

Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*



Name	Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE)
Location	118–160 McCrae Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City Council
Date Registered	20 August 1982
VHR Number	VHR H1505
VHR Category	Registered Place
Hermes Number	129



Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) (June, 2019)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

To amend the existing registration for VHR H1505 in accordance with s.62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* by:

- Adding land and clarifying the extent of registration
- Updating the statement of significance and converting it to the current format
- Changing the name of the registration
- Adding a permit policy and permit exemptions in accordance with s.49(3) of the Act.

Reasons for the proposed amendment:

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) was included in Register of Government Buildings in 1982. Only buildings could be registered at this time, and no land could be registered. Additionally, only some of the buildings at the place are identified in the registration. The proposed changes in this amendment will provide clarity about what is included in the registration. It is also proposed to change the name of registration, update the statement of significance and add a permit policy and permit exemptions.

The existing registration documentation is provided at Attachment 1 of this report.

STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director

Recommendation Date: Monday 15 July 2019

Advertising Period: Friday 19 July – Monday 16 September 2019

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.

AMENDMENT BACKGROUND

An application to amend this registration was accepted by the Executive Director on 26 June 2019.

Including land and clarifying the extent of registration

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) was included in the Register of Government Buildings in 1982. At this time, only buildings could be registered, not the land the buildings stand on, land surrounding buildings or land that contributes to the protection or understanding of the place. Heritage Victoria is undertaking a program of including land in early registrations to ensure these places are adequately protected and to improve consistency with current registration practices. It is proposed that land is included to the registration of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE). There is currently no diagram of the extent of registration and the current description of the extent of registration is unclear. This process will provide clarity for all parties about what exactly is included in the extent of registration.

Updating Statement of Significance

The existing Statement of Significance is in an earlier format. It is proposed to revise it and update it to the current format.

Changing the name of the registration

It is proposed the name of the registration is changed from 'Former Technical College' to 'Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE)' to better reflect the significance of the place. The School of Mines operated on the site from 1873. Much of the significant fabric on the site relates to its use as a School of Mines.

Updating permit policy and permit exemptions

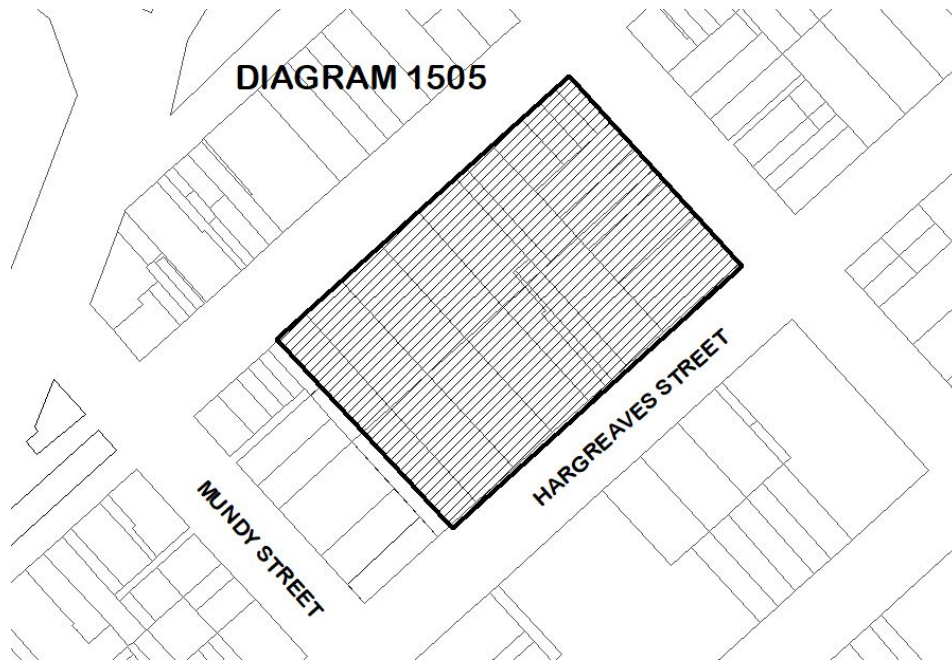
There is currently no permit policy or specific permit exemptions for the place. It is proposed they are added to specify works and activities that can be carried out without a permit application.

