
COMET MILL



1 comet mill mount
disappointment sawdust heap
jun1998

Location

HARRYS NOSE ROAD CLONBINANE, MITCHELL SHIRE

Municipality

MITCHELL SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1816

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO223

VHR Registration

June 17, 1999

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Comet Mill represents a rare example from the later nineteenth century of a large sawmill and associated settlement. It operated from 1884 till 1902, and was connected by an outlet tramway to the railhead at Wandong. The mill was regarded in its day as the largest hardwood sawmill in Australia, processing up to 800 logs per month. The mill includes remarkably well preserved features in view of its advanced age, including concrete machinery foundations, intact earthworks and smaller fittings. The large sawdust heaps demonstrate the scale of milling operations, while large scatters of domestic debris indicate the extent of settlement at the site.

How is it significant?

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

Why is it significant?

The Comet Mill is historically important as one of the earliest sawmills in Victoria to be run by a large company rather than as a family business. It was relatively long lived, and supported an important mill settlement. The company was also one of the earliest to attempt to kiln season Australian hardwoods.

The Comet Mill is archaeologically important for its potential to yield evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of sawmilling, and 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 1884,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5579

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 1816 in the category described as a Heritage Place, Archaeological Place:

Comet Mill, Mount Disappointment, Mitchell Shire.

EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land including machinery foundations, earthworks, sawdust heaps, settlement debris, surface artefacts and any other remains of sawmilling and associated residential activity within a 200 metre radius of the point with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E374 N626 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No 7923-3-1 Reedy Creek.

Dated 3 June 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 24 17 June 1999 p.1423]

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/>