
Yellow Girl Air Receiver



B5306 Yellow Girl Air Receiver

Location

Ezhard's Timber Mill, , SWIFTS CREEK VIC 3896 - Property No B5306

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Local

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 18, 2005

Description: The air receiver is a cylindrical unfired pressure vessel of rivetted construction with dished ends. The overall length is 14 feet and the diameter of the barrel is 4 foot 9 inches. The working pressure was 100 pounds per square inch.

Function: The air receiver is connected into the supply lines between the air compressors and the points of demand for air supply. The receiver therefore acts as a temporary storage for compressed air as well as to moderate pulsations in air pressure arising from the reciprocating action of the air compressors.

History: A year or so after the Yellow girl syndicate at Glen Wills had struck it rich they placed orders on Thompson of Castlemaine for a water driven air compressor plant to operate pumping and haulage machinery at their mine. Copies of the works sheets for these orders have been found amongst Thompson's records in the Archives of the University of Melbourne.

Order No 6807 dated 9 May 1907, was for a 14 foot x 4 foot 9 inches air receiver. It was tested to 150 pounds per square inch on 17 August 1907, and the plant was reported in the Omeo Standard for 11 February 1908 to have

been started the previous week.

The plant operated on a regular basis until about 1912 and then intermittently until about 1918 when mining activity in the area ceased.

The plant was overhauled in March 1932 when interest in the area revived again and thereafter it ran continuously until the cessation of mining operations in 1951. Mr Jack Barker, the mine manager at this time took up an appointment as plant engineer for Ezard's timber mill at Swift's Creek. At the subsequent machinery sale at Glen Valley he purchased, and then installed at Swift's Creeek, some of the air compressors and the air receiver for use in the mill. They are still in use today.

Statement of Significance: The air receiver has been in more or less continual use for over 70 years. This is a relatively long life even for such a low pressure and unfired vessel as this. Photographs of Thompson air receivers made shortly before this particular one, show vessels with "egg shaped" ends fabricated from pieces of curved plate. Although the new design probably required as much, if not more, smithing it was easier to fabricate and less prone to leakage or rupture. Although this particular technological change cannot be dated with any precision it appears that this reciever is the earliest extant example of the new design made by Thompson's.

Classified: 22/03/1983

Hermes Number 68013

Property Number

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/>