway follows contour of hill with views across state forest. Principal view is over Creswick township. The town is displayed from north to south, with principal buildings in view for much of the roadway and a widening view on descent towards the town.

History

In 1914 the British Association for the Advancement of Science met in Australia and visited Creswick, the School of Forestry, the Plantation and the Nursery. In response to interest aroused during this visit and as a result of earlier schemes to revive the town through tourism, the then Surveyor-General, JM Reed planned tourist roads to take visitors through the forests and to vantage points overlooking the town of Creswick. Reed enthusiastically promoted a plan to make a scenic road through the forest, traversing the high point of the range to the east of Creswick. Brackenbury Road, named after the first Creswick Goldfields Commissioner was the result of this scheme.

Significance

The road gives a view of the forestry schemes around the town of Creswick and gives access to the Sawpit Gully area. It is important since it represents an early attempt to promote Creswick as a tourist destination, marking a different stage in the history of attitudes to the local landscape. The view across the town is an important vista since this in part inspired early attempts at tourism. It is still a significant view since it is from a high point overlooking the town and is from an angle which fully displays the principal buildings in the township. The commercial and civic buildings are displayed along the access of Albert Street from this angle and the descent from this high point permits broader views across the town.

The roadway is significant as an early tourist venture and the views of forest and township are important in displaying two key elements of the local environment; the distinctive urban quality of a gold town and the character of the managed forests of Creswick.

Recommended for listing on the Register of the National Estate

*view is crucial to understanding the historical character of town and shire

*the vista and road route together rather than any individual item are the reasons for listing

a landscape study

QUICKENBURY FOREST ROAD

Fig 28 View over Creswick from road entrance into forestry school

Landscape study

Creswick Creek

Location

and roadway at east bank, to building line on west bank, from
Street to footbridge opposite Victoria Street.

Description

Shallow creek bed, managed for flood control. Row of exotic
plantings on eastern bank, modern footbridge and wooden bridge over
basalt floodway at Water Street. Views back to commercial buildings
in township.

History

"Creswick's Creek" was the site of the first rushes to the area. The
present landscape bears few reminders of the origins of the town.
Instead the creek runs through an ordered and landscaped environment.
The row of threes on the eastern bank form one part of the many
plantings around the town associated with the local forestry industry.

Significance

The main interest in the creek and its banks lies in three areas

1. The unusual urban layout by which the creek winds through the
centre of town. The commercial district is clearly visible from the
creek and the open space along the flat low banks of the creek give
the town a string axis, almost like a formally planned linear park in
the centre of the urban area.

2. The open land form and the sense of enclosure provided by the rear
of commercial buildings to the west, the row of plantings to the east
and the bridges across the creek.

3. The view afforded of the rear of the shops and commercial
buildings which follow the ridge on which Albert St is situated.

study

these make up a pleasant setting this does not
site as worthy of Listing on the Register of the
in fact the landscaping has erased the former
which may have seemed more important
The site adds to the character of the town and gives an
point for viewing the growth of Creswick. This makes
to the town but not significant beyond that local role.

recommended for Listing on the Register of the
Estate as an individual landscape. However when
combined with the nearby Forestry School landscape this
makes an important townscape element and the vistas of
own buildings to the west and the school plantings to
the east are essential to the character of the town of
Creswick. Ought to be considered as an urban conservation
zone in any local conservation study and considered in
combination with the Forestry School as a cultural
landscape.

IP FIVE: Kingston Township: site 15

Avenue of Honour: site 16
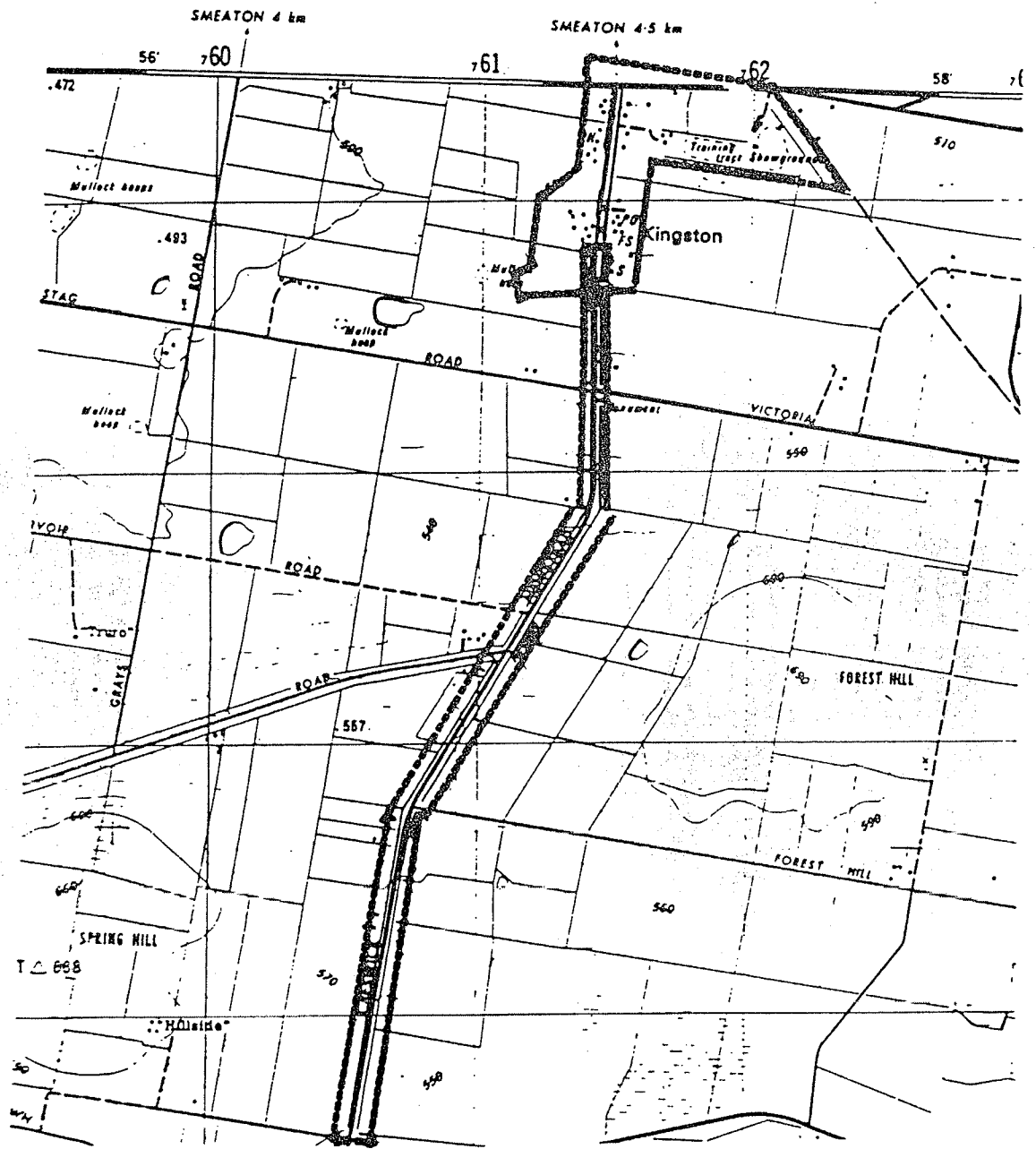
15. Kingston Township