Diagram of the place showing main buildings



RECOMMENDED EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

It is recommended that all of the place shown outlined on Diagram 1505 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 687065; Lot 1 on Title Plan 687935; Lot 1 on Title Plan 683461; Lot 1 on Title Plan 951492; Lot 1 on Title Plan 903362; Lot 1 on Title Plan 697266; Lot 2 on Title Plan 951492; Lots 1 and 3 on Title Plan 952668; Lots 1 and 3 on Title Plan 694614; Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 703125; Lot 1 on Title Plan 340; Lots 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 on Title Plan 747172; Crown Allotments 4, 5, 14, 15, 17, Section 14C at Bendigo Parish of Sandhurst; and land including part of the pavement on Hargreaves, Chapel and McCrae Streets be included in the registration.



The extent of registration of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1505 including the land, all buildings (exteriors and interiors), palisade fence along McCrae Street and attached gates, service roads, trees, and landscape elements.

The recommended extent is the same as the nominated extent.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION



RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The proposed extent of registration includes all elements of primary cultural heritage significance, including all buildings purpose-built for the Former Mechanics Institute and Former School of Mines and features such as the palisade fence along the McCrae Street frontage. It includes sufficient land to protect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

CHANGE OF NAME

Current name: Former Technical College

Proposed name: Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE)

It is proposed to change the name of the place to better reflect its significance. The Bendigo School of Mines operated on the site from 1873 and this name was retained until 1959. Much of the significant fabric on the site relates to its use as a School of Mines. This name is also consistent with the naming convention of comparable places in the VHR.

BACKGROUND

WHAT IS AT THE PLACE?

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is situated on an approximately 2.5 hectare flat block on the northern edge of central Bendigo. The campus contains buildings constructed between 1864 and 1991, together with service roads, pathways, car parking and landscaped areas. Nineteenth and early twentieth-century buildings are associated with the Mechanics Institute and School of Mines and reflect a number of stylistic influences. Red brick is the predominant construction material. The main frontage runs along McCrae Street and is the most ornate, featuring a highly decorative Classical styled rendered buildings with a three-storey tower. Buildings hidden from street view are externally less ornate but some feature notable interiors. The Hargreaves Street frontage includes additional late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings related to the development of technical education on the site. Modern TAFE buildings lie on the Chapel Street and Munday Street ends of the site.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE?

In 1854 part of the current site was secured for the Sandhurst Mechanics Institute and library and a canvas, timber-framed pavilion officially opened in 1856. In 1864 the first permanent Mechanics Institute, designed by W.C. Vahland and R. Getzschmann, was added. Vahland subsequently designed additions to this building and the other nineteenth-century buildings on the site. In 1871 the Institute established a School of Mines which gradually expanded into other areas of the site. In 1904 the School of Mines officially took over the Mechanics Institute. The Junior Technical School was added in 1926–27. In 1959 the School of Mines became the Bendigo Technical College, which subsequently became the Institute of Technology in 1965 and later a TAFE college. The place currently operates as the Bendigo TAFE City Campus.

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY(IES) FOR THIS PLACE?

