

22.1221/12/2017
C76**HERITAGE**

This policy applies to all applications under the Heritage Overlay.

Policy Basis

This policy builds upon the heritage strategies and objectives in the State Planning Policy Framework and Municipal Strategic Statement.

Throughout Golden Plains Shire are buildings, streetscapes, sites and precincts that represent a significant asset and resource for the Western District of Victoria. Protecting cultural heritage assets is important in maintaining the Shire's character and sense of place.

Recognition and protection of heritage places and areas is a crucial component of planning in Golden Plains Shire. The development of good conservation practices will ensure the retention and viable re-use of Golden Plains Shire's significant and contributory heritage places and areas.

Objectives

- To encourage conservation of heritage places in accordance with the Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, the Burra Charter 2013 (the Burra Charter), the Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Stage 1(2004) and the Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Stage 2 (2009).
- To conserve and enhance the distinctive character of heritage precincts within the municipality.
- To ensure that subdivision or consolidation complements and supports the significance of heritage places.
- To discourage the demolition of heritage places.
- To ensure that new development makes a positive contribution to the built form and amenity of heritage places.
- To ensure that contributory elements within heritage precincts are not compromised because of development.
- To ensure that advertising signs do not adversely affect the significance of heritage places.
- To encourage sympathetic reuse of heritage places so that such places are maintained and enhanced.

Policy

It is policy to:

- Encourage the restoration, adaptation and reconstruction of heritage places in a manner that does not detract from the cultural significance of the place or area.
- Discourage the demolition or inappropriate alteration of all locally significant and contributory heritage places.
- Encourage appropriate alternative uses of buildings to achieve the conservation of heritage places.
- Encourage advertising signs in traditional forms and locations on building and that are limited in number.
- Encourage the retention of mature trees in High Street, Inverleigh and therefore discourage developments that may threaten the health of those mature trees.
- Discourage the use of Zinalume roofing material in heritage precincts.

Application requirements

An application for demolition of locally significant or contributory heritage places within a precinct must be accompanied by the following information, as appropriate:

- A structural engineering report demonstrating why demolition is necessary; or
- A report or statement to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority that demonstrates that the demolition will not adversely impact upon the significance of the place.
- An application for the replacement development.
- A tree condition or heritage impact assessment for any proposed development which could affect cultural heritage places.

Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application, the responsible authority will consider the decision guidelines of the Heritage Overlay and the following, as appropriate:

- The statement of significance and conservation policy for the heritage place or precinct, including the relevant statement of significance at clauses 22.12-1 to 22.12-11 for:
 - the Steiglitz Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-1),
 - the Bannockburn Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-2),
 - the Corindhap Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-3),
 - the Inverleigh Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-4),
 - the Lethbridge Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-5),
 - the Linton Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-6),
 - the Meredith Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-7),
 - the Rokewood Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-8),
 - the Scarsdale-Newtown Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-9),
 - the Shelford Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-10), or
 - the Smythesdale Heritage Precinct (clause 22.12-11).
- The views of Council's heritage adviser.
- The visual impact of an advertising sign.
- The impact upon the health or viability of a tree or group of trees.

Reference Documents

Golden Plains Heritage Study Stage 1, Lorraine Huddle for the Golden Plains Shire (2004)

Golden Plains Heritage Study Stage 2, Heritage Matters Pty Ltd for Golden Plains Shire (2009)

The Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter), Australia ICOMOS (2013)

22.12-1

21/12/2017
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HO34: Steiglitz Heritage precinct

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Steiglitz Heritage Precinct

- Albion Mine Engine Foundations, Steiglitz
- Suggs Blacksmith Cottage, Clow Street, Steiglitz
- New Chum School, School Track off Steiglitz – Durdidwarrah Road, Steiglitz
- Café and Residence (below Courthouse), 1 Molesworth Street, Steiglitz

- Feildstone Gutters, Molesworth Street and Clow Street, Steiglitz
- Steiglitz Courthouse (former), Molesworth Street, Steiglitz
- Minogues Store (former), 1 Clow Street, Steiglitz
- Cairn and Memorial Plaque, Regent Street, Steiglitz
- Bridge over Sutherlands Creek, Regent Street, Steiglitz
- Mullock Heap (site of former 'Steiglitz' Mine), Regent Street, Steiglitz
- St Pauls Church of England, Regent Street, Steiglitz
- Former Post Office and Shop, 24 Regent Street, Steiglitz
- Scotts hotel (former), 35 Regent Street, Steiglitz
- Stone Wall Coach Stables, 35 Regent Street, Steiglitz
- In Ground Well (site of former bakery), Molesworth Street, Steiglitz
- Red Brick House, 2704 Steiglitz-Meredith Road, Steiglitz
- St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church, Steiglitz-Meredith Road, Steiglitz
- Steiglitz Pioneers Cemetery (or old Steiglitz Cemetery), Steiglitz-Meredith Road, Steiglitz
- Quartz Burning Pits, South-west of Court House, Steiglitz

What is significant?

The remote former gold town, Steiglitz is in the Steiglitz National Park west of the Anakie Hills, north-west of Geelong. It comprises a small number of remnant buildings of various types, some infrastructure and the irregular street layout all within an open area of hillside. There are also many alluvial and deep shaft mining sites with associated mullock heaps. The broader landscape includes the Sutherland Creek valley and views to bush beyond. The cemetery is located a short distance to the south of the town. The precinct is adjacent to the Brisbane Ranges National Park on the north east and farming land to the south west. Its only source of water is the Sutherland Creek.

The town's name came from the von Stieglitz family, early district pioneers, who changed the spelling of their name to 'Steiglitz' in 1872. Baron Frederick von Stieglitz, eldest son of Karl von Stieglitz, was born in Ireland in 1803. His father came originally from Bavaria. Frederick and his brothers migrated to Tasmania in 1830 but, in 1836, came to Victoria. The pastoral run, Durdidwarrah, on the Moorabool River, was taken up in 1842 by Charles von Stieglitz. The property included the area which later became known as Steiglitz.