Location

Township on Creswick-Newstead Road. Boundary on north is Allendale-Kingston Road (but includes the basalt former church building on the north-east corner of the intersection with the Creswick-Newstead Rd). takes in properties facing the Creswick-Newstead Rd on the western side of the roadway, follows 530 contour south-west to watercourse and thence east across the Creswick-Newstead Roadway north of Victoria Road but south of the school property. Runs north at the eastern boundary of the properties on the eastern side of the Creswick-Newstead Road and then east to include training track and showgrounds. Thence north-west along former railway reservation to meet Allendale-Kingston Road.

Description

Township extending along roadway with principal residential buildings along western side, public buildings to east. The two parallel arms of the township are demarcated by double rows of imported plantings and side tracks between plantings. The town includes the former Creswick Shire Hall, two former churches, the Kingston Hotel and a two-storey brick house in extensive garden. Views to east from roadway.

History

The land around Kingston was included in the early land sales in the Shire in 1855. In later years the town supported mines in the area and then was influenced by nearby railway development. Its main role has been as a civic centre. In 1859 the Creswick district was proclaimed a road district with the first election declared from the Kingston Hotel in 1859. In 1863 the road district became the Shire of Creswick and from 1864 the Shire officers occupied the new council chambers at Kingston. Kingston remained the centre of the shire until in 1934 the shire and the borough were amalgamated and for three decades Kingston ruled over both the rural areas of Creswick and the

town of Creswick itself. After 1922 the district's Agricultural Show was even shifted to new grounds in Kingston. In 1968 the councillors removed to Creswick which by then had become a far larger centre than Kingston.

Significance

The exotic trees in the central roadway and the double row of plantings distinguished by unmade side rows make for a distinctive character to the centre of the town. In addition the row of civic and communal buildings to the east set slightly higher than the private residences to the west add to the character of the town. Kingston is an unusual small town in the plantings and the continuous row of buildings to the east of the main street. It is given a greater distinctiveness by the contrast with the rich growth of trees through the town and the row of civic and communal buildings, in contrast to the flat farm lands running away on either side of the township; open blocks in the main street open up the view across this farmland. The town and this view to east and west is significant because of the contrast between town and rural background, the individual quality and historical role of the hotel, town hall and churches and the function of the town over so many years as centre for the municipal politics of the shire. These make it visually distinctive; Kingston's historical role is registered in its visual character.

Recommended for Listing on the Register of the National Estate

*the buildings and their relation to the plantings is crucial

*the whole townscape including the view to the distance is critical

...wick landscape study

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

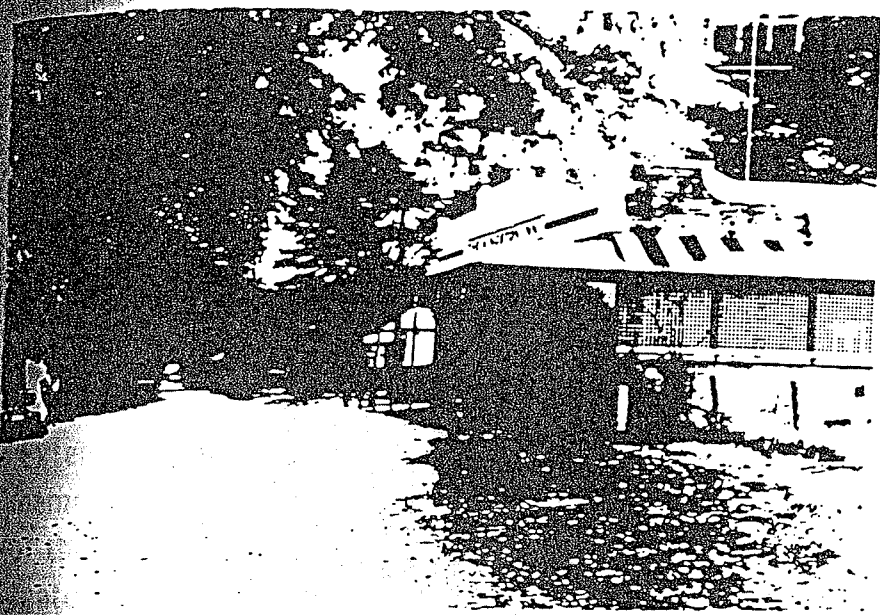fig 29 Kingston hotel and avenue of trees

fig 30 Kingston former chapel

16. Creswick Avenue of Honour

Location

On either side of Creswick-Newstead Road, beginning approximately 500 metres north of junction with Midland Highway and continuing to township of Kingston; with some breaks the Avenue runs through the town itself to the northern limit of the buildings of Kingston. It is then continued towards Smeaton with apparently more recent plantings. The area considered here does not include the section within the town of Kingston or that running North to Kingston, since the uniformity of the design is abrogated on entering the town.

