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## HOLMES FLOUR MILL (FORMER)



23274 Holmes Flour Mill  
Byaduk 0382



23274 Holmes Flour Mill  
Byaduk 0381



23274 Holmes Flour Mill  
Byaduk 0383



23274 Holmes Flour Mill  
Byaduk 0384

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### Location

Penshurst-Byaduk Road BYADUK, Southern Grampians Shire

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 11, 2003

What is significant?

Holmes Flour Mill was located on land fronting the north side of Byaduk-Penshurst Road, about 100 metres north of Scott's Creek. The site of the former mill is identified by remaining bluestone footings of some walls survive, together with small amounts of weathered iron and timber. Bluestone footings of a small building are visible above the mill ruins, believed to be the remnants of Holmes bakery. There are also a number of remnant plantings. Peter Learmonth (manager) and George Holmes (miller) built the mill in 1868 and it operated successfully until about 1893 when it closed due to a downturn in wheat production in the area. The Mill was known as Holmes Flour Mill after the flour miller. When roller mills were introduced, the production of wheat in the district had declined, making it uneconomic for the owners of the mill to install the new technology. In the early 20th century the mill was dismantled and the fittings sold, while the building stood vacant. The three storey bluestone mill, with its tall chimney, was the largest structure in Byaduk, and dominated the landscape until its demolition in the 1950s. Some of the dressed bluestone blocks were sold by Mr. Tom Power to construct the porch of St Malachy's Catholic Church, Macarthur. There are only ruins remaining of the mill.

How is it significant?

The former Holmes Flour Mill and bakery site is of historical significance to the township of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The site of the former Holmes Flour Mill is of historical significance as it provides a physical representation of a form of industry which was once an important part of the Byaduk district economy. Holmes flour mill was created as a response to the increasing number of selectors who were growing wheat for flour production in the Hamilton district in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Of further historical interest is the size of the flour mill, considering the relatively short period in which it operated (about thirty years), yet it dominated the township of Byaduk, being the largest most substantial building in or around the town for over ninety years. The former Holmes flour mill provides an understanding of a previous way of life, and of an industry which is no longer evident in the area.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1868,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23274
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

High potential for archaeological survey.

## Physical Description 1

The former mill was located on land fronting the north side of Byaduk-Penshurst Road, about 400 metres east of the intersection of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road. The site is about 100 metres north of Scotts Creek, on rising land, but below the steep escarpment which is such a dominant feature of the Byaduk landscape. The bluestone footings of some walls survive, together with small amounts of weathered iron and timber. Several large piles of bluestone rubble are located on the site.

At the top of the escarpment, above the mill site, the bluestone footings of a small building are visible. These are believed to be the remnants of Holmes bakery, which was located on the hill above the mill.

A number of mature trees remain on the site, including several large specimens of Lombardy poplar and a row of

hawthorns. These trees are visible in early photographs of the mill.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Theme 3 Developing Local, Regional and national Economies

3.4 Utilizing natural resources

3.4.4 Tapping natural energy sources

3.12 Feeding People

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Abandoned

## **Integrity**

Very low degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

George Holmes, miller

Peter Learmonth, manager

*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/>*