

GREATER GEELONG OUTER AREAS HERITAGE STUDY: STAGE 2

Existing Use/Type <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">Industrial</div>		Key Dates Original 1890c Major Changes 1912		Site Address Street/Site Name <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">McCurdy Road</div>	
Survey Date <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">08/07/1998</div>		Cons Man Plan <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">High Priority</div>		Town/Suburb <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">Fyansford</div>	
Recorded By <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">D Rowe & L Huddle</div>		Precinct Name <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">N/A</div>		Postcode <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">3221</div>	
Current Site Name <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 100%;">GC - Geelong Cement Processing Plant</div>					

Heritage Status Register of the National Estate Database No. <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> File No. <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> Victorian Heritage Register <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> Planning Scheme: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">C.G.G.</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px 5px;">HO1724</div> </div> Heritage Inventory (Archaeological) <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> National Trust Register: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> </div> Other: <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Heritage Study Degrees of Significance <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">A H C Assessment Criteria</th> <th style="text-align: left; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Significance Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aesthetic value</td> <td><div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Historic value</td> <td>A 4, D 2, H 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scientific value</td> <td>C 2,</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social value</td> <td>G 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Overall Significance Level</div> <div style="width: 35%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Regional</div> </div>	A H C Assessment Criteria	Significance Level	Aesthetic value	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	Historic value	A 4, D 2, H 1	Scientific value	C 2,	Social value	G 1
A H C Assessment Criteria	Significance Level										
Aesthetic value	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>										
Historic value	A 4, D 2, H 1										
Scientific value	C 2,										
Social value	G 1										

Condition of the fabric <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruinous <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed </div>	Integrity of the site <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Partially excavated <input type="checkbox"/> Fully excavated </div>
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Recommended Heritage Listings

☐ Victorian Heritage Register


☒ Victorian Heritage Inventory

☒ Register of the National Estate

☒ HO City of Greater Geelong

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TECHNICAL SHEET

<p>Precinct Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="N/A"/></p> <p>Site Plan/Location Sketch (not to scale)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Site Address</p> <p>No. <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="200"/> Street/Site Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="McCurdy Road"/></p> <p>Town/Suburb <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="Fyansford"/> Postcode <input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="3221"/></p> <p>Site Name <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="GC - Geelong Cement Processing"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates</p> <p>E 264400km N 5775000km</p> <p>Map <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="Geelong 7721-1-3"/></p> <p>Scale <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="1:25,000"/></p> <p>Ownership <input style="width: 150px;" type="text" value="Private"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cadastral Location</p> <p>County <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="Grant"/></p> <p>Parish <input style="width: 100px;" type="text" value="Moorpanyal"/></p> <p>Allotment <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/></p> <p>Block <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/></p>
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Types of Sites

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> monument | <input type="checkbox"/> recreational | <input type="checkbox"/> residential | <input type="checkbox"/> aviation | <input type="checkbox"/> gate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin | <input type="checkbox"/> tree(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> religious | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime | <input type="checkbox"/> fence | <input type="checkbox"/> garden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> machinery | <input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous |

Historical Themes

Heritage Study Theme	AHC Theme No.	Heritage Study Theme	AHC Theme No.
Early settlement	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Industry	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="InManufacturing"/>
Maritime	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Community Life	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Tourism	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Urbanization	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>
Transport	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Landscapes	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text" value="IpsIndustrial"/>
Townships	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>	Miscellaneous	<input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/>

Significant Architectural Features

- ☐ Original Materials
- ☐ Original Chimneys
- ☐ Wall Decoration
- ☐ Verandah Structure
- ☐ Verandah Decoration
- ☐ Original Parapet
- ☐ Other Prominent Elevations
- ☐ Appropriate Fence
- ☐ Early Garden

Roof	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Openings	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Decoration	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Finish	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Stylistic Character	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>

Present Threats

- ☐ Human; mining
- ☐ Human; visitor erosion
- ☐ Human; vandalism
- ☒ Human; development
- ☐ Human; conservation/maintenance
- ☐ Human; stock
- ☐ Natural Forces; erosion
- ☐ Natural Forces; vegetation
- ☐ Not threatened

