
SCHOOL OF MINES (FORMER BALLARAT GAOL)

Location

5 LYDIARD STREET SOUTH BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0454

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO54

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SEE H1463

	1856-1965: Former Ballarat Gaol
Interpretation of Site	1870: School of Mines established
	1970s: Renamed Ballarat College of Advanced Education
	1994: Established as University of Ballarat

Archaeological Significance Site is of archaeological significance as the burial site of 13 executed prisoners buried within the Ballarat Gaol between 1864 and 1908.

Historical Significance The School of Mines at Ballarat is of historical significance due to the important role it played in providing colonists employed in mining with formal scientific education and in spreading mining expertise to other parts of Australia. Its establishment reflects the strong tradition of mechanics institutes and mining schools brought to Victoria by British migrants, with Schools of Mines being particularly popular in Victorian gold mining towns such as Bendigo, Castlemaine and Ballarat. The Ballarat school has a long history within the City and this building was the first built specifically for the School of Mines. Together with the former Wesleyan church building, the adjacent 1914 building, the 1868 Supreme Court and remains of the former gaol to the south, it forms a collection of related educational buildings all fronting Lydiard Street.

Hermes Number 192280

Property Number

History

The construction of the gaol began in 1856 and the first cell blocks were completed by 1857. It was completed in 1862 with 58 cells designed to hold a mixture of 74 male and female prisoners. The prison was closed in 1965. The School of Mines was founded in Ballarat in 1870 by a group of officials from the Mining Board, to provide scientific and practical training focused on, but not exclusively related to, mining. As its reputation in science, engineering, metallurgy, chemistry and geology increased, the School of Mines diversified into a programme of general studies.

Known location of 13 executions:

1 March 1864: Alexander Davis

19 March 1866: James Jones

16 April 1867: Denis Murphy

7 August 1867: George Searle and Joseph Ballam

11 May 1891: John Wilson

18 May 1891: James Johnston

11 August 1873: Oscar Wallace

21 August 1875 : James Ashe

3 September 1885: Charles Baker

21 November 1891: Cornelius Bourke

12 November 1894: Elijah Cockroft

28 June 1908: Charles Henry Deutschmann

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/>