The formally recognised Traditional Owners for this area are the Dja Dja Wurrung People. The Dja Dja Wurrung People are represented by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The buildings (exteriors and interiors) and other features of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for educational purposes. This includes Building A (Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building), Building E (Former School of Mines and Industries Building), Building H (Former Junior Technical School), the 1880s and 1890s portions of Building L (Former Mechanics Institute Library and Senior Chemistry Laboratory and Assaying Room), Building M (Former Chemistry and Metallurgy Laboratories), the palisade fence along the McCrae Street frontage and its attached gates, and nineteenth and early twentieth-century fixtures and fittings attached to all the buildings at the time of registration.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria for the following reasons:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural place and objects.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is historically significant as a centre of mining and metallurgical education which was important to the goldmining industry and the wealth of Victoria in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The range of buildings and other features on the site collectively demonstrate the evolution of technical and vocational education from the 1850s onwards. The early foundations of technical education are evident in the Former Mechanics Institute, Former Mechanics Institute Library and array of Former School of Mines buildings. The scale and prominence of these buildings demonstrates the central role played by these Mechanics Institutes and Schools of Mines in the later part of the nineteenth century. The Former Junior Technical School demonstrates how earlier forms of technical education evolved into trades education in the early twentieth century. [Criterion A].

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is architecturally significant as a fine representative example of a technical education campus. It consists of buildings of different types and eras that were constructed for specific educational purposes. Together they express both the practical requirements of technical education and its ongoing importance. The place includes a number of notable individual nineteenth-century buildings designed by the distinguished German architect W.C. Vahland. The Former Mechanics Institute and Former School of Mines buildings on McCrae Street display fine Classical characteristics. The laboratory buildings are significant as remaining examples of Vahland's designs for practical buildings. The Former Mechanics Institute Library is a highly original interior space with decoration by important artist and modeller, Otto Waschatz, and is an excellent example of his work. [Criterion D].

PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 1505 including the land, all buildings (exteriors and interiors), service roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the *Heritage Act*) or after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act*). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

Helen Lardner Conservation and Design (HLCD) prepared the *Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Conservation Management Plan* in 2011. It should be used to guide decision making about the place and regularly updated.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Any works that may affect historical archaeological features, deposits or artefacts at the place is likely to require a permit, permit exemption or consent. Advice should be sought from the Archaeology Team at Heritage Victoria.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) lies in the physical fabric of the place, particularly the buildings and features constructed for the purposes of technical education in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings, additions and features constructed in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century are not of heritage significance. These varying degrees of cultural heritage significance are outlined below. The naming convention of buildings used here has been drawn from plans supplied by Bendigo TAFE and the *Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Conservation Management Plan*.

- a. All of the buildings and features listed here are of **primary cultural heritage significance** in the context of the place. The buildings and features of cultural heritage significance are shown in **red** on the diagram. A permit is required for most works or alterations. See Permit Exemptions section for specific permit exempt activities:
 - Building A (Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building)
 - Building E (Former School of Mines and Industries Building)
 - Building H (Former Junior Technical School)
 - 1880s and 1890s portions of Building L (Former Mechanics Institute Library and Senior Chemistry Laboratory and Assaying Room). Note: the 1990s portion of Building L, closest to Building E, is not of primary cultural heritage significance.
 - Building M (Former Chemistry and Metallurgy Laboratories)
 - The palisade fence along the McCrae Street frontage and its attached gates.
- b. The following buildings (and parts of buildings) and features are of **no cultural heritage significance**. These are shown in yellow on the diagram. Specific permit exemptions are provided for these items:
 - Building C
 - 1990s additions to Building E
 - 1990s portion of Building L.
 - Building P.



- Primary Significance
- No cultural heritage significance

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXEMPTED WORKS OR ACTIVITIES (PERMIT EXEMPTIONS)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the Heritage Act).

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3

All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Under s.38 of the *Heritage Act 2017* the Executive Director may include in his recommendation categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object without the need for a permit under Part 5 of the Act. The Executive Director must not make a recommendation for any categories of works or activities if he considers that the works or activities may harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object. The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE).

Specific Permit Exemptions

Public Safety and Security

- All works required to maintain, secure and make safe buildings and structures including the removal of broken glass, the temporary shuttering of windows and covering of holes providing this work is reversible and does not have a detrimental impact on fabric.
- Erection of temporary fencing necessary to maintain public safety.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. It is acknowledged that in some instances additional damage to significant fabric may be required to stabilise and make safe. In these instances every attempt must be made to conserve and retain as much significant fabric as possible. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.