The first traces of gold were found in the Anakie Hills in September 1851 but the first substantial rush to the Steiglitz area was in c1856. Early established reefs were the New Chum, Boxing, Scotchman's, Cooper's and New Hole, while alluvial gold was found in Sutherland's Creek. By May 1856, about 750 ounces a week was being produced and the population of the area had risen to 1,000. Many new reefs were opened up - the Portuguese, Birmingham, Satchwell's, Yankee, Victoria, Ironbark, Hanover, Gibraltar, Italian'. The mines were located towards the east side of the town. It was said that the quartz reefs were beyond comparison the richest of any in Australia so far as average yield per ton of quartz was concerned. This would have marked the beginning of the denuding of the landscape for structural timber and fuel.

A sergeant and three troopers were appointed there in February 1856 when J. M. Clow became the first Police Magistrate. At first he held court in the makeshift premises of Vale's Hotel. In January 1858, however, a first Court House, 'a rickety timber building' was constructed on land at the rear of the existing Court House, opened in June 1875. It was designed by Public Works Department architects, H.A. Williams and S. White and built by Thomas Ward of East Melbourne. This remains the most dominant building in the precinct. It retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition.

A small Steiglitz township began to take shape. In 1860 it was surveyed for the Office of Lands and Survey and the proposed streets were named after legal dignitaries in Melbourne. As well as the two bridges, this plan indicates some six named buildings but also some thirty other structures. None of these are square to the proposed title boundaries.

Presumably, in the typical manner, tents and huts were also scattered across the hillside and in the creek valley close to miners' claims. Little if any evidence of these survives above ground. There were soon four hotels, including Scott's Hotel, which is now a private residence. A government School (No 572) had been opened in 1857 on the southern hill at Steiglitz. The following year, 1858, School (No 588) New Chum was opened by Dr Cairns. This timber building, located off the Steiglitz Durdidwarrah Road to the north of the town, was used as a school until 1960 when it became a Youth Hostel and it is now a private residence. There were also by early 1858 four denominational schools, Wesleyan, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian, catering for 200 children. The timber St Paul's Church of England, converted from a schoolroom in 1869, survives and St Thomas's Catholic Church since relocated, survives adjacent to the first or 'Pioneer' cemetery across the eastern bridge.

The Borough of Steiglitz was formed in 1866 and began to build infrastructure such as gutters and drains, some of which survive. A second survey of Steiglitz was made in 1867, when a few business sites were planned on Boxing Reef. However, by January 1859, the yield of gold was falling. It became clear, too, that the high cost of crushing would have to be reduced. It had become profitable only to process the richest of the quartz. Amalgamations of numbers of mines, together with the acquisition of new machinery led to the revitalization of the Steiglitz gold fields. By 1862, there were 620 miners at Steiglitz, two thirds of them being alluvial, with 40 distinct quartz reefs and 15 steam engines. As the town boomed two banks, the Australasian and National, established branches. But during 1866 the wave of prosperity began to break when it is claimed that many miners became destitute, and some large companies sold up their claims for a quarter of their value. The Native Youth Crushing Plant, the last from that period, was removed in 1876. The town declined to such an extent that court sittings were discontinued in January 1879. A drought compounded the decline. The population had fallen to about 100 miners.

Just as 'Marvellous' Melbourne fell into its grave depression, Steiglitz enjoyed a brief mining boom. In 1894, the population of the town had risen to 2,000, and many societies and clubs were formed to meet their needs, religious, cultural and sporting. It had a newspaper, The Steiglitz Miner. The Court House reopened between 1895 and 1899. A fierce bush fire, part of Black Thursday, swept down on Steiglitz on 8th September 1896, destroying many of the town's buildings and aboveground mining infrastructure. By 1904, the old mining town's population had again dwindled to 150. There was probably a minor revival of alluvial mining and the reworking of mullock heaps during the Great Depression. The last nugget was found in 1935, the last mine closed in 1941 and the general store closed soon after. James Sugg's blacksmith's shop in Clow Street was in use until the 1940s. His weatherboard cottage and its remnant garden survive. The former post office, which was remodelled in the 1960s, survives as a private residence. Many larger buildings were removed.

In the 1960s, Steiglitz began to be appreciated for its romantic quality as a 'ghost' town within a denuded landscape. It attracted tourists interested in history and bushwalkers interested in the surrounding landscape. In 1977, Steiglitz Court House came under the management of the National Parks Service and in 1979, Steiglitz National Park was proclaimed. Subsequently, Steiglitz was identified and protected under a Heritage Overlay in the Golden Plains Planning Scheme. Steiglitz today has just nine buildings with some associated exotic plantings, a range of ruined infrastructure and a vast number of archaeological sites. There are fewer than a dozen permanent residents. Consequently, the absence of modern development is a primary characteristic of Steiglitz.

How is it Significant?

The Steiglitz precinct is of historical, social, architectural, scientific (geological) and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?

The Steiglitz precinct is of historical significance as one of the most important early gold rush towns in Victoria, especially representing those isolated towns which failed to prosper for other economic reasons. On a comparative basis, it is the finest remnant and most

evocative ghost town of all the towns which played key roles in Victoria's 1850s and 1860s gold rushes. It survives, although most of its built and ephemeral fabric is gone, with obvious outlines of flattened house sites, exotic plantings, long lines of road reserve, formed culverts, cement domed wells and disturbed ground. In their place an intangible emptiness has been created.

The Steiglitz precinct is of social significance for representing the full range of community aspirations by the development of local government, public buildings, places of worship, schools and recreational facilities, as well as tending to the dead. It is typical of these abandoned towns for enduring the rise and fall of several booms, only finally to fail and fade.

The Steiglitz precinct is of architectural significance for the character and quality of its few surviving buildings, especially the dominant Court House, but also for vernacular buildings and the vacant spaces between which are the sites of former structures. The denuded landscape and open characteristic of the town, delineated by the unmade streets and gutters, and the prospect into the broader landscape have great aesthetic significance. It is the absence of compromising conventional structures which sets Steiglitz apart from other nineteenth century gold mining towns.

