

Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Cape Clear Cemetery (formally the Pitfield Cemetery) is located on Cemetery Road, 1 mile south-west of Cape Clear, on allotment 28A, section C. In 1868, the site was gazetted for a cemetery, along with a formal subdivision of lots allocated for the township of Pitfield. The township of Pitfield was abandoned during the late nineteenth century, with the cemetery renamed the Cape Clear Cemetery in 1963.

The cemetery takes the traditional form of denominational division, with remains of a formal layout, aligned to a straight path leading from the entrance. An avenue of Monterey Cypress and Golden Monterey Cypress, begin at the wrought iron gateway and extend south, finishing in the centre of the reserve. The earliest headstone dates from 1853 and marks the grave of Joseph Linton, an early pastoralist pioneer of the Linton district, of which the township takes its name. The cemetery also contains the graves of miners and local pioneering families from the Cape Clear, Hollybush, Kaleno, Pitfield Plains, Pitfield, Illabarook, Berringa, Springdallah, Wallinduc, Glenfine, Happy Valley and Western Creek districts.

How is it significant?

The Cape Clear Cemetery is of historical, social and architectural (aesthetic) significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Cape Clear Cemetery is of historical significance as an enduring record of those who have lived and died in the community, as a reflection of the passing phases, ways of life and death, particular events, and as documentary evidence of the districts prosperity and hardships. The Cape Clear Cemetery is also of historical significance as a link to the township of Pitfield which was formally gazetted in 1868, in anticipation of a permanent settlement. It has a particular historical association with pastoral pioneer, Joseph Linton.

The Cape Clear Cemetery is of social significance for reflecting the customs and tastes of the community, for reflecting different religious values, and for reflecting different economic and social status. It is also an important place for passive recreation.

The Cape Clear Cemetery is of architectural (aesthetic) significance for its range of tombstones, memorials and iconography reflecting the aesthetics of different periods and groups within the community.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 2, Heritage Matters P/L, 2009;
Other Names	Pitfield Cemetery,
Hermes Number	31669
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The Cape Clear Cemetery is located on Cemetery Road, 1 mile south-west of Cape Clear, on allotment 28A, section C. The cemetery comprises eight acres and is divided into denominational areas, with clusters of graves widely distributed across the whole reserve with large space in between. Access to the cemetery is through a small wrought iron gate, which serves as a formal pedestrian entrance. A larger wire gate is located adjacent to accommodate vehicles. A small timber maintenance hut with a pitched corrugated iron roof is located directly to the south of the entrance gates. There is one main tree lined drive. An avenue of ten *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress) and *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Aurea' (Golden Monterey Cypress) runs from the entrance gate and extends south, finishing in the centre of the cemetery. A bitumen path runs the length of the cemetery and extends beyond the avenue towards the southern boundary. Several specimens of *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) dating from the early 1900's are located either side of the central path. Perimeter plantings include a mixture of conifers, oaks and eucalyptus trees, with a cluster of three oak trees located near the north-eastern corner.

Historical Australian Themes

The Australian Heritage Commission devised the Australian Historic Themes in 2001. The following themes have influenced the historical development of the Pitfield Cape Clear Cemetery.

9 Marking The Phases of Life

9.7 Dying

9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

9.7.2 Mourning the dead

9.7.3 Remembering the dead

Physical Description 2

Extent of Registration: The extent of the Cape Clear Cemetery to the whole of the land being Allotment 28A, Section C, Parish of Mindai, including the gravestones, graves and internal planting of *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress) and *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Aurea' (Golden Monterey Cypress) and perimeter plantings comprising a mixture of conifers, oaks and eucalyptus trees.

Integrity

The Cape Clear Cemetery is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

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/>