Description

Extensive evenly-spaced plantings of exotic trees along roadway. A memorial is situated on the east side of roadway, 100 metres north of the present Kingston township. The avenue is a key landscape feature in the Shire. The contrast between the evenly planted avenue and the flat farmland on either side gives a distinctive ambience to the site. As well the pattern of the avenue plantings are repeated in hedgerows along the boundaries of the road reservation.

History

Avenues of Honour were planted around several towns after the Great War. Most prominent amongst these is perhaps the Ballarat Avenue of Honour, running out of the town and encircling Lake Learmonth before enclosing the western highway from Windemere back to the town and the memorial archway. The Creswick Avenue is not as extensive and does not make such a dramatic mark on the landscape. Nevertheless, this was one of the important ways in which people of the district honoured those who served in the war, especially those killed in action. The Avenue was opened on 18 December 1927 when Captain T Parkin conducted a ceremony in which the obelisk was unveiled. This was made from Harcourt granite and was unveiled by Brigadier-General Elliott DSO. He addressed his audience in familiar patriotic tones and stressed the continuing links between Australia and the

...ited Kingdom. The Avenue contained 286 trees each one ...resenting a man or woman from the shire who served in the ...itary forces between 1914 and 1918. Each tree originally bore a ...blet with the name of one volunteer but over the years some have ...ded or been erased. Graham's <u>Early Creswick</u> contains an ...phabetical listing of all those remembered in the Avenue with the ...mber of each tree originally bearing their individual names (pp.156 ...)

Significance

The Creswick Avenue is neither as long nor as visually exciting as that at Ballarat. Nevertheless this Avenue makes a dominant landform feature in the low farming country. It is at the same time a poignant reminder of the emotions aroused by the Great War. It carries, as few other elements in the shire do, a strong sense of the Imperial loyalties of the period. The choice of a growing avenue to mark the service of people in the shire itself suggests something of the sense of wartime achievements which must have inspired many in the shire well into the 1920s. It is a key visual reminder of the sentiments of a part of the local population during the 1920s. In a period in which the emotions aroused by the war are only recalled with difficulty, this site makes a powerful physical monument.

Recommend for Listing on the Register of the National Estate.

*the Avenue and the surrounding environs are together important

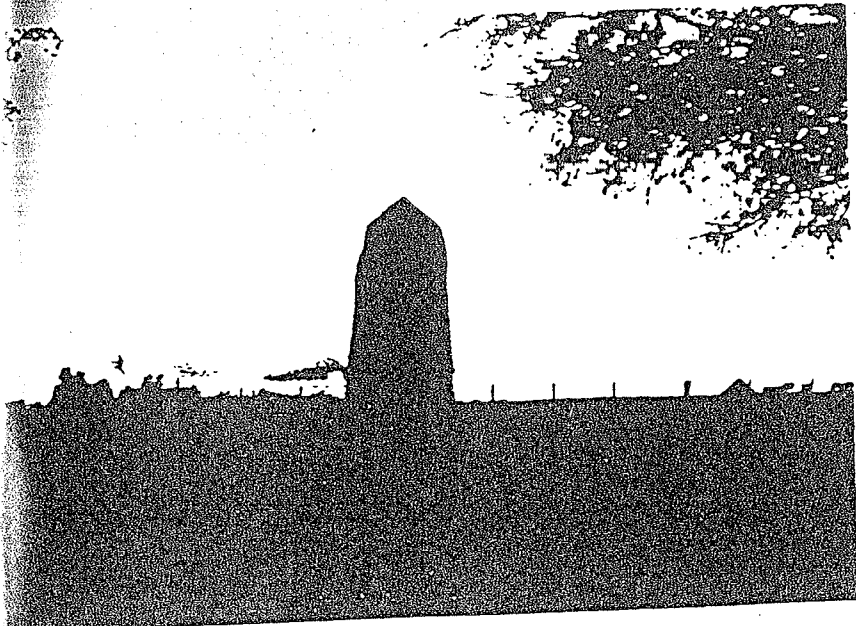*the journey through the Avenue makes it important as a landscape

landscape study

AVENUE OF HONOUR

Avenue of Honour from monument to south-west

32 Avenue of honour: monument

ndscape study

Allendale Township: site 17

Allendale Township: site 17

17.   Allendale Township

Location

At the intersection of West Berry Road - Creswick-Smeaton Road and Lone Hand Road. Bounded West Berry road in the north and by Mill Road and Allendale Mill Road to the east and Henders Rd to the south. To the west the boundary follows the rear of properties facing Grays Road and then runs west along the southern boundary of Elizabeth Street and includes structures facing Elizabeth St. It follows the western boundary of the lane which runs north from the western end of Elizabeth St to the West Berry - Creswick-Smeaton Rd.

Description

The township consists largely of open space as houses have been removed. Extensive plantings, a former school building and several weatherboard structures are scattered through the old township. Several of the houses and perhaps the school building have significance in their own right. Most of the township is now open space. To the west of the main township, an avenue of trees and several buildings follow Elizabeth St. Several of these structures may pre-date the subdivision of the town.

Today's Allendale is bounded by the course of a railway line but many of the railway mechanisms have gone. Some public buildings still survive in the town and there are nineteenth century private buildings on several blocks. The town is marked by some dense plantings of conifer species with scattered deciduous trees. It makes a neat, compact townscape despite the disappearance of many buildings

History

A privately-designed town (hence no religious or government reserves). Allendale gave a residence to miners and their families dependent on the Berry mining system. Many of these mining families brought houses from Ballarat with them.

Allendale rose and fell with mining. In 1881 it only had eighteen houses and less than two hundred people. Ten years later Allendale had grown to a town of one and a half thousand people, with little more than

the school a few houses, the remnants of gardens and some signs of
the railway line_(remain).

Significance

Allendale's significance rests on the role it played as a dormitory
for the surrounding deep lead mines. Allendale is distinctive in that it
was a private creation built to satisfy the labour needs of mining
investors. Allendale lived through the work of mines and no sooner
had the miners lost their jobs than the town all but vanished; its few
services were withdrawn and unlike other small towns which may
have acquired civic functions and amenities before their people left,
Allendale had no urban infrastructure to fan even a faint glimmer of
life. In this lies the real importance of the landscape. The emptiness
of the streets (which the Creswick Shire once refused to service) the
fences enclosing sites on which houses once stood and the railway
embankment without railway tracks make up a telling landscape. Here
is demonstrated most forcibly the quixotic fortunes of those who
depend on mining.

More importantly the rise and fall of Allendale, registered as it is in
empty streets, gardens without houses and a railway line without
rails, station or trains suggest the inadequacy of a civilisation
created to meet the short-lived demand of capital for labour.

**Recommend for Listing on the Register of the National
Estate**

*the lay-out is critical

***spacing and disappearance of structures are together
essential to the quality of the site**

18.   North Creswick-Allendale Railway-Kingston- and points beyond railway

Location

The railway branches from the Ballarat-Mildura line at North Creswick and runs north-east. It continues in an easterly direction before turn south-east towards Rocklyn. It runs from North Creswick and links Allendale and then Kingston, Rocklyn and Daylesford.

Description

Most of the tracks have been removed and except where the line crossed roadways there is little beyond tree plantings and the graded embankment and cuttings to mark the line's existence. The stations have also disappeared, however goods sheds, water storages and loading ramps mark several parts of the railway course as does the elevated track bed. But the line is still clearly visible through the earthworks on which the tracks were built. Vegetation is distinctive at certain points along the line with hawthorn hedgerows and stands of pine.

History

Ballarat was for a long time a famous railwayman's town. The reputation derived from the giant Phoenix railway workshops, the junction of lines north and south to Geelong and Maryborough and westwards to Adelaide and as well the smaller lines which snaked out from Ballarat to Skipton, or to Daylesford.

The Line from North Creswick to Daylesford carried traffic for many years on passenger as well as goods and then a mixed train – the "Spa Special". The first section of the line ran from North Creswick to Rocky Lead (Rocklyn) and then the second stage from Rocky Lead on to Daylesford. Contractors began running trains from Rocky Lead to North Creswick on a Saturday night to satisfy demands from miners. The second section from Rocky Lead to Daylesford was opened in June 1887. The Allendale station was completed in 1889 in the Melbourne Workshops and transported to Allendale in sections.

There were several passenger trains each day in the later years of
e nineteenth century, the first left Ballarat at 7.25, the last on
turday nights left for Allendale at 11.10 p.m. The total length of
e line was 23 miles and apart from an elaborate opening ceremony
which children were carted along the line from local schools, the
ntractors made themselves popular by carrying picnic parties out
ng completed sections free of charge.

gnificance

ere are many dismantled railways around the State of Victoria.
y of them passed through more rugged terrain than this and so
e left more dramatic reminders in cuttings, viaducts and bridges.

vertheless this is a significant route in that it passed through
t for Australia formed a densely-settled landscape with small
ns closely-spaced along the short route; far more like some part
urope than vast and empty Australia. It was linked at one end to
ailway hub of Ballarat and so, perhaps more than any of the
or inter-colonial routes, reminds us of the crucial role of
vays in shaping settlement and directing the flows of business
social activity. While much of the material elements which
ther constitute a railway have disappeared, the line itself, its
e, surviving plantings and earthworks (as well as some track at
crossings) is an important reminder of the peak years of the rail
in Victoria, of Ballarat as a railway town and of the recreations
conomics of a densely-settled corner of colonial Australia.

ommended for Listing on the Register of the National
e

line as a whole and its attendant surviving features
nportant as a whole, not any spot along the line

19. Bridge and Plantings – Kingston (Kerrins Bridge)

Location

On Werona-Kingston Road, two kilometres to the west of Kingston. Plantings extend 200 metres on either side of bridge and approximately 250 metres along roadway. Birch Creek flows under the bridge.

Description

Basalt single-span bridge crossing deep ravine. There are imported plantings on either side of bridge create a small but dense and enclosed environment. Access to creek bank from north-east end of bridge.

History

Unable to locate builder or date of construction of the bridge. Style appears to date from the 1860s, coinciding with the incorporation of the Roads District. The plantings appear to be more recent.

Significance

A picturesque environment which adds to the quality of the local landscape. There is nothing to suggest that the bridge is in any way extraordinary nor that the plantings have any significance in local farming, forestry or landscaping. The site has a strong visual appeal but does not have any other qualities in historical importance to warrant listing for the Register of the National Estate. However approximately 400 meters to the north-east of the bridge a watercourse joins the creek; this is thought to be the water course linking the creek with Hepburn lagoon and so has some historic significance in its role in linking the Anderson's Mill with the Hepburn Lagoon (see below).

When considered <u>in isolation</u>, this is not recommended for listing on the Register of the National Estate . Worth detailed investigation as to date and builder of the bridge and the role of the crossing in local communication patterns. Ought to be investigated in any local conservation study of the shire. The area ought to be considered as part of a landscape which includes the Hepburn Lagoon and mill race as a significant element in an engineering enterprise. The bridge, lagoon, mill race and the course of the Birch Creek together with the exotic plantings make up an unusual landscape indicative of local control of the environment and with important and linked elements of civil engineering. The built elements are all significant in attempts to manage local water resources.