Garden and landscape

- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or other services provided there are no visible above ground elements. Landscaping, paving etc. is to be returned like for like on the completion of works.
- The processes of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, disease and weed control, maintenance of existing plants and replacement with similar species.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous trees to maintain safety.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood, pest and disease control, cabling and similar supportive works.
- Establishment, repair or removal of existing hard landscape elements such as paving, paths, stairs and garden walls.
- Works associated with the management of possums or vermin.
- Clearing and maintenance of drains and gutters.

Buildings and features of primary cultural heritage significance

These works can be carried out without a permit provided they do not cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Exteriors

- Works to, or removal of, the modern linking structure between the 1990s portion of Building L and Building E, subject to a permit application for the management of the fabric of Building E where it intersects with the linking structure.
- Works to, or removal of, 1990s additions to Building E subject to a permit application for the management of the fabric of Building E where it intersects with the addition.
- Removal, replacement or works to recently installed services and structures such as fire services, boom gates, bin stores, bollards, lighting and security devices etc, provided the location and scale remains the same.
- Removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc and making good.
- Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour, finish and type provided that preparation or painting does not remove earlier paint finishes or other decorative schemes.
- Installation or repair of damp-proofing in a manner which does not harm significant fabric.
- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.
- Removal or replacement of existing external signage provided the size, location and material remains the same.

Interiors

- Painting of previously painted walls, ceilings and other elements in the same colour, finish and type provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of earlier paint or other decorative schemes. No stained timberwork is to be painted.
- Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled surfaces including ceilings, joinery, doors, architraves and skirtings by non-abrasive methods.
- Installation, removal or replacement of safety devices such as detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings, window dressings, and devices for mounting artworks and noticeboards.

- Removal and replacement of information, directional and advertising signage within existing signage and display cases.
- Demolition or removal of the following post-1950s items: stud/partition walls, suspended ceilings or wall linings (including plasterboard, laminate and Masonite), glazed screens, flush panel or part-glazed laminated doors, aluminium-framed windows, lights and light fittings, built-in cupboards, cubicle partitions, computer and office fitouts and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves, and provided that the central plant is concealed, and that the work is done in a manner which does not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- Works to maintain or refurbish existing post-1950s bathrooms and toilets, including installing new appliances, retiling and the like.
- Replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, electrical wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric.
- Works to maintain or refurbish existing kitchens, bars, canteens and hospitality facilities including installing new appliances and floor coverings.
- Repairs, refitting or rewiring lift cars, motors, equipment and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical and IT wiring provided that such works do not require chasing or cutting into significant fabric and providing that any early light switches, light fittings, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits and unused original wiring should remain in situ.
- Installation of plant within the roof space, providing that it does not impact on the external appearance of the building or involve structural changes.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Buildings of no cultural heritage significance

Exteriors

All the permit exemptions for buildings and features of primary significance and also:

- Demolition and removal of buildings where they are freestanding and do not intersect with buildings of primary heritage significance provided a report and plans showing adequate protection for the buildings of primary significance is first approved the Executive Director.
- Alteration of existing buildings, within the existing footprints and envelopes of those buildings.

Note: a permit is required for new buildings that will replace buildings that have been demolished or removed.

Interiors

All works.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Local Government Authority	City of Greater Bendigo
Heritage Overlay	HO176
Heritage Overlay Controls	External Paint: No Internal Alteration: No Tree: No
Other Overlays	Design and Development Overlay (DDO) Land Subject to Inundation (LSIO) Parking Overlay (PO)
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register	No, but areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity associated with Bendigo Creek.
Other Listings	National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
Other Names	Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Bendigo Technical College Former Technical College Bendigo Mechanics Institute School of Mines