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Site Address	No.	Street/Site Name	Town/Suburb	Postcode
	200	McCurdy Road	Fyansford	3221
Site Name GC - Geelong Cement Processing				
Description <p>The cement works at Fyansford have evolved over a one hundred year period. They consist of buildings of various ages and construction materials and designs. They are predominantly industrial buildings constructed of concrete and/or steel and designed as functional buildings to house large equipment. On the McCurdy Road site there are masses of railway tracks leading to the storage silos, the smaller ones dating from about 1900, which are also next to the bagging equipment and fed by the cement conveyor. The former head office is also located on this part of the site.</p> <p>On the site to the north of High Street there are numerous large buildings and equipment such as the general office, engineers office, personnel offices, canteen laboratory, OPS centre, amenities, electrical workshop, boilermakers workshop, maintenance shop, stores, riggers, carpenters and plumbers workshop, oil tank, rotating kilns no. 6, 7, and 8, slurry silos and basins, residue handling, clinker conveyor, clinker storage, raw mills, cement mills, limestone storage and recover, cement conveyor and power station.</p> <p>The boundaries of this site include both sides of High Street, in particular that area on which the early works were constructed, especially the vertical kilns and chimney stacks. The base of the No. 3 stack and associated ruins, located on the boundary of High Street is particularly important as it is clearly identified with incised lettering "A.P.C. Established 1890", and is visible from the road.</p> <p>NOTE: It is acknowledged that the company has already produced some excellent interpretative material such as videos and a book. The recent videos produced by the company are particularly helpful in interpreting the site and the manufacturing process and the changes that have occurred over the one hundred year period. The history of the site and company, written by John McNeill and commissioned by the company for their one hundred year celebration is an outstanding reference and interpretative tool.</p>				
History <p>The original Fyansford works, operated from 1890 to 1912, are located on the south side of High Street. Initially five vertical kilns were built and all kilns and boiler house were connected to a large single brick flue, built on the hillside with a tall 46 metre brick chimney. Horse drays carted sacks up the hill and into Geelong. The layout was arranged to take advantage of the steep hillside running down from the Orphanage property in McCurdy Road to behind where the base of no. 3 stack now stands. As bottle-shaped vertical kilns can be built (brick structure) against a steep slope, preparation of kiln feed can be made on a level cut into the hill opposite the top of the kiln to facilitate feeding in of that material, and final grinding of the clinker extracted from the bottom of the kiln can be carried out down on that level. The land was leased from the Government until purchased in 1930. The company was liquidated in 1905 and purchased by Peter McCann and others. From 1912 until 1924 the first rotary kiln plant was built on the original site with a complete change of process. From 1924 the present plant, on the north side of High St. was established, expanded and reorganised several times. Major upgrading of the process, expansion of the plant and reorganisation of services continued. The storage silos and bagging plant remains at the top of the hill in McCurdy's Road.</p>				
Heritage Precinct: Significant Urban Character Features visually connected to this place <i>(this section is only applicable to places in precincts)</i>				
Precinct Name N/A				
Neighbouring Buildings	<input type="checkbox"/> Similar Types <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Bulk/Form			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Similar Styles <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Architectural Detailing			
Urban Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Similar Construction Dates <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Materials & Finishes			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Set Backs <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Fence Designs & Locations			
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Historical Development <input type="checkbox"/> Original Paving			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Urban Focii <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Allotment Sizes			
Landscaping	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant Views <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Street Furniture			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Kerbing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Treelines <input type="checkbox"/> Public Gardens <input type="checkbox"/> Median Strips <input type="checkbox"/> Nature Strips				

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SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Site Address	No.	Street/Site Name	Town/Suburb	Postcode
	200	McCurdy Road	Fyansford	3221
			Site Name	GC - Geelong Cement Processing

Comparative Listings

The first Portland Cement works to commence operation in Australia was Brighton, South Australia in 1882, but it closed the next year. By 1990, twenty-six works had commenced but only sixteen were still operating. Of these, the two oldest are, Portland NSW 1889 (now operating as part of BCSC) and Fyansford 1890 (now operating as Australian Cement Ltd.) ⁴

Blue Circle Cement, a much more recent place, is still operating in Geelong,

Statement of Cultural Significance

The Geelong Cement Processing Plant at Fyansford is **scientifically significant** at a **Regional level** for its potential to yield evidence in the form of archaeological deposits which are likely to contain evidence of technological value with particular regard to the former processing plant and of changes to the cement making processes and machinery, over a period of 100 years.

It is **historically significant** at a **Regional level** for its association with Fyansford and Geelong communities in the production of cement in one of Geelong's oldest and largest industrial plants, for over 100 years,. It is also significant for its evolution of the production of Portland cement of one hundred years. The cement works has been integrally related to one of Geelong's most pioneering industrial families, the McCann family business, since they purchased it in 1888. From 1912 the first rotary kiln plant was built on the original site with a complete change of process.

It is **socially significant** at a **Local level** for its association with thousands of families, often several generations of each family, for whom most of their livelihood was gained as employees. Employees also had a strong recreation club and sporting clubs, and a museum over a long period. The close association of the local community was reinforced by the strong visual presence of the plant from within Fyansford and to as far as the chimney stacks are visible around Geelong.

Overall, the Geelong Cement Processing Plant is of **Regional Significance**.

Recommendation:
That a Conservation Management Plan be carried out on the site, which should further investigate the industrial archaeological potential of the site and comparative analysis with similar sites in Victoria and Australia and the impact on these things if the plant is closed and developed for other purposes. Further investigation by an Industrial Archaeologist is most important. Also see **Note** under Description.

References

1. Wynd, *So Fine A Country: A History of the Shire of Corio*, p.88.
2. Information from Geelong Cement Museum.
3. Geelong Advertiser.
4. John McNeill, *A Journey to Destiny 1890 - 1990*, Australian Cement Limited, 1990.

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