KERRINS BRIDGE

fig 35 Kerrins bridge

fig 36 abandoned water course at Kerrins bridge;thought to
be former water course from Hepburn lagoon

20. Berry Deep Leads Mine System

Location

in the north-east, bounded by Cowes Rd, but extending to the eastern side of the road to include the Lady Hepburn site and adjacent water storages. The northern boundary runs east-west from this site to meet Lawrence-Glengower Road. It follows this road in a south-westerly direction to meet Daylesford-Clunes Rd and runs north-west along this road turning north along Central Leads Lane to include Spring Hill and Central Leads site. It continues south-west to include Clover Hill and then south-east along the course of Birch Creek to Wheelers Bridge. It continues south along Creswick-Lawrence Rd taking in Madam Berry West and Western Berry Consols No 1 sites to the west of the road. It runs east along Wrigleys Rd to Pasco Rd and then north along Pasco Rd to West Berry Rd. From east of the Ristori No 1 dump it runs north to follow a watercourse to the Birch Creek and then north-west along the creek to a floodway and then north to Daylesford-Clunes Rd. The area takes in not only the mullock heaps and mine remnants but the principal volcanic cones of the area - Clover Hill, Woodhouse Hill, Birch Hill and an unnamed peak of 474 m to the east of the Western Berry Consols no 1 site.

Description

This extensive system of mining remnants consists of heaps of pebble, tailings and wash. Most of these are visible from a great distance. Entrances to shafts are still visible at some of these sites. Remains of mine buildings and items of machinery are to be seen at some of these dumps. Along West Berry Road these mining remnants are clearly visible and make a dominant landform feature. Their shape is reflected in the conical form of the hills in the landscape. This rhythm of mine dump and conical volcanic peak establish a dominant pattern in the landform of this part of the shire.

History

The historical development of this mining field has been thoroughly explored by Charles Fahey in his The Berry Deep Leads an historical assessment, Historic Places Branch, Conservation Forests and Lands,

Victoria, 1986. In brief (to summarise Charles Fahey's excellent research) the mines formed a most extensive and thorough-going attempt to tap gold buried deep below the surface. The Seven Hills Estate Company was floated after some shady dealings on the Ballarat Mining Exchange. Mining speculators William Bailey and Martin Loughlin had managed to persuade the pastoralist brothers, the Learmonths ,to sell their mine at Ercildoune (to the west of the Creswick Shire). With profits from this mine the partners bought up another pastoral holding, Birch's Estate; here they floated their Seven Hills Estate Company. From a string of mines on this estate they were able to pay over two hundred thousand pounds in royalties in less than a dozen years. Amongst these mines the principal was the Madame Berry Mine, in fact for a time it was the richest mine in Victoria.

The system as a whole was the key to the local economy for several years in the 1870s and 1880s. It created new towns and brought some of the most modern technology into the district in the plant and machinery used on the fields. It also gave rise to the first successful attempts to create a miners' union in Australia. Under WG Spence the miners' organiser, the workers on the field went out on strike in August 1878, after an attempt to reduce contracting pay-outs at the Ristori Freehold Mine. By the middle of the following decade miners were troubled by the twin difficulties of having to sink their shafts through alluvial drifts and then the dangers posed by water flooding their shafts, particularly the newer shafts on the field. At the more northerly fields the problems of flooding were compounded.

In 1894, the wily investor who first took a punt on the riches of the Berry system died (by then he was one of the richest men in Australia). The principal figure in the mines after his death was Alexander Peacock. A Creswick boy he managed the business of several local mines and established himself as a champion of the Creswick mine workers. His political career was founded on these men and he went on to become Premier of Victoria. Try as he might, even a Victorian premier could not make the field pay and the mines were closed, leaving their mullock and wash heaps on the surface Gradually mining plant was sold off and the towns which lived by the mines disappeared.

Significance

The landscape which survives today is the material relic of a key phase in the Victorian economy, an historic era in the history of trade unionism and a unique phase in the social character of the shire The machinery and the houses of the workers have gone. A few of the remnants of mine buildings remain as do some but not all of the heaps of earth which miners dug out of shafts, crosscuts and adits or used in separating gold from the earth. The landscape of the Berry Deep Leads is important as a reminder of these events.

The system as a whole rather than any one dump is significant as the mines, the course of union solidarity and the economic fortunes of the investors were linked one mine to the next. They are also important visually because of their siting along the "line of the lead" the twists and turns of the buried ancient river along which gold could be found. Since a road traces this course and because of the similar land form between the mine dumps and the hills in the background the system as a whole makes a dramatic and powerful impression on visitors It is a key landform feature in the central goldfields district.
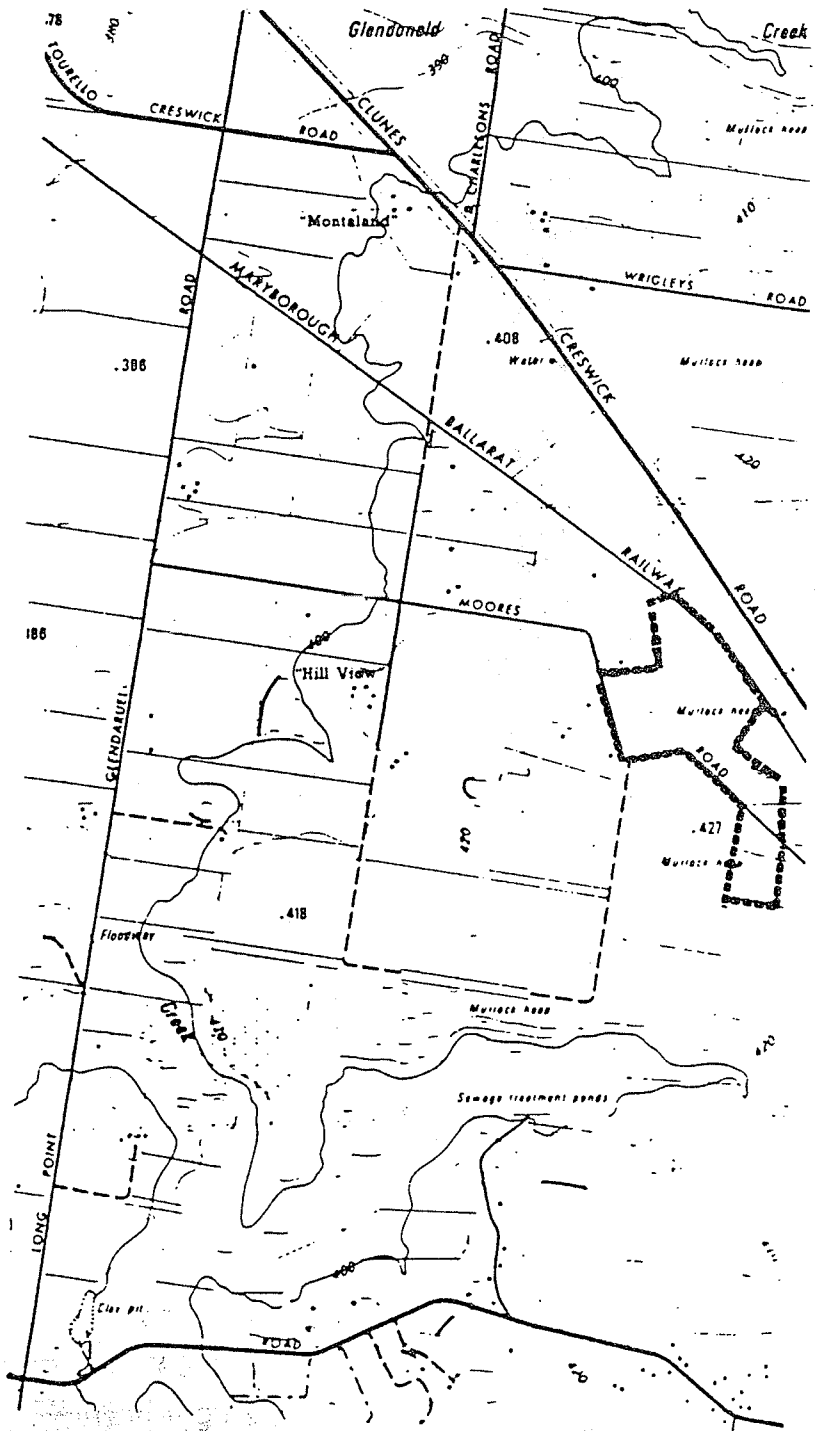
Recommended for Listing on the Register of the National Estate.

