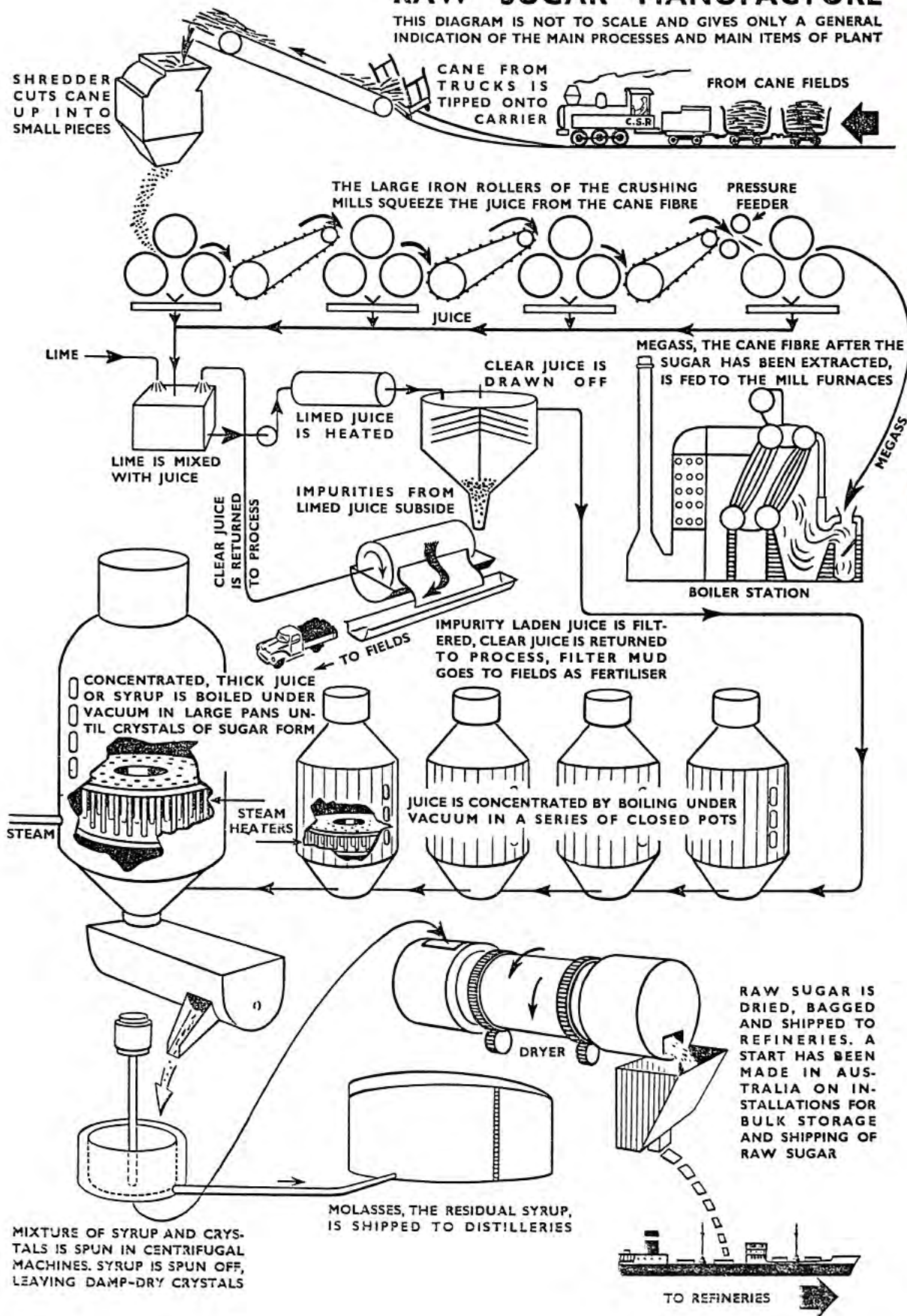


## RAW SUGAR MANUFACTURE

THIS DIAGRAM IS NOT TO SCALE AND GIVES ONLY A GENERAL INDICATION OF THE MAIN PROCESSES AND MAIN ITEMS OF PLANT



# Queensland's Rail Heritage

## CSR Victoria Sugar Mill, Ingham



**Cane Tram Notes**  
A C Lynn Zelmer, Series Editor

**Victoria Mill (Ingham, Qld) over the Years**

CSR Limited: 'Victoria Mill, circa 1883'. Noel Butlin Archives Centre, ANU. Deposit No: Z303/46 (D3.0/2/11). Negative No: 6528. The locomotive (centre) is the original #4 'Melbourne' but there is at least one more locomotive between the two buildings in the left distance. There is a pile of portable track sections in front of #4 with several two wheel wagons and a row of loaded wholestick trucks behind.

The Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) established a mill on the Herbert River near Ingham in 1883 for "the manufacture of grey refining sugars from sugar cane".

Buildings were iron throughout: cast and wrought iron columns, tie rods and roof work; roof and sides sheathed with corrugated galvanised iron sheeting [1]. The 1885 crush was 3,823 tons, rising to 40,246 tons in 1885 and a yield of 3,649 tons of sugar. By 1933 the crush had risen to 247,261 tons for a total production of 32,074 tons of sugar [2].

In the mill's earliest years cane was primarily sourced from the company's own plantations but increasingly local farmers were encouraged to supply cane, especially following the change from Polynesian (Kanakas) to white labour after Federation. The mill also encouraged mechanisation with steam ploughs used from 1882 [3].

