
FLAGSTAFF HILL SERVICE BASIN



Flagstaff Hill Service Basin



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Location

20 BATTEN STREET, CALIFORNIA GULLY - PROPERTY NUMBER 201560, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO328

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 10, 2023

What is significant?

The Flagstaff Hill Service Basin at California Gully is an abandoned reservoir. It has a capacity of 8.1 megalitres and consists of a large circular basin, at least in part stone-lined, with a surrounding earthen embankment and a flat bottom approximately four metres below the top of the embankment. The reservoir was constructed in 1927-28 to address the long-standing problem of poor water pressure in California Gully. During its years of operation (1928 to the early 1970s), the basin was connected to the mains water supply. The tower survives, as does some evidence of the stone lining and a square concrete-lined pit to the north of the basin.

How is it significant?

The Flagstaff Hill Service Basin is of local historical and technical significance.

Why is it significant?

The Flagstaff Hill Service Basin, constructed in 1927-28, is of local historical and technical significance. It is historically significant (Criterion A) as evidence of a long-sought solution to the problem of water supply and water pressure in California Gully. From the earliest years of the Bendigo goldfields, the provision of reliable water supplies for domestic and mining purposes was problematic. This included California Gully, where a reservoir for the mining settlement was first proposed in 1866. The Flagstaff Hill Service Basin was eventually constructed by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission under the chairmanship of William Cattanach, who oversaw improvements to the management and supply of water in country areas across Victoria.

The former reservoir is of technical significance (Criterion F) for its ability to demonstrate the design and operation of a local domestic water supply facility. The reservoir retains its overall form and shape, including the large circular stone-lined basin with its flat bottom and earthen embankment, and the original cast iron water tower. The elevated location of the reservoir also helps demonstrate its operation, including the connection to the mains water supply and the maintenance of water pressure.

Theme

4. Transforming and managing the land

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Policy Citations Review, Lovell Chen P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1927,

Hermes Number 184713

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The Flagstaff Hill Service Basin, accessed from Staley Street, California Gully is an abandoned reservoir constructed in 1927-28 to resolve the long-standing problem of poor water pressure in California Gully. It has a capacity of 8.1 megalitres and consists of a large circular basin, at least in part stone-lined, with a surrounding earthen embankment, and a flat bottom approximately four metres below the top of the embankment.[i] A cast iron water tower is located towards the east of the basin. During its years of operation (1928 to the early 1970s), the basin was connected to the mains water supply. The tower survives, as does some evidence of the stone lining and a square concrete-lined pit to the north of the basin. Some stone rubble is also scattered about, likely to have been associated with the original reservoir. The basin has revegetated in places.

While the basin is in a secure area, the fence at the end of the path from Staley Street is in poor condition and appears to have allowed for some public access.

[i] 'Flagstaff Hill Service Basin' citation included in Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998. Source uncited.

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/>