*line of lead and mine spacing are critical in the historical character

*landscape relation to surrounding hills is aesthetically valuable

*the vantage point of the roadway is essential to appreciating the landscape quality of the site

MAP NINE: Australasian mine site: site 21

21. North Creswick Mines (Australasian Area)

Location

The principal groupings of mines are to the south-east of the Ballarat-Mildura rail line. It is bounded in the east by the railway, and the 430 contour, in the north by the 420 contour, to the west by Moores Rd. The boundary extends across the road to take in a mullock heap adjacent to the 427 meter point.

Description

Of more than thirty deep lead mines in this area, few remnants remain. Shafts have been filled and several of the mullock heaps have disappeared. Amongst those which do remain is the Australasian Number 2 Mine (with nearby interpretation centre). The mine mullock heap is near to a pine plantation, on the site of the first experimental plantings of pine in Victoria. The hedge which enclosed the former State Nursery still survives. Nearby is the site of the house which for a time was the home of the Eureka Stockade leader – Peter Lalor.

History

The Australasian mine is remembered as the location of a massive mining disaster in which 22 miners were killed. The mine itself was first worked in 1867 but through poor returns (it could not pay dividends to investors) the company was appropriated by the Bank of Australasia. A new company began to work the site in 1876 – the New Australasian Gold Mining Company. The mine gave successful returns but as the company extended mining from its No. 1 Shaft to No. 2 the men faced constant inrushes of water into the shafts. Under a new manager, William Nicholls, the company pressed on with work in a drive between No.1 and No. 2 shafts. After the No.1 shaft had been closed due to water, miners in the No.2 Shaft were instructed to press on with work on a cross-cut towards the No. 1 Shaft. On 12 December 1882 water poured into the shaft and despite the bravery of the men below, this water drowned miners at their work. Frantic rescue bids saved others and survivors told of praying in the dark, losing their sense and dreaming of nights at Ballarat theatres and of

mates who slipped below the water. A massive funeral proceeded three days after the disaster from the minehead to the Creswick Cemetery.

The less dramatic history of forestry around the site began seven years after the disaster when a nursery opened under Victorian forestry officers' direction. Buildings were bought from the nearby mine company for use in the nursery. The site proved extremely difficult and an 1891 Report of the Conservator of Forests spoke of the poor drainage and the need for trench digging on the site. The shallow topsoil further made digging difficult but still, within two years, more than 100000 trees were successfully grown on the site.

The original forester John La Gerche experimented with several species of pine and deciduous trees. Although maple, sycamore and oaks were successfully planted, they were abandoned when it became obvious that Australia had good reserves of hardwoods but that quality softwoods were scarce. On successive occasions the Forestry Department abandoned the nursery and shifted it to Sawpit Gully, only to return it to the original site. In both places the permanent staff of two men were able to produce upwards of 50000 trees per season. Pine plantings on the site date from the early twentieth century and photographs in the 1906 Conservator of Forests Report show photographs of 100000 Laricio pines stretching over the flat landscape with a single deciduous tree in the foreground. There are signs in these photographs of nursery buildings of which some remnants survive and the hawthorn hedge which now stands on a barren site. The survivors of early twentieth century pine plantings cover the former mine yard.

Significance

At first sight, the combination of a mine in which took place a great human disaster and the relics of the first scientific schemes for forest management and propagation seem to have only the remotest connection. Yet a large part of the inspiration for forest management derived from the environmental catastrophe of mining. The barren landscape of Creswick in the 1880s drew the attention of colonial politicians and some botanists who wished to regenerate the dwindling timber reserves of Victoria's central highlands. These

forests were the sites of extensive and disruptive mining. The decline of mining, marked here and there by tragedies, of which the Australasian flood was perhaps the greatest, signalled the beginnings of a new use of the land - for systematic forest management. In this landscape we can witness both the death of mining - the tragedy of a great mining disaster and the birth of a new scheme for making Victoria rich - through forest management.

The seemingly incongruous elements which make up this site together demonstrate a key transition in the Victorian economy and in the life of districts like Creswick. The transition from mining to forestry occurred throughout the central highlands of the State of Victoria, but nowhere is the change more poignantly demonstrated than in this site.

