

G. GREENBUSHES MILL

PLACE DETAILS

Other Name(s)	Whittaker's Mill
Location/Address	Lots 5 (RSN 145) Greenbushes-Grimwade Road, North Greenbushes WA.
Title & Map Reference	P.405240 Vol/Fol 2600/773 -33.823661, 116.054318
Assess No (Shire Ref)	A32271
Place Type	Individual Building(s) or Group
Use: Current Original	Forestry (Timber Mill) Forestry (Timber Mill)
Ownership Details	BlueLeaf Corporation Ltd
Public Access	Restricted
Associated place(s)	North Greenbushes Railway Station
Nominee	Patrick Scallan
Level of Significance	Medium (primarily relating to its continued use as a timber mill since 1950) (Management Category C)
Other Heritage Listings	-----





Photograph(s): date taken

Main Shed - 11 March 2019; Aerial Photo November 2018;
Previous Office on Lot 7 - 11 March 2019

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION	
Construction Materials: Roof Walls Other	Multiple metal constructions (Sheds)
Architectural Style	Vernacular Industrial
Physical description	<p>This is a large operational timber mill. From the perimeter, the more prominent elements of the current site include the current office and large sheds, which are laid out across the site on a NW-SE grid (running parallel to the adjacent railway line). There is evidence of modern structures as well as a few that may date from the redevelopment of the mill in the 1950s.</p> <p>Technology has changed over the years and while the mill still has the older style conventional mills, it also has a new small log line computerised mill imported from Europe to enable processing of smaller logs that would, in the past, have been waste timber.</p> <p>The place also has a close physical association with the railway line which runs along the SW boundary, and there is a crane at the North Greenbushes railway station that was used for loading timber.</p> <p>When Auswest Timbers took over the mill in 2016 and re-opened the facility, various equipment from their Manjimup plant, which was closed soon after, was moved to the Greenbushes Mill site.</p> <p>The original office (fmr) remains across the road on Lot 7. The current office is sited at the front of Lot 5, at the main entrance to the mill.</p>
Condition	Good
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION	
Historic Theme	Occupations (Timber Industry); Demographic Settlement & Mobility.
Construction Date(s)	1950
Year of Demolition	NA
Associations	<p>Previous Ownerships:</p> <p>Messrs George Smith – Original builder</p> <p>George Smith Lumber Company 1950 - 1954</p> <p>Lloyds 1954 - 1973</p> <p>Whittaker Timber Products January 1973 - 1999</p> <p>Blue Leaf Corporation Pty Ltd - Dec 2000 - current</p> <p>Current Lessee: Auswest Timbers - 2016 - current</p>
Historical Notes	<p>This place was developed as one of a series of timber mills established and progressively redeveloped to meet changing requirements and technology at North Greenbushes. During the early years of the 20th century newspaper articles referred to timber mills in this area under the names of The Adelaide</p>

	<p>Timber Company (aka Shepherdson's Mill) and The Timber Corporation Mill, but the exact location of these places has not been confirmed</p> <p>Approved by the Greenbushes Road Board in March 1950, the George Smith Lumber Company Mill (North Greenbushes) was built as and has remained the largest in the Greenbushes area. The following article from the <i>Western Mail</i> of 6 July 1950 shows that the George Smith Mill was constructed at that time, with associated development in the small settlement at North Greenbushes:</p> <p><i>"GREENBUSHES Mill: The construction of a new sawmill at Greenbushes by the George Smith Lumber Co., of South Australia, is almost completed and tests carried out on the mill machinery have proved satisfactory. The mill will be devoted entirely to the production of scantling. Fallers are now engaged on the timber leases for trees to be put through this week.</i></p> <p><i>Several houses will be erected at North Greenbushes for married timber workers. There are now five spot mills operating in the Greenbushes Road Board area. The new mill will be the largest and it is estimated that there is sufficient timber in the area to supply the mills for 25 years."</i></p> <p>Another article on 28 December 1950 stated that the works involved major extensions that would make the mill <i>"one of the most modern in the South-West"</i>, operating on diesel-electric power (rather than the traditional steam-mill technology).</p> <p>Over time, many timber workers would have lived in the adjacent settlement of North Greenbushes and there is documentary evidence that around 10 purpose built houses were provided for employees (typical of both private and government timber mills of the early to mid twentieth century).</p> <p>According to the Discover Greenbushes website <i>"The 'Whittakers' mill was originally owned by George Smith Lumber Company, then around 1954 it was sold to Lloyds. Whittakers purchased the Mill on 31 January 1973 and in 1998 they produced 50,000 cubic metres of timber (Jarrah, Karri & Radiata Pine.) In 1999, the Whittakers operation was shut down and the work force of around 200 employees was stood down. Blue Leaf Corporation took over the operations at Whittakers Mill and commenced production in July 2000."</i></p> <p>In December 2016, Auswest closed its Pemberton Mill and Manjimup Centre and consolidated its operations by leasing the North Greenbushes site.</p>
CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE	
Statement of Significance	The Greenbushes Mill is significant for its historic and social values as an important local industrial site and place of employment.

Aesthetic Value	Although the buildings individually do not present a pleasing aesthetic in the landscape, the buildings and timber yards have been strong industrial landmarks to the community for almost 70 years.
Historic Value	The place has moderate historic significance as the site of a significant local industry for almost 70 years.
Research Value	Moderate – the place has been progressively redeveloped over time.
Social Value	The Greenbushes Mill has high social value as a place of employment to hundreds of people over almost 70 years The owners of the mill have also been significant contributors to non-profit organisations in the district, particularly during its time as Whittaker's Mill.
Integrity	High The Site has remained a timber mill for almost 70 years, despite brief periods of non-production during changes of ownership.
Authenticity	Medium The place has been altered over time to meet modern milling requirements, but has remained, for the most part, as a cluster of (metal) sheds, for the purpose of processing and sorting timber for wholesale.
Rarity	The South West District has had possibly hundreds of Mills operating over the last 150 or so years, however this place has been the longest running mill in the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, with few others being of this size or larger, and remaining in operation.
Representativeness	The Mill is representative of an evolving Timber Mill over the last 70 years.
SOURCES	
	Contemporary newspaper reports (trove.nla.au/newspaper) including: Western Mail 19 May 1899 Pg.66 Blackwood Times 31 March 1950 Pg. 1 The West Australian 28 June 1950 Pg. 9 Western Mail 6 July 1950 Pg. 13 Western Mail 28 December 1950 Pg.12 Bridgetown Manjimup Times 11 February 2016 (thewest.com.au/business/finance/mill-revival-raises-hopes-ng-ya-395776) The West Australian 15 December 2016 (https://thewest.com.au/news/wa/workers-face-chop-as-timber-mills-close-ng-b88328027z)