
FORMER WELSH CHURCH COMPLEX

Location

107 LYDIARD STREET SOUTH BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0542

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 30, 2024

What is significant?

The Site was first provided to the Uniting Welsh Church to establish a place of worship. A timber building was initially constructed, which developed into a stone structure in 1860. The site also contained later nineteenth century industry including a brewery and a brass foundry, both of which were some of the largest in the state at this time. The Ballarat DEM predicts approximately 0.5-1.5m in elevation increase from 1858, in addition to an elevation decrease fronting Lydiard Street South.

It is proposed to only list part of the site due to subsurface impact that occurred with the construction of the SMB Campus in 2009 and 2014.

How is it significant?

The site is of historical and archaeological significance.

Why is it significant?

The site is of historic significance as the first Welsh Church in the Ballarat Gold Field and for its association with the Welsh community. The site has an association with late nineteenth century beer brewing and the Ballarat Brewery (a site of high local significance) in addition to the John Brass foundry, one of the largest brass foundries in the Austral during the early 20th century. The site has the potential to contain historical archaeological deposits, features and associated with the occupation of the Welsh Church or later nineteenth century activities.

Interpretation of Site placeholder

Hermes Number 212305

Property Number

History

The land was first provided to the United Welsh Protestant Church, in the 1850s. A small timber structure was built, fronting Armstrong Street (date unknown). In 1859, a Christmas benefit is described as the two-year anniversary of the newly constructed church building on the Welsh reserve on the corner of Armstrong and Lydiard Street (27 December 1859: The Star: 1).

This timber structure became the Sunday school building in 1861, after the construction of a stone church was finalised in 1860 (Tyler 2010: 15-16) with fencing being completed in 1862 through prison labour (1 November 1862: The Star: 2) and landscaping being conducted by prisoners throughout 1863 (11 November 1863). The church closed around 1935 and was demolished in 1936 (3 June 1936, The Argus: 12). It was probably the stone building that became a storage shed for W. Tulloch and later for M.B. John.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>