
FITZPATRICK'S SAWMILL

Location

Macarthur Street DUNKELD, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 29, 2004

What is significant?

Fitzpatricks' Saw Mill, located in the water reserve on the north side of Dunkeld off Macarthur Road, was established in this location in 1943. Previously, the family had operated saw mills in remote locations in the Grampians and elsewhere. Patrick Fitzpatrick, an Irishman who had migrated to Victoria in the early 1870s founded the business. With his wife, Alice Maude, nee Donlevy and their children, he led a typically itinerant existence in remote places getting and sawing hardwood for the construction of buildings and redgum for paving. This was possible and appropriate during the period when mills were powered by steam engines. The move to a more permanent site, closer to rail transport and major highways and where electricity could be used, represented a major change in the production of sawn timber. Arthur Fitzpatrick, the only son of Patrick and Alice Fitzpatrick oversaw the move, which proved to be very successful because of the post World War Two building boom. He died in 1969 and his sons carried on the business. The family's involvement was typical of the industry. Fitzpatricks' mill, which has only recently stopped operating, is perhaps the last surviving in the Southern Grampians area and one of the last in the state. The mill, its plant and equipment survive in excellent working condition and in very good condition.

How is it significant?

Fitzpatricks' Saw Mill is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Dunkeld and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Fitzpatricks' Saw Mill is of historical significance as a typical example of the traditional saw mills, now powered by electricity but formerly by steam, which operated throughout the remote heavily timber country of Victoria. Furthermore, it demonstrates the major change in location and management brought about by the changes to infrastructure during the mid-twentieth century. It is of architectural significance for its vernacular form, traditional use of materials and industrial planning for the process of saw milling. It is of further architectural significance as the source of an essential material used in construction.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1943,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23782
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The building, plant and equipment are in very good condition.

Physical Description 1

The saw mill building is a simple corrugated iron shed with a trussed and gabled roof. It is open on most sides with rudimentary offices built at the southern or township end. The structure is a combination of post and beam for the milling area and timber framing clad with corrugated iron for the enclosed area. A skillion has been extended on the east side. The saw is located in the north-west corner of the shed with most of the western side kept clear for working. The logs were moved on rails and were sawn moving from south to north. Sawn timber was then transferred to benches in the north west corner. Trolleys on rails moved the sawn timber for storage loading on the western side of the building.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

Theme 5: Working

5.2.1 Timber getting (sawmills, tramway camps etc)

Usage/Former Usage

currently not operating

Integrity

Excellent degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Arthur Fitzpatrick and family.

Physical Description 3

Water Reserve

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/>