

Victorian Heritage Database Report
Quarry



Location:

Duke Street; Berkshire Road, SUNSHINE VIC 3020 - Property No 101

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Stage 2 Heritage Study Complete

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Heritage Overlay Number:

Statement of Significance:

Of historical significance as one of the last remaining bluestone quarries in an area which was once Melbourne's leading producer of bluestone. The rock face indicates the depth of the stone, part of a volcanic plain which stretches for miles west of Melbourne and which is amongst the largest volcanic plains in the world.

Description

One of the only remaining large bluestone quarries in the municipality of Brimbank (or the inner western suburbs). The deep steep-sided quarry hole is in two parts separated by Surrey Road, the eastward continuation of Berkshire Road. The northern section cuts into the escarpment of the Maribyrnong River valley (evidently offering the outcrop which formed the original surface workings). The excavation then follows a rather sinuous form, progressively deepening to the south with sheer walls on the east and west, stepped between terraced access tracks. The former line of Berkshire Road has been quarried away. South of Surrey Road is a deep rectangular hole bounded by Duke, Surrey and Cumberland Streets and the continuation of Middlesex Street. This is partially filled with water, and has access tracks on stepped terraces. Much of the spoil and waste rock of the northern part of the quarry system has been dumped over the edge of the escarpment and so has spilled down into the river valley. Some attempts have been made in recent years to remove this waste and rehabilitate the unstable slopes.

The crushing and loading plant has been dismantled, but the quarry itself has remained as left. Plans have been floated in recent years for filling, housing development and creation of park land utilising the cliff faces and deep holes as lakes and park land.

3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.4 Exploiting natural resources

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| Heritage Study / Consultant | Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000; Brimbank - Melbourne Western Region Industrial Heritage Study, G. Vines & A. Ward, 1989 |
| Construction Date Range | 1920 - |
| Architect / Designer | |
| Municipality | BRIMBANK CITY |
| Other names | |
| Hermes number | 106047 |
| Property number | 101 |

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online