

# BUCKEYE CREEK RAILWAY BRIDGE COMPLEX



h02056 1 chilean mill 01 0303  
aj



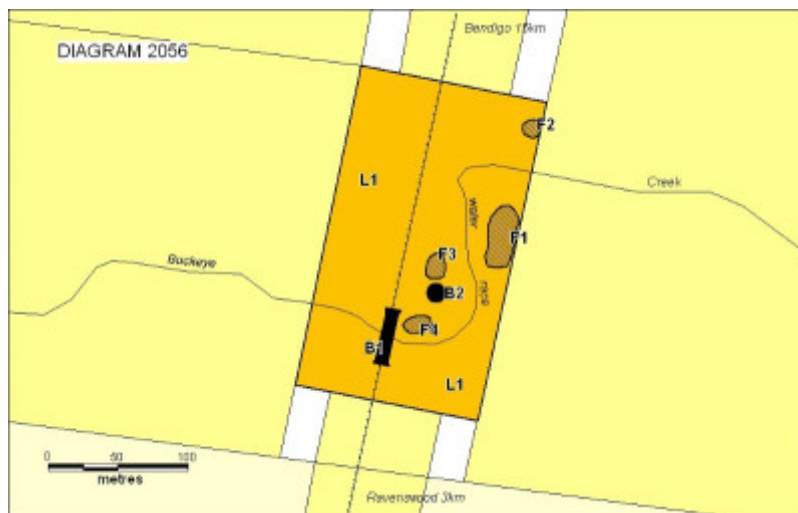
h02056 chilean mill 02 0303  
aj



h02056 chilean mill 03 0303  
aj



h02056 chilean mill 04 0303  
aj



h02056 buckeye creek plan

## Location

BUCKEYE LANE RAVENSWOOD, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2056

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO629

## VHR Registration

March 11, 2004

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 11, 2004

### What is Significant?

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge, and the related Chilean Mill, water race, granite quarry, scatter of worked stone, archaeological footings and artefacts are located at Buckeye Creek, Ravenswood. Ravenswood lay on the route of the Murray Valley Railway Line linking Melbourne and Echuca constructed in several stages between 1859 and 1864. The complex of structures and features at Buckeye Creek reflect the type of work and activities associated with the construction camps that were established along the railway line. The Buckeye Railway Bridge abutments and piers are made of locally quarried rusticated granite blocks spanned with metal girders. The Chilean Mill is made of rough-cut granite blocks with a mortar post hole in the centre. The interior of the stone circle is paved with granite rocks. Outside the stone circle is a shallow ditch. These grinding mills, somewhat like *arrastras*, in which a heavy stone wheel powered by a horse turned around a central shaft to crush and grind stone or ore were derived from prototypes developed in the exploration of the Chilean goldfields. Associated with the Chilean Mill are a group of features that include a shallow earthen water race to the east of the mill and a granite quarry situated on the north bank of Buckeye Creek. Near the base of the bridge is a scatter of worked granite blocks originally intended for use in the Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge. The location of the Chilean Mill near the base of the Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge indicates that the mill was associated with the bridge construction to crush sand and gravel to mix with lime to make mortar for the bridge abutments and piers. Adjacent to the mill are *in situ* archaeological remains of a vitrified brick feature indicating the presence of an industrial centre connected with the railway line construction camp. The presence of slag and other vitrified material attests to these high temperature activities. To the north of the site is an historical artefact scatter that includes decorated ceramics and stonewares. Also represented are the remains of a stone fireplace indicative of the rudimentary accommodation and way of life of those workers involved in the construction of the railway line.

### How is it Significant?

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex is of historical, scientific (technological), and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it Significant?

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex is of historical importance for its intactness and ability to demonstrate the processes and skills involved in the construction of the Murray Valley Railway Line.

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex and in particular the Chilean Mill is historically significant as a surviving example of Gold Rush technology that was relatively common in the mid 19th Century but now extremely rare.

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex and associated features are of scientific importance demonstrating the processes involved in the quarrying and working of local granite sources for use in the construction of the railway line.

The Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex is archaeologically significant as the site has the potential to contain *in situ* deposits and artefacts relating to the construction workers' camp and related activities.

## 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 works 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 works shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. 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 authorities where applicable. **Regular Site Maintenance :** The following site maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) regular site maintenance provided the works do not

involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the maintenance of an item to retain its conditions or operation without the removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the introduction of new materials; c) cleaning including the removal of surface deposits, organic growths, or graffiti by the use of low pressure water and natural detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing; d) repairs, conservation and maintenance to plaques, memorials, roads and paths, fences and gates and drainage and irrigation. e) the replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric. Note: Surface patina which has developed on the fabric may be an important part of the item's significance and if so needs to be preserved during maintenance and cleaning. Note: Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance. Repair must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Fire Suppression Duties : The following fire suppression duties are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Fire suppression and fire fighting duties provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns, and fire control line construction, provided all significant historical and archaeological features are appropriately recognised and protected; Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of historical and archaeological places when developing fire suppression and fire fighting strategies. The importance of places listed in the Heritage Register must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed. Weed and Vermin Control : The following weed and vermin control activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Weed and vermin control activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; Note: Particular care must be taken with weed and vermin control works where such activities may have a detrimental affect on the significant fabric of a place. Such works may include the removal of ivy, moss or lichen from an historic structure or feature, or the removal of burrows from a site that has archaeological values. Landscape Maintenance : The following landscape maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) landscape maintenance works provided the activities do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) watering, mowing, top-dressing and fertilising necessary for the continued health of plants, without damage or major alterations to layout, contours, plant species or other significant landscape features; c) pruning to control size, improve shape, flowering or fruiting and the removal of diseased, dead or dangerous material, not exceeding 20% of the crown of the tree within a period of two years; d) tree surgery by a qualified horticulturalist or tree surgeon necessary for the health of those plants. Public Safety and Security : The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features; c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional. Signage and Site Interpretation : The following Signage and Site Interpretation activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items; c) signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place; d) signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place; Note: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials. Note: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation. Mineral Exploration : The following Mineral Exploration activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) mineral Exploration activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) preliminary non-intrusive exploration, including geological mapping, geophysical surveys, and geochemical sampling and access to shafts and adits; c) advanced forms of exploration (drilling), including the location of drill pads and access tracks where this has been the subject of on-site negotiation and agreement with

representatives of Heritage Victoria, DSE and Parks Victoria, and where all significant historic site features have been identified and protected as part of an approved work plan. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1859,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Other Names	CHILEAN MILL, CHILI MILL,
Hermes Number	12860
Property Number	

---

## History

The railway line between Melbourne and Bendigo was part of the Murray Valley Railway that was constructed in several stages between 1859 and 1862 by government contractors, Cornish and Bruce, who employed a workforce of 2000 men and 600 horses. Construction camps, used to house the workers, store equipment and materials, were established at major work sites, including Jackson's Creek, Coliban River, the Taradale Viaducts, the tunnels at Elphinstone and Ravenswood and at a number of large embankments or cuttings. Equipment and materials were hauled by train, using an engine purchased from the Geelong Railway Construction Company. Despite lengthy delays, caused by the difficulty of the mountainous terrain, pay disputes with workers and battles between local towns for inclusion on the line, the section of the line from Sunbury to Woodend was opened during July 1861, with the remaining section, between Woodend and Bendigo, opened in October 1862. Between 1863 and 1864, the railway was extended to Echuca.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 2056 in the category described as a Archaeological/Heritage place:

Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge Complex, Ravenswood, Greater Bendigo City Council.

### EXTENT:

1. All the land marked L1 on the Diagram 2056 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the structures and features marked as follows on the Diagram 2056 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Buckeye Creek Railway Bridge.  
B2 Chilean Mill.  
F1 Quarry.  
F2 Occupational remains.  
F3 Industrial remains.  
F4 Worked stone.

Dated 11 March 2004

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 11 11 March 2004 520--521]

*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/>*