The Steiglitz precinct is of scientific (geological) significance as one of the richest in Australia for average yield per ton of quartz. This was represented in its first rush, the peak period of the later 1860s, the brief revival after 1890 and the re-workings of the Great Depression era.

The Steiglitz precinct is of archaeological significance for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which is representative of diverse mining techniques and activities, colonial government, social organisations, commercial arrangements, civic infrastructure and domestic conditions.

22.12-2

21/12/2017
C76

HO95: Bannockburn Heritage precinct

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Bannockburn Heritage Precinct

- Bannockburn War Memorial, 12 High Street, Bannockburn
- Railway Hotel, 2 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 9 High Street, Bannockburn
- House and Tree, 11 High Street, Bannockburn
- Bannockburn Shire Hall, 12 High Street, Bannockburn
- Real Estate (former house), 13 High Street, Bannockburn
- Hardware Shop, 15 High Street, Bannockburn
- St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 24 High Street, Bannockburn
- Public Hall, 27 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 31 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 35 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 37 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 39 High Street, Bannockburn
- House, 41 High Street, Bannockburn
- Bannockburn Primary School, 15 Milton Street, Bannockburn

What is it significant?

The township of Bannockburn is located on the Shelford-Bannockburn Road between the crossing of Bruce's Creek and the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line. The township stands on land originally held as the 'Wabdallah' pastoral run. It was occupied by George Russell on behalf of the Clyde Company from 1837 to 1840 and later by James Bruce from 1840 until

1850. The township was gazetted following the formation of the Bannockburn Road Board in 1862 and the opening of the Leigh Road (later Bannockburn) Railway Station on the Geelong to Ballarat line in the same year. The township was laid out in a conventional grid on either side of High Street, aligned north-east to south-west, with the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line providing the eastern boundary of the grid.

Bannockburn became the civic administrative centre of the district after the proclamation of the Shire of Bannockburn on the 30th of June 1864. It was also a thriving commercial hub, servicing trade generated from the railway and the surrounding pastoral and agricultural settlements. The large number of surviving commercial and public buildings, including the former Post Office, the Shire Hall, the Public Hall and the Bannockburn State School erected in 1874, reflects Bannockburn's position as an important service centre. The first churches to be established were St John's Anglican Church and St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, representing the dominant denominations of the area. Other notable buildings include the Bannockburn Railway Station and the bluestone lock-up, which was relocated from Lethbridge to Bannockburn in 1869. These buildings serve as reminders of Bannockburn's association with two important colonial trade routes, connecting the Ballarat goldfields with the port of Geelong via rail and overland passage. At least five hotels operated within the township during the mid 19th century. The Railway Hotel situated opposite the Bannockburn Railway Station remains operational, while the Somerset Hotel and Leigh Road Hotel are now private residences. Bannockburn and District Soldiers' War memorial was erected adjacent to the Shire Hall in 1925 as a tribute to those members of the local community that served and fell during World War 1.

While surrounding townships experienced a decline in population and services during the mid twentieth century, Bannockburn recorded slow, but steady growth. In 1930, the township's population exceeded 300 people, with an increase to 328 people by 1968. Some 20 years later, in the 1980s, the township's population had swelled to 850. Factors including the breaking up of large estates into smaller holdings at the end of the nineteenth century and the Soldier Settlement Schemes have influenced this growth. More recently, Bannockburn has undergone substantial residential and commercial development as a satellite of Geelong.

How is it significant?

The Bannockburn Heritage Precinct is of historic, architectural and social significance to the community of Bannockburn and the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Bannockburn Heritage Precinct is of historic significance as a township dating from the 1860s and as an important commercial centre servicing trade generated from the railway and surrounding pastoral properties. It is of architectural significance for its range of commercial, residential and public buildings dating from the nineteenth century, the most important being the Bannockburn Shire Hall and the surviving shops and hotels located on either side of High Street. It is of social significance as the focus for community life, education and recreation, and as an administrative centre of the former Bannockburn Shire and the current Golden Plains Shire.

22.12-3

21/12/2017
C76

HO96: Corindhap Heritage precinct

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Corindhap Heritage Precinct

- Laidler Reserve and War Memorial, Avenue of Honor, 25 The Avenue, Corindhap
- Outbuildings, 20 Bouchier Avenue, Corindhap
- Memorial Hall, 4 Hall Road, Corindhap
- House, 16 Kearney Street, Corindhap

- Stone Gutters, Main Street, Corindhap
- Hotel (former Break O' Day Hotel), 4 Main Street, Corindhap
- Bluestone Culvert, Op. 4 Main Street, Corindhap
- House (former Post Office & Butcher), 20 Main Street, Corindhap
- House, 30 Main Street, Corindhap
- House, 44 Main Street, Corindhap
- House, 60 Main Street, Corindhap
- St Johns Anglican Church and Grove of Pinus Pinea (Stone Pine), 74 Main Street, Corindhap

What is Significant?

The township of Corindhap, formerly known as Break-O-Day, is located approximately 5 kilometres north east of Rokewood and 45 kilometres south of Ballarat on the Colac-Ballararat Road. The Corindhap area was originally occupied by the Derwent Company as the Wardie Yallock run (later to be known as Kurruck Kurruck), then held by a partnership which included the Atchison brothers in 1839. John Elder, who was a brother-in-law to the Atchisons, held the lease to the Minda run between 1850 and 1857. Elder purchased the Kurruck Kurruck run in 1857, with his sons taking control of the property in 1863 and renaming it Kuruc-a-ruc in 1864.

