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# W.T. Rowe Glenfine Residence



Source: Victorian Heritage Register



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## Location

Cressy Road CAPE CLEAR, Golden Plains Shire

## Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1206

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO4

## Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

National Estate Register:

Glenfine Homestead, Cressy Road, Cape Clear, is a particularly large homestead, important architecturally

within the history of the district and as an illustration of the immense wealth and of the life that was enjoyed by the wealthy pastoralists during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Architecturally, the Homestead is a distinctive Gothic Revival design and notable for its eclectic detailing. Surviving conservatories are rare in Victoria.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.

Source: Victorian Heritage Register -

What is significant? Glenfine homestead is a substantial, Gothically styled two-storey rendered bluestone residence. Glenfine was designed in 1872 by the architect H.R. Caselli for pastoralist, William Thomas Rowe. Glenfine was constructed c.1873, although the construction of the north-west section of the building was a later addition by Caselli. The residence has a wide balcony extending around three sides with heavy cast-iron paired columns positioned on the upper verandah and lower porch. The steeply pitched slate roof has bracketed eaves and attic ventilators and an intact glazed conservatory is attached to eastern side of the building. Situated to the rear of Glenfine is a bluestone wall with built-in dairy and adjacent to the house are the timber cook's cottage and the small stone store. Deep lead gold mining on the Pitfield Plains surrounding Glenfine homestead was carried out from the 1890s to 1920s. Several mining companies operated on the Glenfine property during this time. One of the mines - the Glenfine South mine - was located virtually in the front garden of the homestead. The then landowner, William Rowe (jnr) sought commercial gain through providing accommodation for workers for the mines by subdividing a parcel of land near his homestead and creating the private township of Hollybush. By 1900 the township had a population of 426 and comprised a store, a couple of boarding houses and over twenty cottages. The township was in use for some twenty years until the cessation of mining activities in the district. The Glenfine South Mine operated from 1897 to 1908. The mine's gold production and size was not remarkable but what gave the mine a special place in the history of the industry was its massive forty-head stamping battery. The reason for such a substantial battery at Glenfine South was that quartz and deep lead mining was conducted in unison there: one of the few such instances in Victoria's deep lead mining history. The battery was required to crush the quartz. Today its massive foundations and the tailings and 'slimes' generated by the crushing process bear testimony to the mine's unique place in the State's history. How is it significant? Glenfine homestead precinct is of architectural and historical and scientific significance to the State of Victoria. Why it is significant The Glenfine homestead precinct has three elements: Glenfine homestead, Glenfine South Gold Mine, and the site of Hollybush township. Glenfine homestead is of architectural importance as a Gothically styled residence, designed by the prominent architect, H.R. Caselli. Caselli practised primarily in the Ballarat region and was responsible for a number of important buildings within that locale. Glenfine was designed at the height of his career and it demonstrates the architect's concern with design and detail. The distinctively styled homestead, employing eclectic detailing and an asymmetrical plan-form, is an outstanding example of a substantial rural residence and is important for its rare attached conservatory. Glenfine homestead is historically significant as an example of a substantial rural residence, built during an era of prosperity in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The scale and detailing of Glenfine illustrate a period of immense wealth in Victoria's pastoral history. Glenfine is historically significant for its relationship with William Thomas Rowe, a wealthy Victorian landowner who acquired large rural properties in the State's Western District. The Glenfine South Gold Mine is historically important in the State's gold mining history as a rare example of a combined deep lead and quartz operation. The evidence of the mine's battery and the by-products of the crushing process are crucial to the significance of the place. Adding further to the special qualities of the mine are its historical associations with the abutting Glenfine homestead and the nearby mining township of Hollybush. The Glenfine South Gold Mine is scientifically significant because it has one of the finest collections of deep lead mining relics in Victoria. Some 350 deep lead mines have been recorded across Victoria from Rutherglen in the north to the Pitfield Plains in the south. None of these sites possess the range of mining relics that are on display at the Glenfine South mine. The associated township and mine jointly form a significant and unique archaeological resource that could contribute further information on the industrial and domestic faces of turn-of-the-century deep lead mining.

Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 1, Lorraine Huddle P/L,  
2003;

Construction dates

1871, 1872,

Architect/Designer Caselli, Henry R, Pitman, Jacob,  
Hermes Number 23552  
Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

National Estate Register:

A twenty-three room, two storied house erected to the designs of arch H R Caselli in 1873 for pastoralist William Rowe. This homestead replaced an earlier dwelling, the remains of which survive. The stuccoed bluestone mansion is asymmetrically composed with stucco porch and double-storeyed cast iron verandah of paired columns. Roofs are steeply pitched and clad in slate. There is a glazed conservatory.

## Integrity

Condition and Integrity:

Glenfine Homestead, Cressy Road, Cape Clear, is in good condition and essentially intact.

*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/>*