HISTORY

In 1854 part of the current Bendigo TAFE site was secured for the Sandhurst Mechanics Institute and library and a canvas, timber-framed pavilion officially opened in 1856. In 1864 prolific German architects W.C. Vahland and R. Getzschmann designed the first permanent Mechanics Institute building. It included a library and geological collection. Vahland subsequently designed additions to this building and the other nineteenth-century buildings on the site including the unifying façade along McCrae Street (1878), the School of Mines and Industries Building on Hargreaves Street (1884), the octagonal Mechanics Institute Library (1887) and the three-storey towered building on McCrae Street (1889) which contained a lecture hall that could accommodate 600 people. In 1871, the Mechanics Institute undertook to establish a School of Mines, primarily but not exclusively to provide practical and scientific education related to the mining industry. The School of Mines officially opened in 1873 and offered a wide range of subjects including geology, surveying, botany and architectural drawing. The School of Mines erected classrooms and a Chemistry and Metallurgy Laboratory between 1879 and 1892. A further chemistry laboratory for senior students was erected in 1912. In 1904 the School of Mines officially took over the site and its assets from the Mechanics Institute. By the 1920s, technical and trades education had become the focus. The Junior Technical School was added 1926–7 to accommodate preparatory classes in trades education for younger boys. In 1959 the School of Mines became the Bendigo Technical College, which subsequently became the Institute of Technology in 1965 and later a TAFE college. The place is currently Bendigo TAFE City Campus.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Architect name: William Charles Vahland
Architectural style name: Classical
Construction started date: 1864
Construction ended date: 1991

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Bendigo School of Mines (Bendigo TAFE) is situated on an approximately 2.5 hectare flat block on the northern edge of central Bendigo. The campus contains numerous buildings, together with service roads, pathways, landscaping and car parking. The site is densely developed with buildings constructed closely together and few landscaped areas. Buildings were constructed between 1864 and 1991 and reflect a range of stylistic influences and historic and current uses. Its main frontage runs along McCrae Street and is defined by a cast iron palisade fence. The McCrae Street elevation consists of two adjoining rendered red brick buildings which form Building A, the Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines (1864–89). Its

uniting facade, featuring Classical features, is highly decorative and includes a three-storey corner tower. Building A features a number of large, high-ceilinged internal spaces. Building L, the Former Mechanics Institute Library, is internally accessible via Building A. The library is an octagonal two-storey red brick structure that is externally plain but internally features highly decorative plaster detail, first floor balcony and domed ceiling. A single-storey addition (Former Senior Chemistry Laboratory and Assaying Room, 1892) lies to the rear and another addition (1994) occupies the space between Buildings L and E. Building M, the Former Chemistry and Metallurgy Laboratories (1873–79) is a single-storey redbrick building with rendered detail and several substantial chimneys related to the processing of metals. Building E, the Former School of Mines and Industries Building (1884–1940s) is a two-storey building and a prominent feature of the Hargreaves Street streetscape. The Romanesque-influenced 1880s portion features cream-brick façade and arched openings. Building E's later additions (1923 and 1944) form its current u-shaped plan. Building H, the former Junior Technical School (1926), sits in a prominent position on the Hargreaves and Chapel Street corner and is a two-storey brick building built to a u-shape plan with decorative rendered entry bay. It exhibits interwar Free Classical styling. A timber verandah runs around the rear. Building P (1991) is a modern building forming part of the Hargreaves Street frontage. It was substantially updated in 2017. Building C (1983) is a modern three-storey building that takes up much of the block on the Mundy Street side.

Objects integral

None.

Archaeology

There is no identified archaeology of State level significance at this place.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – Generally the intactness of the place is very good. Exteriors of all buildings of primary significance are predominately intact, though there has been a degree of alteration across all buildings on the site. Many interiors have been substantially altered to provide office and classroom space (June 2019).

Integrity – The integrity of the place is very good. The cultural heritage values of the place can be easily read in the extant fabric (June 2019).

CONDITION

The place is generally in very good condition. Most of the buildings have been well maintained and used reasonably consistently since they were constructed. Some deterioration including cracking and rising damp is evident in several buildings (June 2019).