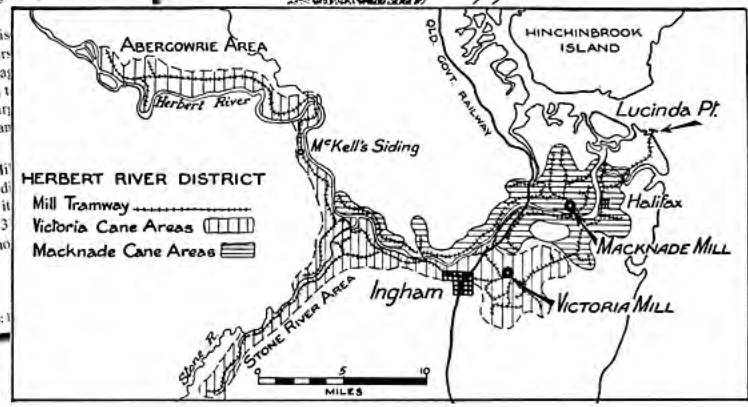
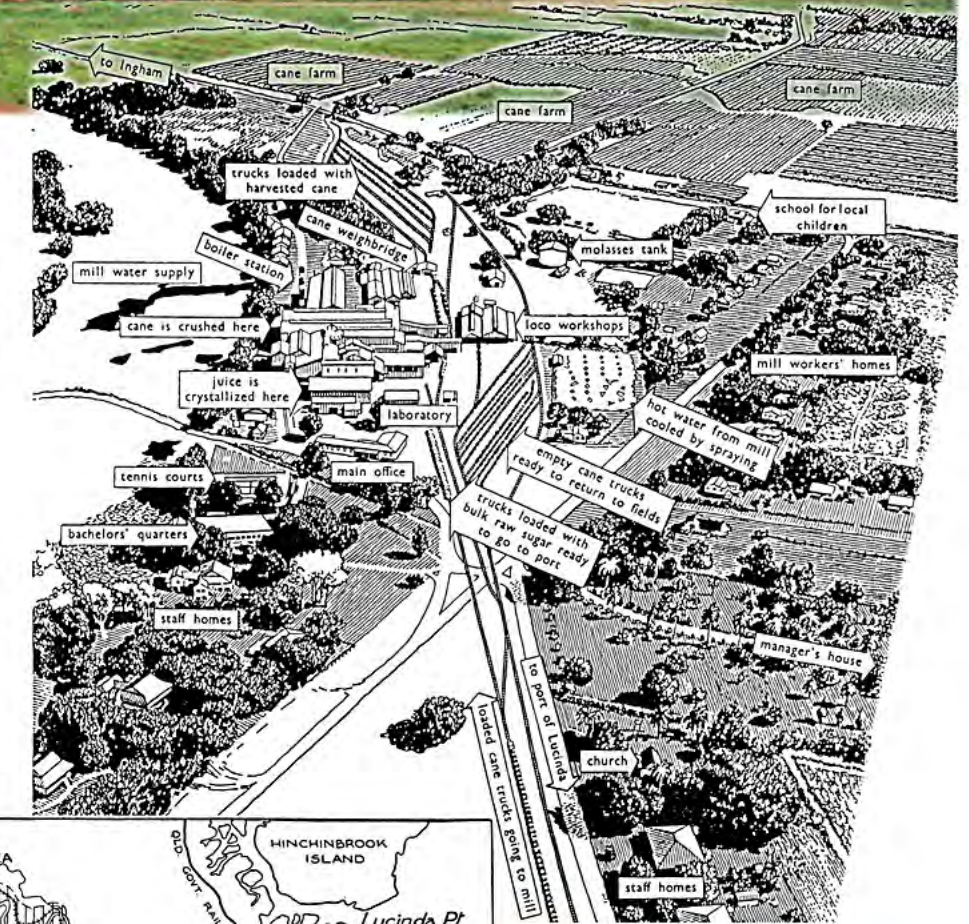
In New South Wales some of the early plantation owners employed Kanakas and in Queensland they relied almost entirely on coloured labour. Nowhere in the world, except in C.S.R. mill areas in the semi-tropical districts of New South Wales, was cane farming work done by white men. The Queensland pioneers, most of them recent immigrants from temperate European countries, accepted without question the belief that white men could not undertake hard manual labour under the tropical sun. Despite their successful establishment of a community of independent white farmers in New South Wales, the Colonial Sugar Refining Company in Queensland accepted the belief for a decade.

From the start of operations at Victoria Mill in 1883, the company had been buying cane from farmers in the district as well as from its own plantations. This was reported to have been "the first case of farmers growing cane for a mill in the North". [4]

The mill has been modernised several times over the years (see illustration on next page) expansion to the mill and it had become one of the largest in the Ingham district was an million ton cane crop.

Interestingly Victoria Mill chopped cane bins and did one of the last to retire it Today (photos pg 2 & 3) the largest and most mo

CTN04: Victoria Mill over the Years  
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**SOURCES**

District Map: Lowndes, A G (1956). South Pacific Enterprise: The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, p 121.

Aerial View: Turnbull, Clive (1960). 'Sugar, Wealth of a Tropic Land' in Australia Today (National Annual), 56: Oct, p 72.

Mill Photo: Greg Stephenson, 27 August 2000.

Manufacturing Process: R Wiles collection, originally from Lowndes, A G (1956), South Pacific Enterprise: The Colonial Sugar Refining Company Limited, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, p 139.

Cane Tram Notes, photographs and other resources: [www.zelmeroz.com/CaneSIG & QldRailHeritage.com](http://www.zelmeroz.com/CaneSIG&QldRailHeritage.com).