Recommended for Listing in the Register of the National Estate

*relationship of elements is crucial to the historical quality of the site

26. Andersons Mill

Location

To south of Smeaton Back Road at bridge across Birch Creek, 500 metres from bridge on Creswick-Newstead Road. Includes both bridges, plantings to 450 metre contour on north bank of creek, mill and outbuildings, nearby farm house and planted windbreaks running north-east and south-west from mill.

Description

Two bridges, surrounded by extensive plantings. Basalt single-storey house to south of site. Dominant building is the four-storeyed basalt mill. The mill site includes several large wooden outbuildings and a water race raised to take water to a wheel. The site has a central landmark element in the mill chimney. Nearby timber farmhouse and garden are adjacent to the mill site proper but form significant elements in the landscape composition.

History

Anderson's Mill and farm in Smeaton and Dean; one of the important landscapes in the Creswick Shire is that which includes the five storey flour mill established by the Anderson Brothers in 1861. The mill founded by these Scottish emigrants had its hey-day in the 1860s. After that the mill declined and was closed in the 1960s. It has since fallen into disrepair, but in 1988, assisted by a Bicentennial Grant, the Victorian Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands has been slowly restoring it.

Andersons Mill was one of three mills active in the Shire of Creswick in the 1860s. In the nineteenth century most Victorian towns had a local flour mill. From the 1880s the number of such mills declined sharply, partly because of extensions of freight railways and the subsequent concentration of mills at the metropolitan end of these lines. Today all Victoria's flour mills are within the Melbourne region - the country mills have either been adapted to changing uses or else they have slowly decayed. Andersons Mill is to be restored and opened to visitors, a mill at Bendigo has

Andersons Mill in Smeaton is a truly historic site. It is one of only ten Victorian flour mills powered by water wheel as well as by steam engine. (Another twenty in 1871 were powered solely by steam). It was owned and continuously managed by one family, key figures in timber milling, gold mining, flour milling and broad civic activity. Lastly the mill is a final reminder of Smeaton's former role as a wheat growing centre; its decline is a symbol of the more general decline of the economy of the entire Creswick region.

Scotland, when the Andersons left it, was a society undergoing rapid change. Massive population growth went hand in hand with the spread of cities like Glasgow and the rise of industries like mining and ship building. When the Andersons arrived in Australia, the colonies were, economically and socially, relatively simple. Victoria still lived off the sheep's back. The Andersons came from the County of Ayr, south-west of Glasgow, an area of remote coal mining and dairying, the village of Cumnock. There, William Anderson senior, a dairy farmer, was born in 1796. William married and had seven children, all of whom eventually migrated to Australia. John Anderson, responsible for the flour mill, was born in 1823; James Anderson was born in 1824; William Junior in 1827; Ann in 1829; David in 1831; Robert in 1834, and Thomas in 1837.

When the Anderson children were young, their father was apparently shot and killed by a highwayman. His widow, Sarah, sent her sons into trades, John as a mill engineer; James as a wheelwright; David as a cabinetmaker; Robert became a veterinary surgeon; Thomas was apprenticed to a Glasgow foundry. William Junior missed out on training and went to work as an agricultural labourer. After William was killed in 1837 the family had to sell off their farm. The three eldest brothers planned to emigrate in 1849 and finally left Scotland in June 1851, arriving in Adelaide in September.

Within 6 months, gold had been discovered in Victoria. The Anderson brothers set off for the fields and mined at Castlemaine, Bendigo and Mount Korong. According to John Anderson, they struck it rich. As well they sold their farm in South Australia (Balaclava). For a time they worked as building contractors in Collingwood. News filtered back from Collingwood to Scotland and the remainder of the family,

with the exception of Ann, emigrated (Ann later left Scotland in the 1870s).

Reunited in Melbourne on Christmas Day in 1854, the entire Anderson family was lured back to the digging life at Blackwood. Again they made money, and late in 1855 they took up land at Dean. In 1856 they abandoned gold mining and took up saw milling instead. As deep lead mining expanded around Ballarat mines needed increasing supplies of timber – for mine buildings, props, and for steam driven machinery such as pumps and winding gear.

They began milling at Bullarook, a mile east of Dean. They set up a manual pit-saw mill. This consisted of a deep pit over which logs were placed and then cut by using a long saw. By such primitive means the Andersons produced 1500 super feet of timber a week.

Their timber business flourished but not without dangers. In 1857 the youngest brother Thomas was killed by a falling tree. The Andersons decided to try new techniques and in 1858 opened a new mill with a circular saw powered by a twelve horse-powered steam engine. This boosted their output to 60,000 super feet a week. Their new mill was a mile south of Dean on the road to Ballarat.

Mechanical timber milling had its own dangers. In July 1859 a fearful explosion was caused by a boiler. Two workers died, others were badly injured, and David Anderson, who brought the news to Creswick, was struck on the head by a brick!

Already by 1860 much of the forest had been cleared and the Andersons began to look further afield. To bring timber to their mill they built an 8 mile long forest tramway. This venture cost them £2000 per mile for the first two miles and £500 per mile for most of the rest of the route. Further along the line they had to erect bridges and excavate cuttings. By 1866 the tramway had cost them £9000.

The Andersons then started on their third and even more powerful mill. This Barkstead mill had a 50 horse powered steam engine. David Anderson told an Age journalist that the Barkstead mill would cost £3500 and could produce 200,000 super feet of timber per week.

Even by todays standards these were major industrial enterprises generating enormous profit for their owners.

This third mill had 60 employees, the three mills had more than 60 bullocks and horses. However by 1873 horse teams were having trouble dragging logs along the tram lines. In that year the Andersons built the first of two steam engines to replace their horses, once again ushering in increased exploitation of the forest.

The Andersons continued successful saw milling for the rest of the decade. By then the industrialised world faced a timber shortage. Cutting rates had far out-distanced regrowth. Although profits were high timber was a seasonal trade with cutting restricted to the drier summer and autumn. More importantly timber millers like the Andersons only leased their land. In 1879 the Colonial Government refused to renew their lease.

