

Maldon Statement of Significance - 2022

Heritage Place:	All heritage places in Maldon and surrounds.]	PS ref no:	HO01 – HO26, HO28 – HO245, HO247 – HO284, HO286 – HO354; HO362, HO364, HO375; HO387 – HO398, HO400 – HO416; HO426 - HO433; HO435, HO438, HO440, HO443, HO444, HO445, HO446 – HO459, HO461 – HO475; HO480– HO482, HO491 – HO569 and HO981
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What is significant?

The combination of the following features contributes to Maldon's significance:

- The interest, diversity, integrity and authenticity of the range of buildings and works (including the street form, water channels, drainage patterns, exotic plantings and mine workings) that relate to gold-mining periods, in particular dating from the 1850s to the 1930s.
- The mature and attractive gold mining quality of the landscape and of the township
- The outstanding interpretative value in respect of both its general arrangement and detailed elements
- The evidence of early settlement patterns and the diverse cultures that pioneered the area.
- The physical and visual relationship between the town and mining activity (including alluvial gullies, creeks, abandoned mullock heaps, tunnels, quartz kilns, Beehive Mine chimney, tailings and relic structures).
- The interaction between the area's landforms and a wide range of historic development activities – pastoral mining, residential and industrial.
- The influence of the rich geology on the town's evolution and its present character, demonstrated through a diverse range of traditional construction practices.
- The numerous mining relics that demonstrate a wide range of nineteenth century mining technology

How is it significant?

Maldon has historic, rarity, aesthetic, research potential, and representative and social significance to Mount Alexander Shire and Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Maldon has historic and rarity significance for the evolution of mining operations during key periods associated with the 1850s, 1860s and 1880- early 1900 quartz mining boom on a very complex geological formation which is unlike other gold mining districts. The high level of extant archaeological relics and tunnels is unusual (Criterion A and C).

It has outstanding aesthetic significance and rarity value for its collection of very early residential, commercial, government and ecclesiastical buildings that display a high level of individual creativity and architectural excellence dating to the 1850s and 1870s (Criterion B).

It has representative significance for examples of water management systems and outstanding collection of drainage channels and gutters constructed from stone sourced from the underground mines and nearby quarries. The Welsh traditional stonework used in the channels and the design response to the particular characteristics of the local topography and climate is rare in Australia (Criterion B and D).

Maldon has significance for demonstrating the principle characteristics of an evolving gold mining town which experienced cyclic periods of boom and bust. Its symbiotic relationship to the local farming area and provision of residential accommodation in close proximity to mine work is intricately linked to changing mining operations and local mine labour patterns. The development of increasingly larger quartz mining companies, use of the Cornish 'Tribute' system and 'Truck' system of mining sustained a stable town population over a long period. The 'Truck' system of payment resulted in the construction of the Maldon Co-operative Trading Company and store in 1866 (Criterion D).

It has aesthetic significance for its mining landscapes associated with the bulk, scale of mining infrastructure and Miners Residency Areas in close proximity to 19th and early 20th Century architecture and the sweeping vistas of the town from various look out spots such as Mt Tarrengower and nearby hills such as Anzac Hill and the main road approaches (Criterion E).

It has aesthetic significance for its unusual urban qualities including the tightly built up historic commercial centre, narrow street of mid 19th to early 20th Century retail premises linked by verandahs, deep stone gutters and the scattered informal and often isolated former miner's cottages and gardens, the excellent examples of civic and religious buildings, the tree lined avenues, deep drains, parks, gardens and sweeping vistas across the plains (Criterion E).

Maldon has social value for its strong community spirit symbolized by the enduring and deeply felt connections to the town's past that is marked by the National Trust listing Maldon as the first 'Notable Town' in Australia in 1966 (Criterion D).