

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** GREEN CREEK ROAD SAWMILL

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Green Creek Rd and Glenelg River Rd MIRRANATWA

**STUDY NUMBER:** 323

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** none **SECTION:** none **PARISH:** PARISH OF BOREANG WEST

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 390B; VicRoads ; located on the north side of the intersection of Green Creek Road and Glenelg River Road, about 11.5kms north of Mirranatwa.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Heritage Inventory



Green Creek Sawmill Mirranatwa

**Image Date:** 05/07/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the surviving works and an area of 10,000 sq. metres.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The site of the sawmill is located approximately 50 metres west of the intersection of Green Creek and Glenelg River Roads, in the Grampians National Park. A series of well-defined trenches and pits marks the location of the sawmill operations. About 10 metres west of the edge of Glenelg River Road the remains of a post and rail fence can be seen. A loading ramp constructed from an enormous tree trunk, plus dirt and field stone is located on the north side of the clearly defined access track. A dam has been constructed at a later date on the north west side of the site.

## **HISTORY:**

Timber getting was an important industry in the Victoria Valley at least from the period of the Land Selection Acts in the early 1870s when selectors sought to supplement their incomes from shingle splitting, timber harvesting and milling (Clabburn, 33). Mirranatwa became a centre for selectors and timber getters with its post office opening about 1881 and there was the beginning of a tourist industry with tearooms operating by the 1920s (Clabburn, 34). "Saw mills were situated throughout the area—the best known being Fitzpatrick's. Walter's had a mill near the Chimney Pot, and in 1886, Charles field had a Steam Saw Mill near "Wattle Brae"" (Clabburn, 35). The sites, often small and ephemeral, continued well into the mid-twentieth century despite the threat of bush fire and the difficulty of transport. Another was located about 2.2kms to the north-east of the Green Creek Road site. There is no record of who ran the Green Creek Road or when it operated. The surviving pits and trenches suggest the mill was steam-powered and may date to earlier than the 1920s, probably to about 1900. The smaller sawmills were rationalised after the Second World into larger mills, often on the edge of towns such a Strahan's in Hamilton and Fitzpatrick's mill relocated to Dunkeld in 1943 (Mt Rouse Centenary).

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

Theme 5: Working

5.2.1 Timber getting (sawmills, tramway camps etc)

## **CONDITION:**

The archaeological potential of the site is high.

## **INTEGRITY:**

low integrity for above ground relics.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Green Creek Sawmill existed from about 1900 for several decades and represents the second, industrialised phase of the now passed lifestyle. It is not known which of the several local milling families operated it but it may have been the Fitzpatrick family who relocated to the outskirts of Dunkeld in 1942. It was one of several in the upper Victoria Valley, the closest being about 2.2kms to the north-east and McIntyre's, later Strahan's, 13.5kms to the south-west. Little survives of these ephemeral sites, with only pits, trenches and a clearing for a yard at the Green Creek site. It retains a high degree of archaeological potential.

How is it significant?

The Green Creek Road Sawmill site is of historical and archaeological significance to the district of Victoria Valley and to the Southern Grampians Shire as a Heritage Inventory site.

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**Why is it significant?**

The Green Creek Road Sawmill site is of historical significance as a representative example of the now passed saw millers' way of life. It is of archaeological significance for the evidence it may yield about that lifestyle.

**COMPARISON:**

0226 Englefield Sawmill Hut (and School Site (Former)), Coleraine-Balmoral Road, Balmoral  
0314 Hynes Woolshed and Outbuildings, Hynes Road, Glenisla  
0172 Timber Kiln and Sawmill Site, Station Street, Balmoral  
0454 Rowe's Sawmill site, off Mill Lane, Whoolpooer

**ASSESSED BY:** TFH & MGT

**EXISTING LISTINGS:**

**HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

**REFERENCES:**

Author	Title	Year	Page
Elise Claburn, Iris Field, Betty Gordon & Kath Dickie	Dunkeld and District: A short history	1995	33
Land Conservation Council	Historic Places Special Investigation South-Western Victoria Final Recommendations	1997	100
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	

rouse