
STRATHKELLAR FLAX MILL

Location

Strachan's Road STRATHKELLAR, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 11, 2003

What is significant?

The site of the former Strathkellar Flax Mill is located on the south side of Strahan's Road about 10kms north-east of Hamilton. The above ground fabric which survives include the roads, building foundations and the dam, as well as one ruinous large building which appears to have been used in the production process, and discarded plant litters the site. The Flax Mill was the first Flax Mill established in the area in the 1940s and represents the local communities efforts at self sufficiency.

How is it significant?

The Strathkellar Flax Mill is of historical and scientific significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Strathkellar Flax Mill is of historical significance as the focus for the most extensive flax growing area in Victoria and for its importance as part of the war effort in the 1940s. It is of scientific significance for its agricultural research by the CSIRO and state Department of Agriculture.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1939,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,

Hermes Number

23376

Property Number

Physical Conditions

High archaeological potential.

Physical Description 1

The Strathkellar Flax Mill was once a large and thriving mill, employing a number of local people. At its height, it was a series of sheds, pondage, roads, and outbuildings. The surviving fabric of the original complex includes roads, building foundations, the pondage and one ruinous large building which appears to have been used in the production process. Another smaller building is little more than a shed. Discarded plant litters the site.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

3.8 Moving goods and people

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.10 Pursuing excellence in the arts and science

8.10.5 Advancing knowledge in science and technology

Usage/Former Usage

abandoned

Integrity

low degree of integrity as a complex

Physical Description 2

Mr. McVicar, first manager

Capt. Fullerton, supervisor of the mill

Mr. Bruce Hogg, director of Flax Fibres Pty. Ltd.

Mr. A A Lee, Inspector of Agriculture (in charge of Flax Section)

Mr W B Miller, Senior Inspector of Agriculture

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/>