Gold was first discovered on Boundary Hill in 1852. The Break of Day Gully (Corindhap) goldfield opened in April-September 1856 with the big rush taking place there in 1861, which resulted in the population of the area reaching 5,000 at its peak. The mining was alluvial. Quartz mining was tried but was unsuccessful. Some of the existing miners' cottages could date from this period. The Break-O'Day Hotel, which survives today, was built in 1869. It is a single storey masonry building located at the main intersection of the town. The first school was established by the miners in the 1860s. Corindhap was officially proclaimed a town in 1874 and the substantial infrastructure of gutters, drains and culverts probably dates from this period. St John's Anglican Church was built in the early twentieth century and the copse of significant Pinus pinea (Stone Pines) probably dates from the same time. The Presbyterian Church has been removed to Rokewood Junction. By 1914, Corindhap was described in municipal directories as a mining and agricultural district with a State School, Church, Mechanics' Institute and Library, and Oddfellows' Hall. Its population had fallen to 300 but, with the decline of mining and relatively little employment from pastoralism and agriculture, it declined further to a stable 250 through most of the twentieth century. Only one commercial building, the former combined post office and butcher's shop, with its associated dwelling, survives from the early twentieth century. The First World War Avenues of Honour, consisting of traditional Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) and Pinus radiata (Monterey or Radiata Pine) were planted along the Ballarat-Colac Road. The avenue was opened on 15 September 1917 by Cr James Boyle. Some of the latter trees situated within the Avenue, the minor deviation of the Colac-Ballararat Road, have been carved into sculptures. Perhaps the last substantial building to be erected in the township was the new Memorial Hall in 1956, replacing the Mechanics Institute. The township remains sparsely developed with many of the cottages in poor condition.

How is it Significant?

The township of Corindhap is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The township of Corindhap is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established on the site of gold rushes in the 1850s and 1860s, several of which have survived into the twenty-first century. It is of architectural significance for its range of very modest buildings dating from the nineteenth century, an

example being the Break O'Day Hotel. The buildings are complimented by substantial avenues of honour and other mature trees, as well as the surviving infrastructure. The township is of social significance for its survival from a peak of several thousand, reflected in some surviving public buildings and cottages, to its modern population of less than one hundred. The township reflects the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural pursuits.

22.12-4 HO97: Inverleigh Heritage Precinct

21/12/2017
C76

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Inverleigh Heritage Precinct

- House, 5 High Street, Inverleigh
- House and Pinus pinea (Stone Pine), 8 High Street, Inverleigh
- House, 9a High Street, Inverleigh
- House and Ulmus prosera (Elm) at rear, 9b High Street, Inverleigh
- Store, 12 High Street, Inverleigh
- Restaurant, 14 High Street, Inverleigh
- House, 20 High Street, Inverleigh
- House, 23 High Street, Inverleigh
- House, 34 High Street, Inverleigh
- House, 36 High Street, Inverleigh

What is significant?

The township of Inverleigh is located on the Hamilton Highway approximately 28 kilometres west of Geelong. It is nestled within a curve of the Leigh River, approximately 1 kilometre north of the junction of the Leigh and the Barwon Rivers. The township was officially proclaimed in 1855, following a crown survey undertaken in 1854. It is laid out in a conventional grid aligned north-south to east-west on the western side of the Leigh River.

The early settlement of Inverleigh is associated with the Derwent Company's runs of the 1830s and 1840s. The Company laid claim to 26,000 acres of land in the Portland Bay District. When it was dissolved in 1842 its properties were divided up by mutual consent and pastoral runs such as Native Hut No. 3 and Weatherboard Nos. 1 & 2 were formed within the Inverleigh area. The new owners continued to be important patrons of the town. The Inverleigh Township developed during the 1850s as a commercial and civic centre servicing surrounding pastoral properties. It was also an important stop on the colonial trade routes that linked Geelong to the Western District and the Woody Yaloak goldfields to the north. At first, a gravel ford provided access across the Leigh River. After the completion of a permanent bridge over the Leigh River in 1853 and the formalization of the township grid, High Street became the primary route into and out of town. The bluestone abutments survive but the bridge has been superseded by a modern structure. An impressive avenue of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress), established in the early twentieth century, signals the Hamilton Highway's eastern and western entrance.

Important public and commercial buildings were established during the 1860s, such as the township's two bluestone hotels, a post and money order service, a Mechanics Institute, four churches and three denominational schools. The division of large pastoral properties at the end of the nineteenth century gave way to intensive agricultural activities such as dairy and horticulture. A farmer's common was established to provide inhabitants of the town access to pasture for the grazing of cattle and horses. Orchards originally established to supplement dairy farming developed into large commercial operations, supplying jam manufacturers located in Geelong. The Gheringhap to Maroona railway line was completed in 1910, with local produce dispatched from the Inverleigh Railway Station.

While surrounding townships experienced a decline in population and services during the mid twentieth century, Inverleigh struggled but survived. In the 1950s the townships population was 250 persons, with an increase to 350 persons recorded in the 1960s. During this period the township had a post and telegraph office, State School, savings bank, four churches, a public hall, police station, electric lighting and football, cricket, golf and tennis clubs. By the 1970s the public hall was extended to incorporate a baby health care centre and medical clinic. The township of Inverleigh remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a high degree of integrity. Key public buildings, open public spaces and surviving examples of commercial and residential development provide a clear sense of past and present settlement.

How is it significant?

The township of Inverleigh is of historical, architectural and social significance for the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The township of Inverleigh is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established to support agricultural industries during the 1850s and 1860s. It has direct associations with members of the Derwent Company and subsequently the Willis and Berthon families and Dr. Robert Cuthbertson Hope, pioneer pastoralist and medical doctor. It is of architectural significance for its range of commercial, residential and public buildings dating from the nineteenth century and some designed by architects. The town is of social significance as the focus of community life, religious activity, education and recreation.

22.12-5

HO98: Lethbridge Heritage precinct

21/12/2017
C76

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Lethbridge Heritage Precinct

- Uniting Church, Ackland Road, Lethbridge
- House, 193 Ackland Road, Lethbridge
- House, 195 Ackland Road, Lethbridge
- House, 80 Brunel Street, Lethbridge
- House, 88 Brunel Street, Lethbridge
- House, 90 Brunel Street, Lethbridge
- House, 19 Cubitts Street, Lethbridge
- House, 829 English Road, Lethbridge
- House, 837 English Road, Lethbridge
- House, 841 English Road, Lethbridge
- House, 1 Noyes Road, Lethbridge
- House, 7 Noyes Road, Lethbridge
- House, 11 Noyes Road, Lethbridge
- House, 21 Noyes Road, Lethbridge
- Stone gutters, Russell Street, Lethbridge
- Shop and residence, 1 Russell Street, Lethbridge
- House, 2 Russell Street, Lethbridge
- House, 7 Russell Street, Lethbridge
- House, 17 Russell Street, Lethbridge
- Shop, 17 Russell Street, Lethbridge

- Lethbridge Public Hall, 25 Russell Street, Lethbridge
- House, 1 Stephenson Street, Lethbridge
- Memorial Gates at Recreation Reserve, 8 Stephenson Street, Lethbridge

What is significant?

