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# ALTA AND NELSON QUARTZ REEF WORKINGS AND BATTERY SITE

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## Location

BUCKLAND RIVER AND CAMP CREEK TRACK ABBEYARD, ALPINE SHIRE

## Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8224-0067

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 21, 2023

**What is significant?**

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

Other Names ALTA AND NELSON BATTERY SITE,

Hermes Number 11632

Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

#### Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The Alta and Nelson were the earliest reefs worked on the Upper Ovens goldfield, opened up by shafts in 1858. Surface stone from the Alta yielded 13 oz per ton, but yields from both reefs soon dwindled. Two Chilean mills, a 10-hp steam engine and boiler, kilns, incline tramway, and engine house were erected in 1858, at a cost of £1,700. In 1859, a (timber?) stamp battery and plate tables were added, but appear not to have helped much with gold-separation from the pyritic ore. The steam engine proved too costly to run, and in 1860 it was replaced with a waterwheel. Much gold appears to have been lost by the inefficient battery. The mines struggled on, with unremunerative yields, until they were abandoned in 1862.

In 1864 a new company took up the reefs and built a new water-powered battery, removing the Chilean mills. No success seems to have come of the venture.

*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/>*