
STEAM FLOUR MILL

Location

4 ATKINS STREET FYANSFORD, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0465

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1732

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The mill was constructed c.1854 and used until at least 1861 as a flour mill. Numerous extensions and additional outbuildings were likely constructed over this time. By 1885 the building was derelict and in 1889 the top two floors were removed, the building re-roofed and used as a community centre. The remainder of the building was demolished in the 1920s. There have been numerous recordings of severe flood events that may have had impacts on any archaeological fabric at the place and these events may also have contributed to its abandonment. There is potential for sub floor deposits relating to occupation of the house and the reuse of fabric from the mill.

Archaeological Significance	The archaeological significance of the site is currently unknown but the place has been identified as having high archaeological sensitivity (Hewitt et.al 2014: 174). Without further archaeological investigation, the integrity, extent and nature of features and deposits cannot be determined.
Historical Significance	The place is significant for its associations with the development with early manufacturing and the processing of raw materials in rural Victoria.
Hermes Number	197483
Property Number	

History

The Fyansford steam flour mill was built by Godfrey Barthold and Lowe in 1854 from locally quarried bluestone (Rowe & Huddle 2000: 192). The mill was four stories and powered by steam and processed locally grown wheat supplied by the Barabool Hills farmers. A sketch from c.1853 by Samuel Gill shows a fenced area around the mill, presumably its grounds. Rates books from 1854-1857 confirm the mill had 4 floors, with a 14 horsepower engine, 3 pr. stones and an outhouse occupied by Barthold and Lowe (Geelong City Council Rate Books, GHC GRS 868). Godfrey A. Barthold, Miller of Fyansford was listed as insolvent in 1861 (Geelong Advertiser 5/6/1861). An 1876 photograph of the Moorabool River Valley shows the mill, possibly abutting the Mill House (still extant) to the south and a two storey addition to the east. A large square shaped stack is also visible in the photo (CRM 1876). By 1885, a newspaper article describes the building as the 'old flour mill on the bank of the Moorabool River at Fyansford', suggesting that perhaps the buildings were perhaps derelict and no longer in use. Around 1870, the mill was sold to Mr. Charles Hopton. In 1889 the top two floors of the building were removed and the bottom floor re-roofed. The building was then used by the community as a dance hall, library and recreation club. The remainder of the building was demolished in the 1920s due to the expansion of Australian Portland Cement.

An extant single storey Interwar bungalow was constructed partly over the former site of the flour mill in 1934. It was built by William McEwan, a former mechanic. Local rumors report that some of the fabric used to construct the house was taken from the demolished mill. This however has never been verified (Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C49, 2004).

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/>