The township of Lethbridge is located on the Midland Highway, approximately 32 kilometres northwest of Geelong. It was established on land which was part of the Wabdallah Run, part of the greater Golf Hill holdings of the Clyde Company managed by George Russell and adjacent to the Moranghurk Run, established by Peter Sharp and William Sharp. The topography of the township is relatively flat, although the nearby Moorabool River valley located only 2 kilometres to the east is composed of a series of dramatic undulations. The township comprises two formal grids that are aligned to the Midland Highway and the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line respectively.

The original site of the Lethbridge township, first known as 'Muddy Water Holes', was aligned to the tracks made by the horse-drawn wagons of early settlers, which followed the route of the present Midland Highway. By the early nineteenth century, this track became the primary transportation route connecting the goldfields of Ballarat to the port of Geelong. The second grid of allotments is located approximately 700 metres to the west of the Midland Highway and was laid out following the construction of the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line in 1858/62. The township was renamed Lethbridge in 1854, after the Railway Engineer who oversaw the construction of the Geelong-Ballarat Railway line.

The construction of the Railway Station dramatically reoriented the configuration of the original township and re-focused the commercial, residential and public activities. Important buildings located within this grid include: the Lethbridge Uniting Church and Sunday School Hall; Lethbridge General Store; Lethbridge Public Hall. The Lethbridge Lake and Recreation Reserve is fed by Bruce's Creek and features a public swimming hole, BBQ shelters and the former Railway Water Tank. This site was originally gazetted as a Railway Reservoir to supply water for steam engines required to take on water at Lethbridge station. The prosperity experienced by the township as a commercial centre servicing surrounding pastoral properties and trade generated during the gold rush and the construction of the railway line has since diminished. The township has experienced a decline in commercial activity and population. The township of Lethbridge remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a high degree of integrity and are in good condition.

How is it significant?

The township of Lethbridge is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The township of Lethbridge is of historical significance as one of the earliest settlements established along the major trade route linking the port of Geelong to the interior of Victoria and the Ballarat Goldfields. Surviving buildings and infrastructure also reflect its prominence as a commercial centre servicing trade generated from the railway and surrounding pastoral properties. Lethbridge is of architectural significance for its range of civic infrastructure and building types dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Lethbridge is of social significance as the focus of community activities and as a representation of the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining, agricultural and viticultural industries.

22.12-6 HO99: Linton Heritage Precinct21/12/2017
C76**Statement of Significance****Contributory elements located in the Linton Heritage Precinct**

- The Gables, 3017 Glenelg Highway, Linton
- St Paul's Church of England, 2 Grantley and Gillespie Street, Linton
- Church of England Hall, 4 Grantley Street, Linton
- Former Methodist Manse, 8 Grantley Street, Linton
- Methodist Church, 10 Grantley Street, Linton
- Timber Cottage, 12 Grantley Street, Linton
- House, 46 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 50 Sussex Street, Linton
- Motor Garage, 52 Sussex Street, Linton
- Pioneer Memorial, 53 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 53 Sussex Street, Linton
- Gallery, 54 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 55 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 56 Sussex Street, Linton
- House (former Bank of NSW), 57 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 58 Sussex Street, Linton
- Murrell's Newsagency (former Boot Shop), 59 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shops, 61-63 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shop and house, 64 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 65 Sussex Street, Linton
- Linton Public Library, 67 Sussex Street, Linton
- Former Shire of Grenville Offices and War Memorial, 68 Sussex Street, Linton
- Historical Society Resource Centre, 69 Sussex Street, Linton
- Memorial Chairs, 71 and 78 Sussex Street, Linton
- Railway Hotel (Luth's Building at rear), 73 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shop, 74 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shop, 75 Sussex Street, Linton
- CFA Building, 77 Sussex Street, Linton
- General Store, 80 Sussex Street, Linton
- House (former Service Station), 81 Sussex Street, Linton
- House and workshop, 85 Sussex Street, Linton
- House (former Bennett residence), 87 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shop (former Ching's Grocery), 88 Sussex Street, Linton
- Shop, 89 Sussex Street, Linton
- Traquair House, Holly and Golden Ash Trees (former bank), 90 Sussex Street, Linton
- House, 92 Sussex Street, Linton
- Euphemia Wishart's Private Hospital, 94 Sussex Street, Linton
- Cast Iron Water Stand Pipe, 97 Sussex Street, Linton
- Blacksmith's Shop, 97 Sussex Street, Linton

What is Significant?

The township of Linton is located on the Glenelg Highway, about 35 kilometres south-west of Ballarat in rolling hills on the Springdallah Creek. The township is generally a grid aligned on the diagonal. It was named after Joseph and Mary Linton, pastoralist pioneers from Scotland who settled first in the Woody Yaloak area and from about 1840 on what became Linton Park. Joseph died in 1853 but his widow continued at Linton Park for many years. Gold was discovered on Fiery Creek, in the vicinity of today's Linton Cemetery in 1856 and a small settlement of diggers was soon established there. This shifted to Surface Hill, the present site of the township which was surveyed for the Crown by 1861. The district's many gold fields thrived during the late 1850s and early 1860s.