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

Baragwanath, Pam and James, Ken (2015) *These Walls Speak Volumes: A History of Mechanics Institutes in Victoria*

HLCD (2011) *Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Conservation Management Plan*

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



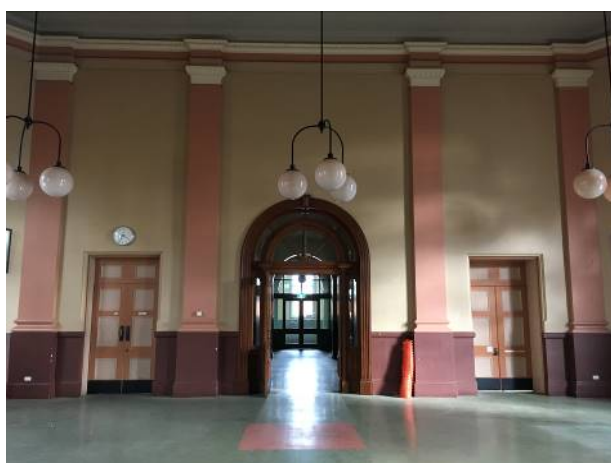
2019, Building A, Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building.



2019, Building A, Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building, interior.



2019, Building A, Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building.



2019, Building A, Former Mechanics Institute and School of Mines Building, interior.



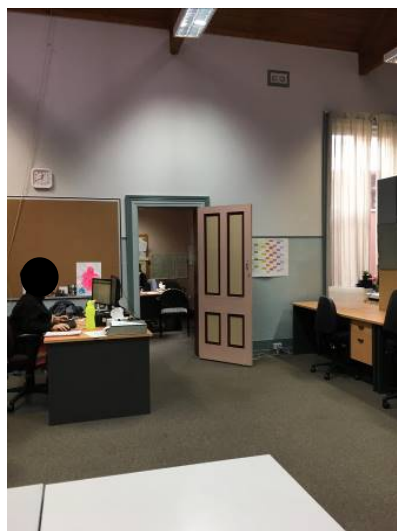
2019, Building L, Former Mechanics Institute Library portion.



2019, Building L, Former Mechanics Institute Library, interior.



2019, Building M, Former Metallurgy Labs.



2019, Building M, Former Metallurgy Labs, interior.



2019, Building E, Former School of Mines and Industries Building.



2019, Building E, Former School of Mines and Industries Building, interior.



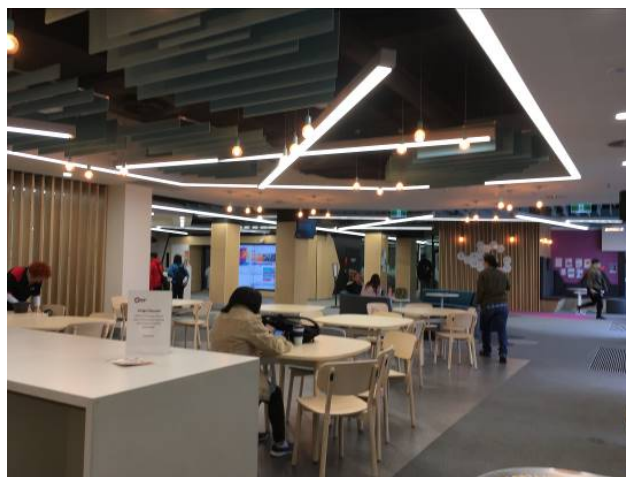
2019, Building H Former Junior Technical School, view from Hargreaves Street.



2019, Building H Former Junior Technical School.



2019, Building P.



2019, Building P, interior.



2019, Building C.



2019, 1990s portion of Building L (left), connecting walkway to Building E, and NW elevation of Building E.



2019, 1990s additions to Building E.



