

FORMER DURHAM TOBACCO KILN

Location

84 BERNIE ROAD CORNISHTOWN, INDIGO SHIRE

Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0137

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	Although the kiln has been demolished, the presence of a nearby well and the relative lack of development around the former kiln site suggest that they may be further potential for archaeological remains; in particular features related to tobacco processing.
Archaeological Significance	The remains of the kiln are locally significant due to their rarity and their association with other features. The complex suggests potential archaeology. Further survey and excavation, is likely to aid in identifying the age of the kiln construction and plan of the site, as well as potentially provide an assemblage of artefacts associated with tobacco farming,
Historical Significance	The remains of the kiln are locally significant as an example of private enterprise in association with one of the pioneering farming families in the area.
Hermes Number	162330
Property Number	

History

As part of the Indigo Mining Division, encompassing Chiltern, Indigo and Rutherglen, settlement west of Chiltern did not commence until the gold rush finally reached the north-east part of Victoria. Here Woolshed diggings were worked first, as early as 1853. As the first easy alluvial diggings were exhausted, new fields were opened up at Indigo at Chiltern in 1858; followed by the rush to Rutherglen in 1860.

By the end of the year 1860, seven deep leads and seven reefs were being worked. Thomas Thornely reported that the population of the Indigo Mining Division in December 1860 was 12,905, including 1925 Chinese (Lloyd and Kennedy 2007: 28 and 29). Parish and geological plans of the period (i. e. Everett 1868) refer to mining settlements such as Durham, Indigo, Cornishtown, each separated by 12 kilometres or so. However, mining on the Indigo was mostly shallow alluvial mining and/or search for gold found in deep leads that was easily exhausted.

As mining diminished, agriculture continued to be one of the chief sources of wealth for the region (Lloyd and Kennedy 2007). The kiln is one of two built by the Marengo Family in the 1920s /30s/40s, probably a short term attempt at entering the tobacco industry and perhaps for private use. The main reference for this is the Indigo Shire Heritage Study Citation (CORN012). The citation includes a photo of the kiln prior to its destruction in 1974, and also indicates that it was built from corrugated iron and wood.

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/>