Linton developed with the usual mix of public, commercial and private buildings and has many layers of development along its main street. Wishart's blacksmith's forge, 95 Sussex Street at the south-western end of the town, is a rare survivor. A temporary branch of the Bank of New South Wales opened on 12 June 1860, in a tent located at the first diggings. The branch then moved to temporary premises in the new township and the Bank purchased land there in 1861. The first permanent building was soon extended and the attached residence was erected in 1872. The Bank moved again when it relocated to new premises at 57 Sussex Street in 1907. The first manager was Samuel Lewers who continued to be an important citizen of the town and the Shire. Murrell's Victoria Hotel, across the Creek from the Edinburgh Mine, was demolished for the post World War 2 bungalow, The Gables, at 3017 Glenelg Highway. Only the later Railway Hotel survives at 71-73 Sussex Street, a rare example of a hotel in the Gothic Revival style and unusual for not being situated on a corner, both explained by its origin as Luth's store. The railway service opened in 1890 and was extended to Skipton in 1916 but none of the infrastructure survives. Many shop buildings survive especially from the later nineteenth century, such as the handsome, former Verdoorn's butcher's shop, originally Shepherd's grocery and hardware store, at 76 Sussex Street. The shop and dwelling at 64 Sussex Street was a glove-maker's, as well as a general haberdashery shop. Nelson's Undertakers occupied the early twentieth century residence at 69 Sussex Street.

Newer buildings represent later phases in the development of Linton such as former service stations and the County Fire Authority building at 77 Sussex Street. Other important buildings were located away from the main street, especially on the more prestigious higher ground. The first school opened in 1856 in a Church of England building with others to follow elsewhere but closed when the present Linton State School No. 880 opened in 1867. St Paul's Anglican Church, in the simple Early English Gothic Revival style, is the oldest surviving church. It was surrounded by a pinetum. The Methodist Church is located near the Anglican Church and dates from 1913. It was designed by the young Melbourne architect, A. S. Eggleston who went on to design many important Methodist churches. Linton has been a centre for local government since 1864. The Shire of Grenville Offices opened in 1865. These were replaced in the 1939 by the present building designed by L. H. Vernon, Shire Engineer. Other than the Post Office at 59 Sussex Street, little remains of the colonial government's administrative infrastructure following the demolition of the original courthouse and the police station complex. Many residential buildings, none of any great pretension but some with substantial period gardens, are located along Sussex Street and in the surrounding streets. Perhaps the most important survivor in Linton is the Public Library at 67 Sussex Street, which retains its rare collection of books, archives and memorabilia.

The township of Linton remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a high degree of integrity. Most buildings are in good condition and important urban elements survive such as the standpipe and stone and brick gutters at the southern end of the town. A simple granite memorial to the pioneers of the district, recognising their intangible heritage, was erected on the north-east side of the main street in 1939.

How is it Significant?

The township of Linton is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The township of Linton is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established on the site of gold rushes in the 1850s and 1860s, several of which have survived into the twenty-first century. The former Wishart's blacksmith's shop is a rare survivor and represents a past way of life. Similarly the two surviving former Bank of NSW buildings demonstrate the changing tertiary industry of the town. Linton is of architectural significance for its range of modest building types dating from the nineteenth century, the most important of which are the Anglican, Catholic and Methodist Churches with their associated residences, many shops and their residences, the Railway Hotel (a rare example of a store converted into a hotel), the former Shire of Grenville Offices and part of the State School. Several buildings are associated with significant architects and engineers. The Linton Public Library is of particular social significance as a very rare surviving public library and collection. The township is of general social significance for its survival from a peak of several thousand, reflected in some surviving public buildings, to its modern population of several hundred. The township reflects the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural pursuits.

22.12-7

21/12/2017
C76

HO100: Meredith Heritage precinct

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Meredith Heritage Precinct

- House, 19 Lawler Street, Meredith
- House, 21 Lawler Street, Meredith
- House, 27 Lawler Street, Meredith
- Bluestone Gutters, Staughton Street, Meredith
- House (former Hospital), 21 Staughton Street, Meredith
- 'Eclipse Cottage' and Barchychiton populneus (Kurrajong), 22 Staughton Street, Meredith
- 'Maygrove', 26 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Shop (east shop of pair), 30a Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 32 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 38 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 40 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 42 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Shop, 43 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 43 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 46 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Shop and residence, 48 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Shed (Atlantic Depot), 48 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Meredith Hotel, 51 Staughton Street, Meredith
- House, 52 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Former Post Office and residence, 58 Staughton Street, Meredith
- Meredith and District Memorial Hall, 61 Staughton Street, Meredith
- General Store and residence, 17 Wallace Street, Meredith
- Royal Hotel and Billiard Room, 20 Wallace Street, Meredith
- RSL Hall and War Memorial, 22 Wallace Street, Meredith
- Meredith Road House, 26 Wallace Street, Meredith
- House, 20 Wilson Street, Meredith

What is significant?

The township of Meredith is located on the Midland Highway, an equidistant of approximately 45 kilometres south of Ballarat and north of Geelong. It is situated on a plateau, which is generally flat, falling away to the east and north as it drops towards the Coolebarghurk Creek. It is aligned north-south to east-west, with the streets laid out in a conventional grid on either side of the Midland Highway. Meredith was surveyed in 1851/2, following the discovery of gold in the districts surrounding the township. It became an important service centre for travellers between the Ballarat goldfields and the port of Geelong. The former Meredith Police Paddock, which was the region base for the Mounted Police Troup, responsible for escorting gold found within the nearby Steiglitz goldfields, was established adjacent to the track. The Midland Highway, which runs through the centre of the township, now serves as the primary route connecting Meredith with Ballarat and Geelong. Meredith developed during the gold-rush years as a civic and commercial centre servicing mining communities as well as surrounding pastoral properties. Its prominence was reinforced by the construction of the Meredith Railway Station along the Ballarat to Geelong Railway line in 1862.

A large number of stores, many of which survive, at least five hotels, of which two survive, the former Meredith Hospital, the Shire Offices, the Meredith State School and two churches survive from this period. During the post-gold rush years, the township continued to prosper as the centre of a farming district that became important for its production of some of Victoria's finest Merino wool. A number of significant buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century, including the Meredith Mechanics Institute now the Meredith Memorial Hall, the Anglican Church of the Epiphany and the former Presbyterian Church, now the Uniting Church. Residential development is dispersed within the township grid and is characterised by its cottage form and scale, traditional gardens, with limited subdivision of the original allotments.

