

MILDARA BLASS DISTILLERY



MILDARA BLASS
DISTILLERY SOHE 2008



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h01099 1 mildara blass
distillery merbein



h01099 mildara blass
distillery merbein brandy
store



h01099 mildara blass
distillery merbein copper pot
stills



h01099 mildara blass
distillery merbein wall of
brandy store



h01099 mildara blass
distillery merbein water tank



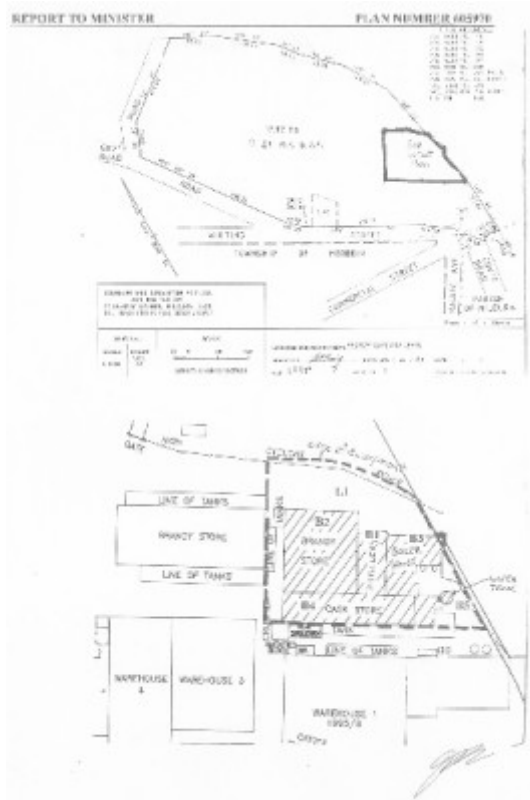
h01099 mildara blass
distillery wentworth road
merbein entrance to storage
area may1983



h01099 mildara blass
distillery wentworth road
merbein interior storage
apr1995



h01099 mildara blass
distillery wentworth road
merbein tank jun1995



h01099 mildara blass distillery merbein plan

Location

2 WENTWORTH ROAD MERBEIN, MILDURA RURAL CITY

Municipality

MILDURA RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1099

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO146

VHR Registration

September 14, 1995

Amendment to Registration

November 11, 2004

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 16, 2004

What is significant?

The Mildara Blass Distillery at Merbein, founded by William Benjamin Chaffey consists of a distillery, boiler house, brandy store, and cask store of concrete, timber and corrugated iron, and a concrete water tower all constructed in 1913. The distillery contains its original copper pot stills and timber vats although the original boilers have been replaced. Mildara brandies and sherries produced on the site have been widely known for their quality. Chaffey, one of the principal architects of the Mildura Irrigation settlement, was associated with the distillery and winery until his death.

How is it significant?

The Mildara Blass Distillery is historically, scientifically and socially important to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Mildara Blass Distillery at Merbein is historically and socially important as the oldest operating distillery and winery in Victoria's most important irrigation settlement. The distillery and its machinery are important for their contribution to an understanding of an ongoing tradition of grape growing and processing in the semi arid north west of the State.

The distillery is of technical interest because of the process of distillation of grapes for brandy and the fortification of wines has been carried out continuously at the site since 1913 with the same equipment.

The Mildara Blass Winery at Merbein is significant for its historical associations with its founder and builder William Benjamine Chaffey (1856 - 1926) one of the principal architects of the Mildura Irrigation settlement.

The distillery buildings and water tower at the Mildara Blass Winery are architecturally and technologically notable for their early (1913) use of reinforced concrete in the walls and columns, as well as for the way in the sloping site was utilised to allow for the storage area to be dug into the hillside and the ash of the boilers to be disposed of over the cliffs.

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.

DISTILLERY

Removal, replacement or refurbishment of boiler provided that such works do not damage or alter the building.

Minor modifications to the operation of the copper pot stills provided that such works do not result in changes to their appearance or location.

Construction dates	1913,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	4791
Property Number	

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 in that the Heritage Register Number 1099 in the category described as a Heritage place; is now described as:

Mildara Blass Distillery, Wentworth Road, Merebin, Mildura Rural City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the buildings known as the Mildara Blass Distillery including the distillery, brandy store, boiler house, cask store and water tower marked B1 to B5 on Diagram 1099 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 1099 held by the Executive Director, being part of land described in Certificate of Title Volume 10148, Folio 656.
3. All the fixed plant and equipment in the buildings B1ÐB5 including the pot stills and existing timber vats and distillery equipment.

Dated 4 November 2004

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 46 11 November 2004 3109]

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/>