



SIGNIFICANCE: Former Maddingley No 1 Open Cut brown coal mine was developed by the Maddingley Brown Coal Company from 1943 until 1948, with workshops and stores buildings including the former buildings on Wards Hill (now Bacchus Marsh Grammar School). Another mine building, the former Pearce Brothers Chaff Mill (1886) is also at the School. The open cut has now been filled in. Coal loading facilities and works buildings remain.

This site and the remaining buildings both in the South Maddingley road/railway line area and in the Grammar School are of historical significance as evidence of a local industrial extraction process and capital investment in the economic life of Bacchus Marsh. They represent both the brown coal mining and chaff milling industries. The latter is the only surviving mill building in Bacchus Marsh.

INTACTNESS: Reasonable.

CONDITIONS & THREATS:

HISTORY: Maddingley Brown Coal commenced tunnelling operations at this site in September 1943.¹ The principals of the syndicate working the seam of brown coal, John Gardiner and Clarrie Hercules, operated collieries at Kilcunda (Vic.) and Newcastle (NSW).² At Maddingley, operations continued into November:

at present, half-a-dozen men are tunnelling down under the hill, working in two shifts from 8am to midnight. It is hoped to start another shift, and work around the clock, but at the present rate of progress the tunnel (*sic.*) will not reach the coal for another six weeks.³

In February 1944, a siding was constructed to carry coal trucks from the adit (horizontal entrance to the mine) to a crushing plant beside the railway.⁴ A coal crusher, to "render the coal more efficient as fuel and to hasten drying", was completed in the following year.⁵

Maddingley Brown Coal merged with Australian Paper Mills in 1946 to form Maddingley Brown Coal Co. Ltd. Pty.⁶ Several months later, the new company established open cut operations, and by 1947 were producing 1,500 tons (1,476 tonnes) per week.⁷ Maddingley Brown Coal Co. Pty. Ltd. established a second open cut mine at Parwan in 1948 [Maddingley No.2, ref. 30], prompting the closure of Open Cut No.1 at Maddingley, which was causing difficulties due to the increasing thickness of overburden.⁸ Work ceased in October 1948.⁹

The workshops at the mine on Wards Hill appear to have been owned by Maddingley Brown Coal until their site was acquired for Bacchus Marsh Grammar School, however they were at least partly disused and abandoned. They have now been renovated and altered for use by the school.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: There is no signage and the site is not accessible.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There were four chaff mills in Bacchus Marsh: Austral Grain and Produce, (1908), Pearce Bros., (1886) Pearce Bros, Maddingley (1908), and Andrews/ F.C. Pearce Parwan (1889). Only this building survives, other than the brick footings and cellar extant at Parwan-Exford Road (cnr Wheelans Road) Parwan (ref: 62).¹⁰

¹ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 25 September 1943.

² Camm, *Bacchus Marsh by Bacchus Marsh*, p.94.

³ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 23 October 1943.

⁴ *Ibid*, 19 February 1944.

⁵ *Ibid*, 17 March 1945.

⁶ *Ibid*, 14 September 1946.

⁷ "Brown Coal at Bacchus Marsh", *Mining and Geological Journal*, vol.3 September 1947.

⁸ Bain, A.D.N. "Brown Coal in Victoria", *ibid.* vol.4, September 1951.

⁹ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 2 October 1948.

¹⁰ Gary Vines, *Chaff Mills in Melbourne's West. An Industrial Sites Study*, Melbourne's Living Museum of the West Incorporated, Melbourne 1987, p.34.

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 54

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

<u>NAME:</u> Former Maddingley No. 1. Open Cut & Bacchus Marsh Grammar School.	
<u>PREVIOUS NAME:</u> Maddingley Brown Coal.	
<u>ADDRESS:</u> South Maddingley Road (opp. Gaynor Street). East Maddingley Road (and from Griffith Street, Maddingley Grammar School), Wards Hill.	
<u>TITLE DETAILS:</u>	
<u>USE:</u> Stock site, Processing, Derelict areas(?), Grammar School.	
<u>PREVIOUS USE:</u> Coal mine.	
<u>SIGNIFICANT DATE:</u> 1943-8	<u>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</u> 1943-6
<u>SOURCE:</u> 1 & 9	
<u>CRITERIA:</u> H 1	<u>HISTORIC THEME:</u> Mining & quarrying
<u>CONDITION:</u> Good <u>INTACTNESS:</u> Reasonable. <u>THREATS:</u> -	
<u>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</u> ENGINEERING STRUCTURE, MINING/EXTRACTION FORMATION	
<u>SIGNIFICANCE:</u>	
<u>TYPE:</u> HISTORICAL.	
<u>LEVEL:</u> LOCAL	
<u>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</u> Nil	
<u>RECOMMENDED CONTROL:</u> PLANNING SCHEME. INTEREST. AREA.	
<u>MAP NO:</u> U3.09 & U4.09	<u>SURVEY:</u> RP, GV, DC <u>DATE:</u> 2.12.93
<u>NEGS:</u> 4.20,21.7.2,3,18.	



SOUTH MADDINGLEY ROAD, LOOKING WEST