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### Is this how we treat our history?

NEWS > LOCAL NEWS 01 JUL 09 @ 09:57AM | BY MATTHEW TURNER



ONE of the most significant remnants of Australia's mining history, located on Adelaide's doorstep, has been scarred by vandals.

The 159-year-old Worthing Mine, near the Field River, at Hallett Cove, is home to the oldest preserved Cornish engine house in the country.

The engine house is the last standing of seven built during Australia's first mining era, in the 1840s and '50s, according to State records.

Today the bluestone Cornish relic, where copper was mined for seven years in the 1850s, is covered in dozens of graffiti tags.

When the Guardian Messenger visited the site last week it found a surrounding razor wire fence had been cut to gain access and three graffiti spray cans had been

dumped in bushes next to the engine house.

The mine, which is State Heritage-listed, on the Register of the National Estate and the Classified List of the National Trust of SA, is in a steep, undeveloped valley owned by the Sheidow family.

Its location means it can only be seen from about five or six houses near Erebus Glen, Hallett Cove.

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A Department of Environment and Heritage spokeswoman said maintenance of the site was the responsibility of the owner.

Sheidow family spokeswoman Georgie Wyness declined to comment.

Marion Historical Society chairman Bob Donley said the mine had to be regularly maintained, regardless of who was responsible.

"It's very much a concern and this shows no understanding or respect for what they're graffitiing," he said.

Mr Donley said the historical society wanted to see the mine become a more accessible fenced-off tourist site, featuring signage and a viewing platform.

Dr Pam Smith, a senior research associate with Flinders' archaeology department, said if the mine was not tended to, the State Government should intervene.

"If they (historic sites) are neglected they'll fall into disrepair. It's really about communities caring about their history and people spending money."

\* What do you think about the state of the historic mine? Log onto our website and follow the story links.



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