The township of Meredith remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a high degree of integrity. Most buildings are in good condition, for example the shops and associated residences, which survive along Staughton Street. An avenue of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm), interplanted with *Eucalyptus* specimens run the length of Staughton Street between Wallace Street and McLeod Street.

How is it significant?

The township of Meredith is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The township of Meredith is of historical significance as one of the earliest settlements established along the major trade route linking the Port of Geelong to the interior of Victoria and the Ballarat goldfields. Surviving buildings and civil infrastructure also reflect its prominence as an important civic and commercial centre servicing the nearby Steiglitz goldfields and surrounding pastoral properties. Meredith is of architectural significance for its range of building types dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the shops surviving along Staughton Street and various private residences. Meredith is of social significance as the focus of community activity and as a representation of the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural industries.

22.12-8

21/12/2017
C76

HO101: Rokewood Heritage precinct

Statement of Significance

Contributory elements located in the Rokewood Heritage Precinct

- Rokewood Memorial Hall, 66 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- War Memorial, Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Hesse Rural Health, 55 Ferrars Street, Rokewood

- Shop, 67 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- House (former shop), 61 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Pair of shops, 65 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Daly's Store and residence, 67 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Shop and residence, 69 Ferrars Street, Rokewood
- Rokewood Hotel, 75 Ferrars Street, Rokewood

What is Significant?

The township of Rokewood is located on the Geelong to Skipton Road approximately 70 kilometres north-west of Geelong. It is nestled within a curve of the Kuruc-a-ruc Creek and is situated within a broader agricultural landscape. The township was gazetted in 1852. Its allotments are generally aligned north-south to east-west, with nine regular sections to the south of Ferrars Street and three irregular sections to the north. Rokewood developed during the gold-rush years as a civic and commercial centre, servicing both mining communities as well as surrounding pastoral properties. It became an important stop on the colonial trade routes that linked the port of Geelong to the Ballarat goldfields and further west into the interior of the Western District. It was also important as a crossroads for people moving north-south. There are records of gold mining taking place in the Rokewood area as early as the 1850s, with the Mt Misery-Rokewood goldfields operating by 1852. In 1856, successful mining inspired a 'huge influx of diggers to what was known as Rokewood Rush', which continued into the mid nineteenth century. By 1865, the population of 'Rokewood and the diggings in the vicinity' was about 950 persons. The township held a court of petty sessions, a post and money order office, two schools, and two hotels being the Rokewood and the Victoria. A permanent constable was stationed at Rokewood from 1857, followed by the construction of a police station in 1859.

The Rokewood Presbyterian Church dominates the township. It was designed by Alexander Davidson in 1866 who, for a time, operated his architectural practice from Rokewood. It was his first major commission and the construction of its tower, the last in 1905. With his new partner, George Henderson, he went on to become one of Geelong's most innovative, influential and prolific architects. The church's construction was a clear statement by the local squattocracy who were staunchly Presbyterian. The official opening of the church took place on Thursday the 23rd of August 1866.

A second gold discovery and subsequent increase in population was experienced in the late 1880s. During the post-gold rush years, the township continued to grow as the centre of a prosperous pastoral and agricultural district. The township has been associated with a number of early pioneer families, who settled on large pastoral runs located in the district in the late 1830s and early 1840s, and beyond. These properties include 'Commeralghip', 'Dereel', 'Glenfine', 'Wurrook', and 'Kuruc-a-ruc'. The subdivision of pastoral properties for the WW2 Soldier Settlement Scheme saw another significant increase in population and a boost to all sorts of social aspects of the town's development during the 1950s and 1960s. The war memorial and the Rokewood Memorial Hall erected in 1959 commemorate the contribution of members of Rokewood district in each of the Great Wars.

The township of Rokewood remains substantially intact and the surviving buildings and infrastructure from a range of periods retain a medium to high degree of integrity. Key public and civic buildings, open public space and surviving examples of commercial and residential development provide a clear sense of past and present settlement.

How is it significant?

The township of Rokewood is of historical, architectural and social significance for the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The township of Rokewood is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established to support nearby gold mining and agricultural

industries during the 1850s and again in the 1880s. It has direct associations with several important Scottish pioneers. It is of architectural significance for its range of commercial, residential and public buildings dating from the nineteenth century, the most important being the Rokewood Presbyterian Church and the surviving row of commercial premises with attached residences on the southern side of Ferrars Street. The town is of social significance as the focus of community activity and as a representation of the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural industries.

22.12-921/12/2017
C76**HO102: Scarsdale-Newton Heritage precinct****Statement of Significance****Contributory elements located in the Scarsdale Heritage Precinct**

- House, 2029 Glenelg Highway, Scarsdale
- House, 2039 Glenelg Highway, Scarsdale
- House, 2040 Glenelg Highway, Scarsdale
- Scarsdale General Store, 2069 Glenelg Highway, Scarsdale
- Former Post and Telegraph Office, 9 Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Scarsdale
- Scarsdale Hotel, 15 Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Scarsdale
- Scarsdale Town Hall, 25 Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Scarsdale
- Cottage, 31 Scarsdale-Pitfield Road, Scarsdale

What is Significant?

The township of Scarsdale is located on the Glenelg Highway, about 25 kilometres southwest of Ballarat on generally level ground west of the Woody Yallock River. While gold had been discovered throughout the Woody Yallock district, it was the rush to Brown's Diggings which established the town of Scarsdale in 1855 and the consolidation of later finds towards the south which triggered the extension of the town into Newtown, towards Pitfield. The heyday of Scarsdale was in the 1860s, a period of great prosperity. The township is organic and linear in form and pivots around the intersection of the Ballarat-Linton Road, the Old Glenelg Highway and the Pitfield-Scarsdale Road. The main public buildings were always located close to the intersection. The former timber Post Office, the red brick Scarsdale Hotel and the rendered Town Hall are in a row on the east side of the Pitfield-Scarsdale Road. They are modest in their scale, conventional in their forms and in styles typical of their periods. The Railway Station was in Brewer Street but nothing survives. The loss of so many public and private buildings illustrates the great decline of the goldfields' townships.

How is it Significant?