Just as the Andersons had made use of the move from a surface to deep lead mining so when timber faced problems, they turned to agriculture. Before gold, Victoria relied on sheep. For a time it was not even able to supply its own grain. Victorian areas under crop increased in the 1850s and 1860s. Farm employees and numbers of smallholders also rose. Fertile areas around Ballarat and Bendigo (including Smeaton and Dean) were opened to agriculture. The first land sale for the Creswick area occurred at Ballarat in May 1855. Fifty-three plots were offered for sale in the parish of Springhill. Captain John Hepburn, Creswick's local squatter, was a major bidder. Altogether the three squatters at the sale bought over 90% of the 6200 acres available. Land in Smeaton was first sold a year later. Two of the first purchasers were William and David Anderson. Alongside them at the sale were many miners who could not afford the prices asked. Over the next decade they went to work as tenant farmers on the Hepburn and WJ Clarke Estates.

Within four years Smeaton farmers had prospered. In April 1860 the newly-formed Smeaton, Springhill and Bullarook Agricultural Society announced that their district produced more than 100 000 bushels of both wheat and oats and sustained 800 dairy cows. Farmers around Dean produced nearly 2000 tons of potatoes. By June 1866 these farmers had transformed the landscape and one visitor remarked that

Smeaton "had no doubt been densely covered with timber which is only partially cleared away, and great white skeleton looking trees stand gauntly in some fields".

In the spring and summer months when the land looked lush and fertile, the people of Creswick felt more at home in their environment. After harvest when bare stubble surrounded the dead trees they began to pine for their homes in Europe.

As farming expanded so too did local civic life. In this the Andersons once again took a lead. In November 1860 trustees were elected for the Smeaton Race Course. At the same time Cemetery Trustees were appointed and a month later locals demanded a policeman in Smeaton. In 1860 Captain Hepburn died and left land on which a Presbyterian Church was built. The Andersons were involved in all of these activities. In 1861 when Smeaton people wanted to build a school-teachers residence John Anderson provided an architectural drawing free of charge. William Anderson was a Trustee of the Race Course and was elected to the first local roads board.

The school house reflected a change in local society. As agricultural labourers, miners and camp followers drifted away the families of small-holders and tenants took their place. Creswick and surrounding towns took on a new and settled air.

Along with these changes came new industries. A flour mill appeared on the Hepburn Estate in the late 1850s. After Hepburn's death this was leased to men from Ballarat. They outraged local farmers by refusing to take local grain and by paying such low prices

In response farmers met to canvas plans for a new mill. At this meeting John Anderson came up with a series of sites and sat on a committee to investigate building a rival mill. This farmers joint stock mill failed. But in June 1861 the Andersons announced that they had bought the land from the company and were going to build their own mill following a design by John Anderson. Work on the mill commenced immediately so that it would be ready for the 1861-1862 harvest. By September 1861 the Andersons let tenders for stonemasons. It was not completed until after the harvest and

unfortunately, the 28 foot cast iron water wheel notwithstanding, the mill race ran dry within a month. The Andersons put their reserve steam engine into action. They eventually solved the problem of dry summer months by building a dam on Birch's Creek.

Andersons Mill produced wheat, flour, oat meal, split peas and pearl barley. Wheat and oats were brought on wagons and unloaded onto a wooden platform in front of the mill. From there the bags of grain were emptied into chutes which took the grain onto an elevator belt. From there it descended by gravity and underwent repeated milling and refining. At last the finished bags were stamped with the Anderson Brothers logo – a circular saw – stood ready for despatch. In 1865 David Anderson returned to Scotland and brought back new mining machinery. These included silk sifting screens, a new innovation, preventing flour from going rancid.

The flour mill like the timber mill prospered in the first instance. But the success was short-lived. Why? The first and second Land Selection Acts had little impact on Smeaton. Extensive selection in Smeaton only began with the first Grant Act, 1865. This allowed annual occupation licences for 20-acre blocks within ten miles of a gold field.

This Act promoted settlement by poorer farmers. Farms were reduced to pocket handkerchief size so that by 1871 the average farm in the Shire of Creswick was a mere 123 acres. A third were smaller than 50 acres. Farmers had to overcrop to survive, tenant farmers took little interest in their land with the result that the soil lost its richness. In 1872 after only 10 years of close settlement, Joseph Jenkins, "the Welsh swagman", wrote in his diary "Smeaton district, once considered that garden of Victoria, is now a ruinous area from continued exhaustion of the land".

In 1869 a new Land Selection Act permitted selection before survey. Diggers struggling on the gold fields and farmers trapped on small blocks of degraded land seized this opportunity. They fled places like Smeaton for bigger and more economic properties on the northern plains. By 1877 Victoria had become a nett exporter of wheat. This wheat belt had now moved far north of Creswick out of range of places like Smeaton mill.

In consequence the Andersons bought up local land and by 1881 controlled 8000 acres around Smeaton. Smeaton was once again at the centre of large, highly capitalised land holdings. The mill and its surrounding landscape are a testimony to all of these changes. Apart from its link with the Anderson family the mill is a crucial site for interpreting the landholding history of this part of the Shire.

Significance

The Anderson Mill and its surrounds form a key site in the material history not only of the central goldfields area but of Victoria. The mill, surrounding buildings, the water race, vegitation and water course draw together into the one site many of the significant themes in the history of the Creswick-Smeaton district. As well they indicate the various economic transitions of these areas following the decline of alluvial mining. The history of the Anderson family itself tells us much about local society. The Mill building has great significance in its own right. However the location of the mill, the spacing and the relationships of the surrounding elements and the link between mill and water supply make the whole of the area rather than any one building of significance.

Recommendation

Recommended for listing on the Register of the National Estate

*The Mill building has significance in its own right however the whole site extends this significance connecting the mill to major themes in economic and social history.

ANDERSONS MILL

fig 40 Andersons mill