
The Log Cabin



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Location

1510 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Mt Dandenong VIC 1510 - Property No 21060

Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO279

Heritage Listing

Yarra Ranges Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

The Log Cabin, built in 1926 by builder John Dodd, is of regional architectural and historic significance.

Architecturally, it is one of the few known structures built entirely out of horizontal logs in the American pioneer fashion, from the 20th century. As such, it is a successful and thorough example of a rustic style, suitable for its location in the heavily wooded Dandenong Ranges, and for its use as a tea room and restaurant.

Historically, it is significant as an early tourist development in the Dandenong's. It is also notable for its connection with John Dodd, who was a noted axeman and builder and constructed a number of log houses in the

area, and was the son of George Dodd, an original co-founder of the Olinda township in the 1890s. (National Trust Classification Report)

Heritage Study/Consultant Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000;
Construction dates 1926,
Other Names Mt Dandenong Log Cabin, Kate Kelly's Restaurant,
Hermes Number 115869
Property Number

Physical Description 1

A small rectangular building with verandahs on three sides under a low pitched roof. The walls are entirely made of solid logs, notched together at the corners, and seamed with local clay. The verandah posts are also whole logs. The original twisted timber brackets to the verandah are no longer evident. There is a stone fireplace and chimney. There is also a much larger section of matching construction built in the 1970s. (National Trust Classification Report)

The Mt Dandenong and District Historical Society advises that no nails have been used in the construction of the building. Internally, there is a fine stone fireplace, built of stones collected from an old creek bed on the Basin-Olinda Road. Chairs and tables were also made by Jack Dodd. He treated the logs internally and externally with equal parts of boiled oil, kerosene and vinegar. The earth floor was covered with flour bags and coconut matting. Twice a year the matting and bags were lifted and shaken in the back yard. Afterwards it all took a week to settle and had an "ocean wave" appearance. (Submission 2 Dec. 1999)

Physical Conditions

Good

Integrity

Evidence of stages

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/>