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# HENRY'S NO.1 MILL

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## Location

OFF MOUNT SABINE RD AND WEST BARWON TRACK BARRAMUNGA, COLAC-OTWAY SHIRE

## Municipality

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7620-0009

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 22, 2005

### What is significant?

Henry's No.1 Mill was the largest sawmill in the eastern Otways, operating from 1904-1927. The mill settlement included a boarding house, bakery, store, billiard room, post office and school, with huts for single men and cottages for families. The mill site extends in a clearing along the West Barwon river, and features intact tramway formations, extensive scatters of domestic debris, mature exotic trees, and numerous foundations of industrial and residential buildings.

### How is it significant?

Henry's No.1 Mill is of historical and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

Henry's No.1 Mill is historically important as a characteristic example of a large, isolated sawmill with associated settlement. Sawmilling sites are important to Victoria for their role in providing a vast range of timber products for use in domestic, commercial and industrial contexts. Henry's No.1 Mill was a long-established bush mill (23 years), supplying timber to centres throughout western Victoria, including Colac, Geelong, Hamilton and the Ballarat goldfields. It was associated with a major figure in the Victorian sawmilling industry, W. R. Henry.

Henry's No.1 Mill is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to

provide significant information about the technological history of sawmilling, and the cultural history of sawmilling settlements.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Interpretation of Site	Heritage Inventory Interpretation: Sawmilling operations were focused on the lower eastern part of the site below the tramway, to facilitate efficient handling of logs and timber. The north west of the site housed families in small cottages and the mill school, with single men's huts, store, boarding house, stables etc. in between. Scrubby grass in the higher, southern part of the site conceals brick rubble possibly associated with manager's residence and married men's quarters (see also Houghton, N, in prep. pp.112-113 for reconstructed plan).
Hermes Number	7016
Property Number	

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Financed and managed by W.R. Henry, the sawmill began operating in 1904, following the southward extension of a timber tramway from the Noonday Creek to the West Barwon valley via a 440m tunnel. Located 10km south of Forrest, the mill's isolated location required employees and their families to live at the site. About 100 people were serviced by a general store, post office, butcher, baker, school(S.S. 3601), billiard room and boarding house. The mill was partially burnt out and abandoned in 1927.

*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/>*