
SPRING CREEK SAWMILL AND SEASONING WORKS



1 spring creek mill &
kilns mt samaria seasoning
kilns

Location

MOUNT SAMARIA STATE PARK BRIDGE CREEK, BENALLA RURAL CITY, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

BENALLA RURAL CITY

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1824

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO75

HO75

VHR Registration

June 17, 1999

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Spring Creek sawmill and seasoning works consists of substantial mill foundations, concrete seasoning kilns, outlet tramway and lowering gear foundations. The site was worked by D J McClelland from 1923-1926, to exploit the messmate and peppermint forests of Mount Samaria. The sawmill itself is represented by substantial timber uprights, foundation logs, sawdust trench and a low sawdust heap. An outlet tramway extends from the mill to the edge of the plateau, where a substantial three-railed incline controlled the lowering of log trucks down to Spring Creek. The braking machinery at the top of the incline was set in massive reinforced concrete foundations. Both the timber tramline and machinery foundations are exceptionally well preserved, with the tramline represented by remnants of wooden rails, packing, culverts, bridges, and loading ramps. The discovery of the eucalypt hardwood seasoning process at Warburton in 1919 prompted the installation of a reconditioning kiln and two drying kilns at the mill site in 1924, to meet the demand for kiln dried flooring timber in metropolitan Melbourne. Although lacking doors and the rail system for positioning timber, the kilns are in excellent condition.

How is it significant?

The Spring Creek sawmill and seasoning works are of historical and scientific significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Spring Creek sawmill and seasoning works are scientifically significant as a remarkably intact example of an integrated timber production operation. The seasoning kilns demonstrate the timber reconditioning process in its most readily understood form. The tramway systems are very well constructed, and the lowering gear foundations at the top of the incline are probably the best engineered of their type ever constructed in Victoria.

The Spring Creek sawmill and seasoning works are historically significant as the oldest extant demonstration of the kiln drying and reconditioning process in Victoria, a process which transformed the production of seasoned eucalypt hardwoods, and one which remains the first and most essential value-adding process in the Australian timber industry.

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:

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.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exemptions:

- * fire suppression
- * public safety
- * land care maintenance
- * erosion and salinity control
- * weed and vermin control

Construction dates 1923,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number 5574
Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1824 in the category described as a Heritage Place, Archaeological Place:

Spring Creek Sawmill and Seasoning Works, Mount Samaria State Park, Delatite Shire.

EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown land including concrete seasoning kilns, sawmill timbers, sawdust trench, surface artefacts and the remains of any other sawmilling or timber seasoning activity within a 100 metre radius of a point with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E185 N188 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8124-3-4 Mount Samaria.
2. The outlet tramway formation, and all Crown land on each side of it for 20 metres, from where the tramway commences at the mill site (E185 N188 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8124-3-4 Mount Samaria) to its terminus at the top of the three-railed incline (E198 N199 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8124-3-4 Mount Samaria).
3. All of the Crown land including the concrete lowering gear foundations, boiler remains, gear wheels, surface artefacts and any other remains of timber transport activity within a 100 metre radius of a point with Australian

Map Grid co-ordinates E198 N199 on 1:25,000 Map Sheet No. 8124-3-4 Mount Samaria.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 24 17 June 1999 pp.1425-1426]

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/>