

SEALERS COVE SAW MILL



H02019 sealers cove saw mill site from beach



H02019 sealers cove saw mill stonework



H02019 sealers cove saw mill plan

Location

WILSONS PROMONTORY, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2019

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO20

VHR Registration

March 20, 2003

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 20, 2003

What is significant?

The Sealers Cove sawmill site includes the remains of two mills, including those from one of the earliest known sawmills in Victoria. Timber splitting commenced at the Cove in 1849, and by 1853 a steam-powered sawmill had been established at the site by Turnbull & Company. The mill was home to a population of more than sixty people, with timber shipped to Melbourne and Geelong. The mill and its tramway were dismantled in 1860. In 1903, John King and Robert McCulloch established a second sawmill at the site, with a jetty extending 800 feet out into the cove. Bushfire destroyed the mill in 1906. The principal features of the site include piles of the former jetty, tramway formations, at least two sawpits, several house sites and extensive scatters of brick and iron artefacts.

How is it significant?

The Sealers Cove sawmill site is of historical and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Sealers Cove sawmill site is archaeologically and historically important as the first sawmill built in Gippsland, and one of the first known sawmills with extant remains in Victoria. The jetty remains, built by King and McCulloch in 1903, demonstrate the importance of sea transport in the timber industry in areas without railway access. The mills have the potential 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. General Conditions: 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. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 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:

- * Preliminary Mineral Exploration work
- * Fire suppression duties
- * Weed and vermin control
- * Public safety
- * Rehabilitation, protective and stabilisation works
- * Information signage - for interpretation and prevention of public risk

Construction dates	1853,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number	12632
Property Number	

History

Timber splitting commenced at Sealers Cove in 1849. When the timber was removed in January 1850, further supplies for the splitters were landed along with four bullocks to aid the efforts of the men working in the bush. A sawpit complete with a 7 ft saw was added in August 1850, and the first sawn timber left the Cove in October. In 1853, Turnbull, Buchanan and Company established a steam-powered sawmill at the site. The mill was home to a population of more than sixty people, with timber shipped to Melbourne and Geelong. The peak year of production at Sealers Cove was 1854, but thereafter other sawmills along the Gippsland coast offered increasing competition. The mill and its tramway were dismantled in 1860 and the plant was moved across Corner Inlet to

Agnes River.

The timber resources of Sealers Cove lay untouched from 1860 to 1903, when John King of Metung and Robert McCulloch of Lakes Entrance built a new sawmill at the site. A jetty was built extending 800 ft out into the cove. The mill was fitted with a vertical breaking-down saw and a rip bench with a manual roller system. Despite the effort involved in erecting the mill, logging tramways, mill settlement and long pier, the venture was to be short-lived. A fire in 1906 destroyed everything except the community hall, after which the machinery was removed and the mill site was abandoned.

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 in that Heritage Register Number H2019 in the category described as Archaeological place:

Sealer's Cove Sawmill, Wilson's Promontory, South Gippsland Shire Council.

EXTENT:

The dune line and all the Crown Land on each side of it for 50 metres, from a point adjacent to the eastern terminus of the Sealers Cove walking track (longitude 146.43398, latitude 39.02191) to a point with longitude 146.43109, latitude 39.01856, shown as L1 on Diagram 2019 held by the Executive Director.

Dated 20 March 2003

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 12 20 March 2003 488]

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/>