
FORMER BURKE'S HOLES CREEK SAW MILL

Location

CORNER OF WANGARATTA-KILFEERA ROAD & GRIFFITHS LANE WANGARATTA, WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Municipality

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8125-0036

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 6, 2019

What is significant?

The former Burke's Holes Sawmill is significant due to the opportunity for the site to understand early manufacturing and processing plants of rural Victoria. The elements of significance may include stationary steam engine, with boiler, vertical saw, travelling rack benches, timber shed, Two-storied building erected for a Flour mill and associated land use, including archaeological artefacts and deposits.

How is it significant?

The former Burke's Holes Sawmill is of archaeological and historical significance to the local City of Wangaratta.

Why is it significant?

This site is significant for its association with the late nineteenth century manufacturing and processing for local infrastructure projects. The site also holds historical significance due to its association with Ned Kelly. This site was once known as the Burke's Holes Saw-mill where bushranger Ned Kelly earned an honest living just prior to the events that unfolded with Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick at the Kelly household at 11-Mile Creek Greta West resulting in the Kelly Outbreak. This particular saw-mill stands out amongst others that Ned worked for as he

specifically mentions in the Jerilderie letter that he was the overseer of this specific mill. The position of overseer would have been considered a big responsibility for young Ned Kelly as he was only about 20 to 21 years of age. From Ned's appointment to this position of responsibility we can derive that he commanded respect and was considered a hard, honest and trustworthy worker as well as experienced for his age. This mill was one of many that supplied railway sleepers for the second half of the Wangaratta to Beechworth Railway that extended from Everton through to Beechworth.

Archaeological Significance

Burke's Holes Sawmill was constructed approximately between 1873 and 1875. The site comprised of a stationary steam engine and boiler, vertical saw, travelling rack benches, timber shed and two storied building erected for a mill, with 5 acres of land. No substantial foundations or historical artefacts have been identified, however small fragments of brick have been located at the base of a tree on the site. The site is an agricultural paddock with history of stock grazing. This site demonstrates that there is potential for historical archaeological features, deposits or artefacts.

Historical Significance

The site is associated with the late nineteenth century manufacturing and processing for local infrastructure projects. The site also holds local significance due to its association with Ned Kelly. Ned Kelly specifically mentions his overseer role at the Saw mill in the well known Jerilderie letters, giving insight into his life before the establishment of the bush ranger identity. The site reveals an opportunity to understand the early manufacturing and processing plants of rural Victoria during the late nineteenth century.

Hermes Number 202762

Property Number

History

The land title for allotments 9 & 10 section 29 Parish of Laceby was transferred to a Mr. James Dixon of Wangaratta on the 24th of September 1873 from a Mr. John Adam. James Dixon was a Canadian miller and general merchant who ran the One Mile Store where K-mart in Wangaratta currently stands today. He was also Wangaratta Mayor for 2 terms from 1866-1867 and again in 1869-1870.

As per the advertisement for the sale of the saw-mill due to James Dixon's Insolvency dated May 26th, 1874, most likely Mr. Dixon owned the land and the mill equipment. It was during this time that railway sleepers were being produced for the second half of the Beechworth railway line from Everton through to Beechworth - construction commencing 18th of June 1875 and completed 29th of September 1876 (Ovens & Murray Advertiser).

The mill itself was advertised for sale along with allotments 9 & 10 being noted as Burke's Holes Farm. These advertisements ran sporadically from the 13th of February 1875 to the 26th of May 1877 in the Ovens & Murray Advertiser:

"Burke's Holes Saw-mills 13 h.p. Stationery Steam Engine, with Boiler, Vertical Saw, Travelling Rack Benches in good working order, Substantial Timber Shed, Two-storied building erected for a Flour Mill, with 5 acres of land, being portion of Allotment 10, Section 29, Parish of Laceby; permanently watered. The Machinery, Mill Building, and Freehold will be sold in one, two, or three lots, at the option of the purchaser"

Eventually the 4.2.15 acre subdivision as part of allotment 9 was eventually transferred from James Dixon to John Bristow Docker of Bontharambo & Thomas George Clarke or Springhurst on the 12th of April 1878 and once again annexed to allotment 9 (Instrument No.0068359).

This site is also potentially attributed where bushranger Ned Kelly, who earned an honest living just prior to the events that unfolded with Constable Alexander Fitzpatrick at the Kelly household at 11-Mile Creek Greta West.

This particular saw-mill stands out amongst others that Ned worked for as he specifically mentions in the Jerilderie letter that he was the overseer of this specific mill.

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/>