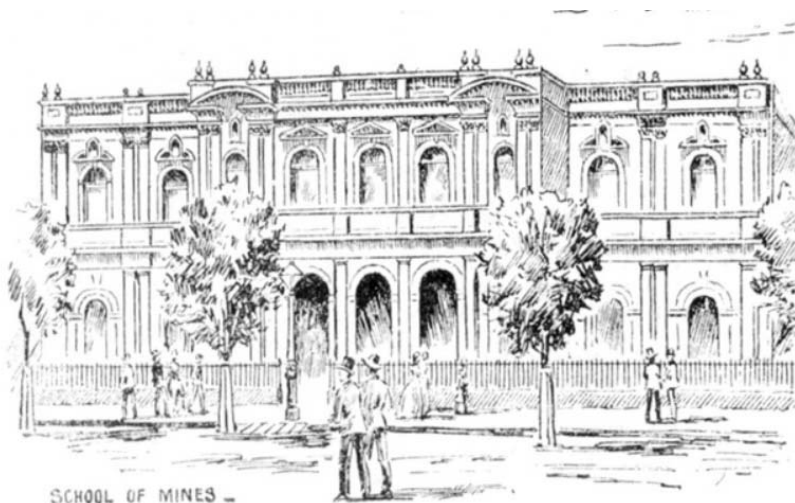
2019, typical landscaping between buildings.

HISTORICAL PHOTOS



1896, land reserved for the Mechanics Institute.

Source: Sands and McDougall, reproduced in the *Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE Conservation Management Plan*



1888, view of the School of Mines from McCrae Street.

Source: Illustrated Australian News



1914, laboratories.
Source: Museum Victoria



1929, aerial photo clearly showing the School of Mines buildings at centre of the block and newly built Junior Technical School on the Chapel Street corner.
Source: State Library of Victoria



c.1950, McCrae Street frontage.
Source: State Library of Victoria

ATTACHMENT 1

EXISTING REGISTRATION DETAILS TO BE SUPERSEDED BY THE FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION

EXISTING CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

Registered place

EXISTING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

Bendigo City Technical College, including School of Mines Building, Chemistry and Metallurgical Laboratories, Classroom Block and Library, McCrae Street, Bendigo.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G39 12 October 1988 p3087]

There is currently no extent diagram for the place.

EXISTING STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

What is significant?

The Bendigo Regional College of TAFE has developed over a number of years on land bounded by McCrae, Chapel, Hargreaves and Mundy Streets. In 1854 an acre site was secured by a Government grant for the Sandhurst Mechanics Institute and library, and in 1871 the Institute decided to set up a School of Mines. The purpose of such a facility was to provide scientific and practical training focussed on, but not exclusively related to, mining. This school was initially allocated teaching space in the Institute building, however expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, necessitated the construction of associated buildings on much of the site.

A timber framed, canvas pavilion, constructed in McCrae Street in 1854 to house an exhibition, was officially opened as the Mechanics Institute in 1856. In 1864 the first permanent Mechanics Institute, designed by Vahland and Getzschmann, was added to the west side of the pavilion. This contained a library, committee room and public reading room at ground floor level and a hall above. After fire destroyed the pavilion in 1865, it was replaced by a new section, and a further wing was added to the east in 1871. The newly formed School of Mines initially used space in the Institute building, and classes officially began in 1873. The resultant building lacked ornamentation, and in 1878 plans for the addition of a new facade and portico to the McCrae Street facade, by the architect W.C. Vahland, were approved. The completed building opened in 1879.

The first building constructed for, and by, the school was a chemistry laboratory, designed by Vahland, which appears to have been completed in 1873. Additions were made to this laboratory in 1879 to provide space for metallurgical pursuits. Further additions were made to the building in 1891, providing additional space for metallurgical and assaying work.

In the 1880s, three buildings, designed by Vahland, were constructed on the site. In 1884 a building, containing workshops and classrooms, was built in Hargreaves Street for the School of Mines. From 1885 -87 a library, octagonal in form, was built to the rear of the McCrae Street building for the Mechanics Institute and a three storey towered building, constructed to the west of the original 1864 building in McCrae Street for the School of Mines, was opened in 1890. It contained a public lecture hall to seat 600 people.

