
OLD FEDERAL MILL



1 old federal mill starvation
creek warburton site view

Location

BIG CREEK ROAD MCMAHONS CREEK, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1822

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO104

VHR Registration

June 17, 1999

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Old Federal Mill contains the remnants of a technologically innovative sawmill, including concrete machinery foundations, three sawdust heaps, steam winch components, a skyline carriage and modified tram wheels. The mill was operated by the Federal Timber Company from 1922-1934, and cut large volumes of scantling and barrel staves. Timber was despatched to Warburton along the Starvation Creek outlet tramway, remains of which include earthworks, and two large pig-sty bridges. Extensive artefact scatters associated with the mill settlement are distributed along the outlet tramway north of the mill, including glass, ceramics, bricks and metal.

How is it significant?

The Old Federal Mill is of archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Old Federal Mill is historically significant for its associations with Jack Corbett, a French Canadian who introduced North American methods of logging at this mill, including skylines, high lead winching, and multi-drum Washington winches. These techniques enabled very rough ground and steep gullies to be successfully logged, and were quickly adopted by other mills in Victoria. Logging tramways at the mill were also significant for being built to the unusual gauge of four feet, permitting greater stability for the transport of larger loads.

The Old Federal Mill is archaeologically significant for the comparative intactness of its remains which demonstrate the innovative technology originally employed at this mill. The site is also significant for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence relating to the cultural history of sawmilling settlements.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific 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.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

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

Exemptions:

- * fire suppression
- * public safety
- * land care maintenance
- * erosion and salinity control
- * weed and vermin control

Construction dates 1922,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5575

Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1822 in the category described as a Heritage Place, Archaeological Place:

Old Federal Mill, Starvation Creek, Warburton, Yarran Ranges Shire.

EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land including concrete machinery foundations, sawdust heaps, surface artefacts and any other remains of sawmilling activity within a 200 metre radius of a point with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E014 N150 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8022-2-1 McCarthy.

2. The Federal Timber Company's outlet tramway, and all the Crown Land on each side of it for 50 metres, from where the tramway crosses Big Creek Road (E013 N155 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8022-2-1 McCarthy) to the remains of the mill shed (E014 N150 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8022-2-1 McCarthy).

Dated 3 June 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 24 17 June 1999 p.1425]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>