

**CITY OF ALBANY
INVENTORY OF HERITAGE PLACES**

CONSIDERABLE

PLACE RECORD FORM

Number	Street Name	Locality	Name of Place
	Albany Highway	Albany	RAAF Operation and Power Bunker



SUMMARY DETAILS	
City of Albany Reference Number	A
HCWA Reference Number	
Type of Place	Individual Building or Group
Name of Place	RAAF Operation and Power Bunker
Other names	Operation Bunker

LAND DESCRIPTION			
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio
27653	Lot 6981		LR3082/587

PERIOD	
Design Style	
Construction Date	c1940
Source/Details	

USE(S) OF PLACE	
Original	Military - RAAF Operation and Power Bunker
Present	Vacant
Other	

RATING AND ASSESSMENT	High				Low	
Aesthetic value (streetscape, setting)	1	2 ✓	3	4	5	
Architectural merit (design features)	1	2 ✓	3	4	5	
Rarity value	1	2 ✓	3	4	5	
Value as part of a group/precinct	1 ✓	2	3	4	5	

Condition	1	2	3 ✓	4	5
Integrity	1	2	3	4 ✓	5
Authenticity	1	2 ✓	3	4	5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The RAAF Operation and Power Bunker, a semi-underground concrete and steel building, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

It is one of four sites in Albany that connect to the story of the RAAF operations in Albany during the Second World War and the detachment of the No. 14 Squadron who were located in Albany during the war.

As part of a group of RAAF installations, the bunker would have played a key role as the key communications centre for the allied forces, to provide position plots for civil and courier aircraft and activate air raid warnings as required.

Surrounding the bunker are remnants and material scatter from other structures of the complex, which have the potential to yield further information which will contribute to the understanding of the site.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Considerable

HERITAGE LISTINGS

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Located approximately 1km north of the Albany Airport on the west side. The bunker is a semi-underground building constructed of concrete and reinforced steel. It comprises operations bunker, the engine room (or power plant) engine exhausts and observation turret.

Some of the notable features of this place include:

- Concrete bunker and tunnel structure
- Observation turret
- Engine exhausts
- Remnants in the surrounding landscape of cables, wells, ventilation chutes and covers

Some obvious modifications include:

- There is no plant or equipment still installed in the building although some of the fixtures and fittings remain to provide evidence of these.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The RAAF Operation and Power Bunker is one of four sites that connect to the story of the RAAF operations in Albany during the Second World War and the detachment of the No. 14 Squadron who were located in Albany. The other sites are:

- 35 Radar Station, Stony Hill
- Radar Station (High Frequency Detection Finder (HF/DF) Bunker, Albany Airport [to assist fighter pilots to get their bearings during airborne patrols]
- Power Bunker, Federal Street (land owned by Western Power)

Apart from Stony Hill, the other sites are all located in close proximity to the current airport which was the airfield during the war. The Operation and Power Bunker would have been the key communications centre for the allied forces. Although little information has been located specifically on this bunker, operations centres generally were responsible for activating air raid warnings and to provide position plots for courier and civil aircraft.

The land on which the bunker has been constructed (Lot 6981) was originally part of Lot 4919 which was situated on the eastern side of Albany Hwy. It was originally owned by the State Government then transferred to the Commonwealth Government. In 1965, the land reverted back to State ownership and leased privately to the adjacent property owner for grazing.

ASSOCIATIONS**ASSOCIATION TYPE**

RAAF	Builders/users

HISTORIC THEME/Subtheme**CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Outside Influence/ <i>World Wars and other wars</i>	Rarity
	Integrity
	Value as part of a group/precinct

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Additional Photographs



Attachment - Aerial Photograph of Lot 6981 Albany Highway



Engine Exhausts [City of Albany, 2010]



Observation Turret [City of Albany, 2010]



Garage [City of Albany, 2010]



Showing the overgrowth around the bunker but also how the bunker would have been camouflaged during service. [City of Albany, 2010]



Engine Room [City of Albany, 2010]



Tunnel/bunker [City of Albany, 2010]



Ceiling detail in engine room [City of Albany, 2010]



Stair to tunnel/bunker [City of Albany, 2010]