In 1904 the School of Mines officially took over the assets and liabilities of the Mechanics Institute, including the library. Senior chemistry laboratories were built behind the octagonal library, probably completed in 1912, and a new workshop building had been constructed to the east of the 1884 workshop building in Hargreaves Street by 1922. In 1926-7 a Junior Technical College was constructed at the east corner of the site, to accommodate classes which had commenced officially in 1913. Such schools were established to provide boys, who intended to pursue technical studies, with early training. In 1959 the School of Mines became the Bendigo Technical College, which subsequently became the Institute of Technology in 1965 and later a TAFE college.

As noted, the prolific German architect, WC Vahland designed all the 19th century buildings on the site. After arriving in Australia in 1854, he established himself as an architect in Bendigo, and designed the majority of the city's important buildings. He became closely associated with public life in the city and as President of the Bendigo School of Mines and a part time lecturer, he was personally involved with the development of the School.

The five buildings he designed vary in character. The unifying two storey facade, constructed in 1878, is symmetrical and incorporates a protruding central section with an arcaded entrance porch and framing vertical bays with segmental pediments and oculi. Classical in style, paired pilasters and half columns divide the facade into bays which contain arch headed openings and pedimented aedicules at first floor level. A balustraded parapet with urns crowns the composition.

The adjacent 1890 towered building is complementary in style and is also crowned with a balustraded parapet with urns. Its three stories are clearly divided horizontally with the lower rusticated level incorporating arch headed openings and those above incorporating rectangular openings. A trabeated system divides the facade into bays. The corner feature of this building is a tower with mansard roof and dormer windows. Decorative panels incorporate festoons and at street level unusual strapwork is featured within the plinth.

The 1884 workshop building in Hargreaves Street is of cream brick with contrasting render pilasters, cornice and pediment. The symmetrical facade incorporates concentric arches, reminiscent of Romanesque work.

The 1887 library is a simple red brick octagonal building which lacks the usual 19th century external elevational treatment due to its location at the rear of the Mechanics Institute building. It does however contain a grand and exuberantly decorated interior, with glazed ribbed dome supported on eight Corinthian columns, themselves supported by an octagonal balcony and eight Tuscan columns. Decorative plasterwork, an early gasolier and gas light brackets remain in the space.

The red brick chemistry and metallurgy laboratory building, is of practical design, with monitored roof form and decorative treatment confined to a pilastered and parapeted facade.

How is it significant?

The Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE is of architectural, historical and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE is of architectural significance for the group of 19th century buildings all designed by the distinguished German architect WC Vahland. Both the McCrae Street buildings display fine classical characteristics, while the library is a highly original interior space. The decoration undertaken by important artist and modeller, Otto Waschatz is a fine example of his work; other examples being the Town Halls in both Melbourne and Bendigo. Both the workshop and the chemistry laboratory are significant as

remaining examples of Vahland's designs for practical buildings. They remain substantially intact as early examples of such buildings.

The Bendigo Technical College is of historical significance for its associations with the early history of Mechanics Institutes and free public libraries, with early experiments in technical education, and with the prosperous early years of Australia's mining industry. Its establishment reflects the strong tradition of mechanics institutes and mining schools brought to Victoria by British migrants, with Schools of Mines being particularly popular in Victorian gold mining towns such as Bendigo, Castlemaine and Ballarat. From 1863 to 1900 the School of Mines at Bendigo was the centre of teaching of the mining and metallurgical sciences so important to the wealth of Victoria.

The Bendigo Technical College is of scientific significance for the metallurgical laboratory which preserves remnant equipment and as one of the earliest extant assaying laboratories. It conveys the importance of the place in the context of Bendigo's gold mining history.

EXISTING PERMIT POLICY

There is currently no Permit Policy

EXISTING PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.