

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: FIRE PLUG

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Corner Murray Street & McBride Avenue WONTHAGGI

STUDY NUMBER: N/A

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO170

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Fire Plug, Cnr Murray Street and McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi

Image Date: July 2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Nominal 3 metre curtilage all round but to exclude 1 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi.

FIRE PLUG

Heritage Overlay No **HO170**
PropertyNo
File Number
Heritage Study No **N/A**
Heritage Grading

HPD Number 208

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location Corner Murray Street & McBride Avenue WONTHAGGI

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

WONTHAGGI (T)

Planning Authority

Ward Hovell

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

Nominal 3 metre curtilage all round but to exclude 1 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The fire plug is a part of a system of civic infrastructure which was installed in an important stage in the development of the town. It is a significant historic remnant which demonstrates the early infrastructure of the town.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

Date Assessed

13/08/2004

Assessed By F Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

Include in VHR

Include in RNE

Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

Retain and maintain in existing paint colours.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Utilities - Fire Control

Fire Hydrant

Not categorised

Utilities - Fire Control

Fire Hydrant

Title Details

Physical Description

The fire plug is a simple cast iron unit, approximately 1 metre in height with outlet pipes at either side and a top with a spindle tap of a standard design commonly used throughout Victoria during the period. It has been painted red and white to make it more noticeable.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Usage Fire Plug.

Associated People

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Historical Notes

Wonthaggi was established as a mining town in 1909 to supply the Victorian Railways with black coal, and thus make Victoria independent of the privately owned New South Wales coalfields, the previous source of coal for the railways. The decision to proceed with mining coal from the Powlett Coalfield was prompted by the coal miners in New South Wales strike in 1909. When established, the coal was worked by the State Coal Mine from the Dudley and Kirrak Basins. The township of Wonthaggi is located on a ridge between the two basins. Initially the miners lived in a tent city; by 1910 the Government had laid out a model township. By 1921 Wonthaggi had a population of 5,000, making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland at the time. Wonthaggi's population peaked at around 12,000 in the mid-1920s when the mine was at its operational peak. The township was divided into commercial and residential areas. Its infrastructure provided for housing, water, churches, schools, and other social facilities.

In its initial years, Wonthaggi was a town of tents and light timber buildings, and as such was particularly vulnerable to fire. A fire brigade was established in 1910, initially using a fire engine that was operated by hand pump. In 1912 reticulated water was installed in Wonthaggi following the creation of the Kongwok Reservoir. This co-incided with the creation of the Country Fire Brigade. The local brigade had by this stage acquired one ladder carriage, 2,000 ft of canvas hose, three hydrants, six branches, two Y couplings, one hatchet, one fire hook, one galvanised bucket, one kerosene lantern and six kerosene torches.

Historic Themes

Thematic Environmental History

13.1 Larger Centres Wonthaggi, the site of the former State Coal Mine, was established to supply coal to the Victorian Railways and eventually other industries. Today it is a flourishing town and the largest shopping centre in South Gippsland. Wonthaggi's commercial area includes an extensive range of shops. As a tourist destination, the area supports hotels, motels, caravan parks and accommodation for holiday rentals. Nearby attractions include Cape Paterson and its fine surf beaches and the adjoining Bunurong Marine Park. The State Coal Mine and Mining Museum, now a tourist attraction, is managed by Parks Victoria.

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	Shelf Location
Department of Land and Survey	Parish Plan of Township of Wonthaggi, Parish of Wonthaggi, County of Mornington		
John M Coghlan	The State Coal Mine and Wonthaggi 1909-1968	1979	
Laurie Notley	Wonthaggi Fire Brigade	1985	
T.J. Gannon (ed.)	Wonthaggi and District, Past and Present	1934	

Conservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls?	Yes	Included in Vic Heritage Register?	No
Internal Alteration Controls?	No	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	No
Tree Controls?	No	Name of incorporated plan	No
Outbuildings/fences not exempt?	No	Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No