
Mailors Flat Concrete Ammunition Bunkers

Location

Mailors Flat - Koroit Road, Mailors Flat VIC 3275

Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 27, 2005

What is significant?

The two concrete ammunition bunkers situated on private farm land near Warrnambool Airport, on the Koroit - Mailors Flat Road, Mailors Flat, are barrell-roofed structures with an entrance at one end and a small window at the other. They were probably installed in the early 1940s after the Australian Army had taken over control of the Warrnambool Airport as part of wartime security measures.

How is it significant?

The two concrete bunkers situated near Warrnambool Airport, on the Koroit - Mailors Flat Road, Mailors Flat, are of historical and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Moyne.

Why is it significant?

The two concrete bunkers situated near Warrnambool Airport, Mailors Flat, are of local historical significance as rare and reasonably intact examples of bunkers erected in Victoria during World War II as part of wartime security measures.

The two concrete bunkers situated near Warrnambool Airport, Mailors Flat, are of local aesthetic significance for, owing to their unusual construction and location in a flat, open paddock, the sheds are prominent and striking features in the landscape.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moyne - Moyne Shire Heritage Study Stage 2, Helen Doyle in association with Context P/L, 2006;
Construction dates	1940,
Hermes Number	127480
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Two in-situ concrete barrel vaulted buildings located in a paddock to the south of the airport runway. Each building has a doorway at one end and a small window opening at the other with timber frames remaining in poor condition. The ceilings are punctuated by a series of circular holes for ventilators. The solid concrete construction suggests they were erected as munition stores. Around each building there appears to be remnants of a raised earthen embankment.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Other localities in Victoria that have similar bunkers include Mallacoota; Sale; Bairnsdale; Ballarat; Mildura; Benalla; Nhill; Werribee; Cressy; Lake Boga; and Essendon. Of these, the most complete set of buildings is at Ballarat. Mallacoota and Lake Boga (sea planes) have concrete bunkers that were bomb-proof command posts. Benalla has one hangar and some remnant accommodation huts. Werribee (old Geelong Road) has five hangars and a workshop. [Patrick Millar, Heritage Victoria, pers. com., 2005]

Physical Conditions

Fair

Integrity

Minor Modifications

Veterans Description for Public

Two concrete ammunition bunkers are situated on private farm land near Warrnambool Airport, on the Koroit - Mailors Flat Road, Mailors Flat. The bunkers are barrel-roofed structures with an entrance at one end and a small window at the other. The ceilings are punctuated by a series of circular holes for ventilators. The solid concrete construction suggests they were erected as munitions stores. Around each building there appears to be remnants of a raised earthen embankment. They were probably installed in the early 1940s, after the Australian Army had taken over control of the Warrnambool Airport as part of wartime security measures.

Warrnambool Airport, situated west of Warrnambool in the vicinity of Mailors Flat, was established just prior to the outbreak of the Second World War. It was used as an RAAF airfield during the Second World War and the base for coastal patrols during the war. These concrete bunkers were erected as ammunition storage shelters at this time c. early 1940s. There was a fear in the south-west of Victoria that the Japanese would land at Portland or Warrnambool, and there were measures taken to prepare for a Japanese 'invasion', for example the stone mileposts along the major roads were moved.

Since the war, the airport has operated as a civil air field. Although originally erected in association with the army base at Warrnambool Airport, the site where the bunkers are located is a privately owned property adjoining the airport site (currently owned by the Russells). The ammunition bunkers are located in a paddock and appear to be unused.

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/>