

---

# Cuming-Smith & Co Wood Distillation Works

---

## Location

210 Britannia Creek Road, Wesburn VIC 3799 - Property No 47502

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8022-0038

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO127

## Heritage Listing

Yarra Ranges Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2000

This site, although now partially obliterated, is of state significance as the only evidence of a commercial wood distillation plant in Australia. (Supple 1991)

Heritage Study/Consultant Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000;

Other Names Girl Guides Association Camp, Britannia Guide Camp,

Hermes Number 115257

Property Number

---

## Physical Description 1

Sites associated with the Britannia Creek tramway take their significance from two periods. One was from 1907 to 1924 when Cuming Smith & Co operated a wood distillation plant at Britannia Creek, and the other was from 1924 to 1936 when the Yelland brothers took over and developed the associated sawmill sites. The Britannia Creek tramway connected with the main Warburton railway line at Britannia Siding, east of Yarra Junction.

The site of the Cuming, Smith & Co wood distillation plant has been largely obliterated by a modern sawmill. However, the surviving features are documented as:

- 1) concrete foundations of the original factory, partly overlaid by the new mill but still evident on the northern side.
- 2) three houses once occupied by managers, two of which are used for recreational purposes: 'Guidehouse', 'Brownie House' and a derelict early manager's home.
- 3) scattered artefacts on the perimeter of the new sawmill and around the derelict home.
- 4) terraced hillside where retort wood was stacked for drying.
- 5) a small gatehouse, possibly dating from the factory era. (Supple 1991)

## Physical Conditions

Fair

## Integrity

Altered

*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/>*