

RUFFEY'S CREEK MINERS WALL & SWIMMING POOL WALL

Place No. 340

ADDRESS Rear 61 & 108 Parker Street
Templestowe

Last Update 16/03/2005

DESCRIPTION Radiating retaining walls, curved to strengthen, of roughly ashlar squared boulders of about 600x450mm size, in apparently igneous rock. No.1 is about 15-16 metres long and over two metres high. (The length of No.2 is uncertain, as part is inaccessible). No.1 is located on the north (rear) boundary of 61 Parker Street, on Ruffey's Creek and No.2 on the south bank at the rear of 108 Parker Street. Here there is also a dam wall (now breached) penetrated by 300mm steel pipe. The creek bed has been cut into the bedrock. The old timber footbridge survives next to the concrete road bridge, from which the swimming pool walls can be clearly seen.

Comparable to the remains of the Coffey Dam (timber) Yarra Street (rear of former post office) and the Water Race, Pound Bend (not located). Other schools developed swimming pools including (in 1927) at Heidelberg, but this one is early.

Condition Good **Integrity** Not known

Threats **Key elements**

Designer

HISTORY The wall No.1 is the 'Miner's Wall' built in the 1850s to wash ore. Part was demolished in 1979 [1] and it has recently been re-pointed. Wall No.2 is a dam and retaining wall, built similarly by a local committee to form a swimming pool for Templestowe Primary School in 1910. 'As it filled only in winter, it had little value' [2].

SOURCES

[1] Jim Poulter, quoted by Kelly Bourne in 'Left out of Study' Doncaster and Templestowe News, 20 November 1991 p.5 and Hazel Poulter, Templestowe : A Folk History, Melbourne 1991, gives the date of the pool as "the 1920s".

[2] L.J. Blake (Editor), Vision and Realisation. A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria, Melbourne 1973, Vol.3, p.336

Creation Date c.1850s, c.1920 **Change Dates**

Associations **Local Themes**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE A masonry radiating retaining wall, (No.1) on Ruffey's Creek at 63 Parker Street, said to derive from mining practice in the 1850s and second similar masonry retaining wall (No.2) further south-east on Ruffey's Creek at 108 Parker Street, with a (now breached) dam wall, built to form a swimming pool for Templestowe Primary School in 1910. They are of local historical significance.

LEVEL Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	

Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
 - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
 - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
 - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
 - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY