
Albion Explosives Factory



1611 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 2000

Location

Ballarat Road, DEER PARK VIC 3023 - Property No 84

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2000

demolished - The surviving buildings at the Albion Explosives Factory were of regional significance as representative of the impact of World War II munitions production development in Melbourne, and as an example of the expansion of the munitions industry at that time. While most of the buildings on the site have been demolished, the surviving structures are sufficient to demonstrate at least some of the main sections of the site (black powder, administration, canteens, workshops etc.) While only a fragmentary representation of the former extent and production processes of the factory, the surviving buildings still provide insight into working conditions, and most importantly, the extensive nature of explosives manufacture facilities. The particular distribution of

buildings and manufacturing components is as important as the individual structures themselves. (See separate citation for Black Powder Area)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000; Brimbank - Melbourne Western Region Industrial Heritage Study, G. Vines & A. Ward, 1989; Brimbank - Albion Explosives Factory Heritage Study, G. Vines & A. Ward, 1988;
Construction dates	1939,
Hermes Number	105953
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The entire site covers c.500 acres including safety buffer zones and the former Furlong Road alignment through the middle of the site. Some buildings of ICI-Nobel design and construction survive, along with a small sample of buildings from the administrative and workshops area, black powder mill and loading buildings (see separate citation), magazines, air raid shelters, store buildings, mess halls and remaining blast protection mounds. Also surviving are the drystone wall along Ballarat Road and entry stone piers. Many of the buildings are standard Department of Housing & Construction-designed building, mostly from the period 1940-45, with some from later periods. Comprehensive descriptions are available in the Vines and Ward study (1988) and summarised and updated in the Raworth and Ducros study (1997) which also indicated the great loss of buildings resulting from the demolition that has occurred in the last decade. Buildings which contribute to the significance of the site are: Guard House 115A General Office 101A Canteen 110A Workshop & Store 105A Barium Nitrate Process House 578 Laundry & Boot Repair Shop 128 Stores 917A and 917B Box Stores 224A, 224B North Mess Room 210 Magazines and blast walls 112A, 112D & 122G Air Raid Precaution Centre 114B Air Raid Shelter 119 The Black Powder Mill has been separately listed in this study. While the main process buildings, including nitro-glycerine, ammonium nitrate and propellant production sections have all been demolished, the above surviving buildings demonstrate the associated facilities required for the factory, and as the last remaining structures provide the only opportunity for a meaningful retention of the significance of the site, particularly since these structures have probably the greatest re-use potential of all those that were once on the site. The stands of Eucalyptus Cladocalyx, Cupressus Macrocarpa and other landscape elements are also of contributory significance.

Physical Conditions

Some surviving buildings are in relatively good condition, although they are in need of basic maintenance. The site's integrity has been greatly compromised by the demolition of most of the production buildings. However, the spread of buildings remaining offers opportunities to interpret the former use of the site within the context of new development.

Intactness

Demolished

Historical Australian Themes

3 Developing local, regional and national economies
3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

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/>