
BORHONEYGHURK COMPANY

Location

GRANTS LANE MORRISONS, MOORABOOL SHIRE

Municipality

MOORABOOL SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7722-0039

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11660

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The first gold discoveries in the Steiglitz Mining Division were along the Moorabool River, near Morrison's Station; at Dollys Creek; and in the vicinity of Steiglitz itself. The focus of alluvial mining were on the two first localities, where miners found gold in high terrace Tertiary gravels. These gravels, commonly referred to as cement, were deposited up to 40 million years ago. They were, in fact, the remnants of ancient river systems. By 1858, miners at Morrison's were vigorously tunnelling under the basalt along western bank of the Moorabool.

The Morrison's and adjoining Tea Tree diggings had a very intensive cement mining, involving shaft sinking, tunnelling and the treatment of material in sluice boxes and puddlers. Initially only rich deposits on the west side of Moorabool River, and up Tea Tree Creek, were worked, but in 1864, two rushes Evan's and Wallace's opened up extensive deposits along the east bank of the Moorabool. By 1863, the Lal Lal water race had been extended

to Morrisons and the mining registrar felt that it enabled miners to wash with profit about 50% more material than previously treated.

By 1866m alluvial mining on the Morrison's field was declining. The miners had by this time treated most of the easily won auriferous material. Attempting to arrest the decline on the field, two companies Gold Rivers and Borhoneyghurk embarked on ambitious new mining ventures. The former sunk a shaft (beyond 400 feet) and extended numerous drives in order to discover the continuation of the rich Ballarat deep leads; and the latter, installed the division's largest crushing plant, a 70hp steam engine and 28-head of stamps to crush cement deposits. In June 1866, the registrar reported that the failure of the crushing works had caused a severe mining depression in the area.

With a general decline in quartz mining in the mid 1870s, alluvial mining revived. The focus of the work was Dolly's Creek and Morrisons where miners again relied on the water from the Lal Lal race. By this time the race appears to have been taken over by the government. The renewal of activity was brief.

References: Mining Surveyors Quarterly Reports: October 1863, June 1865, June 1866, June 1874, June 1876.

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.

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