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# OLD FEDERAL MILL

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## Location

BIG CREEK ROAD MCMAHONS CREEK, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8022-0101

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO104

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 23, 2005

### What is significant?

The Old Federal Mill contains the remnants of a technologically innovative sawmill, including concrete machinery foundations, three sawdust heaps, steam winch components, a skyline carriage and modified tram wheels. The mill was operated by the Federal Timber Company from 1922-1934, and cut large volumes of scantling and barrel staves. Timber was despatched to Warburton along the Starvation Creek outlet tramway, remains of which include earthworks, and two large pig-sty bridges. Extensive artefact scatters associated with the mill settlement are distributed along the outlet tramway north of the mill, including glass, ceramics, bricks and metal.

### How is it significant?

The Old Federal Mill is of archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Old Federal Mill is historically significant for its associations with Jack Corbett, a French Canadian who introduced North American methods of logging at this mill, including skylines, high lead winching, and multi-drum

Washington winches. These techniques enabled very rough ground and steep gullies to be successfully logged, and were quickly adopted by other mills in Victoria. Logging tramways at the mill were also significant for being built to the unusual gauge of four feet, permitting greater stability for the transport of larger loads.

The Old Federal Mill is archaeologically significant for the comparative intactness of its remains which demonstrate the innovative technology originally employed at this mill. The site is also significant for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence relating to the cultural history of sawmilling settlements.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10618

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: The mill was operated by the Federal Timber Company from 1922 until 1934 and cut large volumes of scantling and barrel staves. Associated with the Federal Cask Company in Footscray Victoria. Mill relocated in 1934.

*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/>*