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# TANNERY (FORMER)



23738 Copy of 4480 Tannery  
Old Tannery Rd Cavendish

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## Location

Old Tannery Road CAVENDISH, 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 - March 10, 2004

What is significant?

The former Tannery was located at the confluence of two creeks, about 2.5km south of Cavendish. It appears to date from at least 1850 and was certainly well-established by the early 1860s. Assistant Surveyor, Henry Wade allocated some 35 town allotments in the village which had developed up stream from the tannery with blocks being sold at least by 1864. It benefited from the availability of wattle bark and the supply and demand of leather goods. The tannery may have used the bark from indigenous wattle trees growing nearby or imported bark from the forests around Wando Dale, north of Coleraine. This was such an important and promising industry that a Royal Commission was established to enquire into its potential. The nearby Kenilworth South run had 5,000 head of cattle at the height of the tannery's operations. The tannery, which is one of only two or three in the Shire, appears to have closed by the end of the nineteenth century. The site is the least disturbed and retains the archaeological highest potential.

How is it significant?

The former Cavendish Tannery is of historical and archaeological significance to the community of Cavendish and the Southern Grampians Shire as a Heritage Inventory Site.

Why is it significant?

The former Cavendish Tannery is of historical significance because it represents a very early commercial activity associated with pastoralism and a way of life and work now lost.

The tannery is of archaeological significance as one of only three or four former tanneries identified in the study area and as the least disturbed site.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1864,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23738
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

High archaeological potential for the tannery. Low [?] potential for the buildings and houses.

## Physical Description 1

The tannery was located at the confluence of Barker's and Riley's Creeks about 3.5km south of the centre of Cavendish. It comprised several pits dug into the ground, some still lined with rough stone, which were fed with water from dams in the creeks. The dams are said to have been made with timber and hides but no physical evidence is immediately apparent. It is also said that there were substantial buildings and up to 16 houses located at or near the tannery.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

## Usage/Former Usage

Abandoned & Ruinous

## Integrity

Low level of integrity

## Physical Description 2

G. Gould

*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/>*