The township of Scarsdale is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The township of Scarsdale is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established on the site of gold rushes in the 1850s and 1860s, several of which have survived into the twenty-first century. It is of architectural significance for their range of very modest buildings dating from the nineteenth century, the most important of which are the former Post Office, the former Shire Hall and the Scarsdale Hotel. These and other buildings are complimented by substantial avenues of honour and other mature trees, as well as the limited surviving infrastructure. The township of Scarsdale is of social significance for its survival from a peak of many thousands, reflected in some surviving public buildings and cottages, to its modern population of less than one and a half thousand in the whole district. The township reflects the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural pursuits.

22.12-10 HO103: Shelford Heritage precinct21/12/2017
C76**Statement of Significance****Contributory elements located in the Shelford Heritage Precinct**

- House and Pinus pinea tree, 1735 Bannockburn-Shelford Road, Shelford
- Blacksmith's House and Schinus molle trees, 1741 Bannockburn-Shelford Road, Shelford
- Hotel, 2 Mercer Street, Shelford
- House, 5 Mercer Street, Shelford
- Bluestone gutter, Mercer Street, Shelford
- Shelford Public Hall (former Mechanics Institute), 16 Mercer Street, Shelford
- Bluestone outbuilding, 8 Thompson Street, Shelford

What is significant?

Shelford, formerly called Leigh, is located on the Bannockburn-Rokewood Road where it crosses the Leigh River approximately 42 kilometres from Geelong. It nestles into the Leigh River Valley and is approached dramatically from the east and west. The settlement still pivots around the old stone and iron bridge, designed and built by Leigh Shire engineer, Charles Anthony Corbett Wilson in 1874. The settlement is focused on the former Shelford Hotel, an imposing late Georgian building built before 1854 and later used as a shop. The settlement has always had a very close association with Golf Hill, the centre of vast squatting interests owned by the Clyde Company and managed by George Russell. He subsequently owned Golf Hill in his own right. George Russell, a member of the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria, gave land for the construction of a new church, which was designed by a Geelong architect, J. L. Shaw, built in 1859 and superintended by Russell. It marks the entrance to Golf Hill. The first timber church continued to be used as a classroom along with a stone classroom, also the work of Russell, which were the Presbyterian school and later State School No. 379. The inter-relationship of these sites historically, socially and visually across the Leigh River Valley is one of the strongest demonstrations of patronage in the Western District. Other buildings contribute to the character of Shelford as a township including the former Mechanics Institute and a range of small cottages on the Leigh river flats. The landscape is enhanced by a range of traditional plantings, particularly Schinus molle (Peppercorn trees) and Pinus pinea (Stone Pines).

How is it Significant?

The settlement of Shelford is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

Shelford is of historical significance for its direct association with George Russell, pastoral pioneer and manager of and later partner in the influential Clyde Company and particularly the continuing relationship with his home, Golf Hill and the civic institutions he founded on land he provided. It is of architectural significance for its range of building types dating from the nineteenth century, including specifically the Presbyterian Church, the State School and the former Shelford Hotel as well as various early vernacular cottages and other structures. Shelford is of social significance as the focus of the surrounding community's education and religious activities, which continued into the mid twentieth century and which is still expressed by the relationship of elements within the precinct but also their location in the broader cultural landscape.

22.12-11 HO104: Smythesdale Heritage Precinct21/12/2017
C76**Statement of Significance****Contributory elements located in the Smythesdale Heritage Precinct**

- Milestones, Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 17 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 25 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 26 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 27 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House (former shop), 34 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Shop, 42 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Former Mechanics Institute, 44 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 46 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- House, 48 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Bungalow House, 49 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Former Post Office, 50 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Federation/Edwardian weatherboard house, 51 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Drinking Fountain and Plaque, 52 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Masonic Hall, 54 Brooke Street, Smythesdale
- Former Masonic residence, 55 Brooke Street, Smythesdale

What is Significant?

Smythesdale is located on the Glenelg Highway, about 20 kilometres south-west of Ballarat on generally level ground north-east of the Woody Yallock River. While gold had been discovered throughout the Woody Yallock district, it was the rush to Smythe's and Brown's Diggings which established the town of Smythesdale in 1855 and its consolidation as the colonial government's administration. The complex of Courthouse, Police Station and Police Stables, including the trees surviving from the Police Magistrate's garden, is one of the best surviving in the central goldfields. The heyday of the town was in the 1860s and 1870s. The township's street grids show an attempt to control its naturally organic linear form. The main public buildings were always located close to the intersection of Brooke Street and Heales Street. The former di-chromatic brick Post Office, the painted brick Smythesdale Hotel and the rendered Masonic Hall are each important contributors to the streetscape because of their distinctive architecture and historic functions. The retreat house built by the Masons opposite their hall may be the only such example in Victoria. These buildings, while conventional in their form and typical in their style, are more pretentious in their scale than similar buildings in nearby towns. The Mechanic Institute hall survives. One bank and several cottages in clusters survive along the main street. One shop survives but with very low integrity. None of the three churches survives on its original site. The Railway Station was in Ireland Street but nothing survives. The redundancy and loss of so many public and private buildings illustrates the great decline of the gold fields' townships.

How is it Significant?

The township of Smythesdale is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The township of Smythesdale is of historical significance as one of the many small settlements in the Shire established on the site of gold rushes in the 1850s and 1860s, several of which have survived into the twenty-first century. It was the administrative

centre for the colonial government imposing law and order as well as controls on the mining industry. It is of architectural significance for its range of very modest private buildings dating from the nineteenth century and several particularly fine public buildings, the most important of which are the former Post Office, the former Courthouse and Police complex. The Courthouse Hotel is particularly distinctive for its rare form and dominant siting. The Masonic Hall and the residence opposite, built by the Masons, create a special relationship. These and other buildings are complimented by mature trees, as well as the limited surviving civic infrastructure. The township is of social significance for its survival from a peak of many thousands, reflected in some surviving public buildings and cottages, to their modern population of less than one and a half thousand in the whole district. The township reflects the inter-relationship between pastoral, mining and agricultural pursuits.