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# NORTH AMERICAN NO.1

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## Location

HAPPY VALLEY CROSSING ROAD HAPPY VALLEY, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0270

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 11803

Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

NORTH AMERICAN is the name used for this company in the reports for November and December 1859, subsequently it is referred to as the

NORTH AMERICAN UNITED GOLD MINING COMPANY, location is given as Lucky Womans, Happy Valley on the same lead as the British, Robin Hood, Grand Junction and Cleft in the Rock claims.

11.1859: have sunk over 100 feet through rock, the deepest sinking in rock in this district.

12.1859: shaft is 120 feet deep; erecting powerful steam engine.

01.1860: commenced another shaft, the original one being too small.

06.1860: shaft has bottomed at 170 feet and struck paying gold which indicates a lead running toward Springdallah; a new lead the 'Cape of Good Hope' has been opened south of and tending toward the North

American Claim.

07.1860: started sinking No. 1 shaft.

11.1860: machinery unsatisfactory or mismanaged, unnecessary expenses have been incurred.

12.1860: erecting a larger steam engine which should overcome the previous delays that the company suffered; shares in the company are quoted at £200.

02.1861: flooded out for a few days until water removed by incessant baling.

03.1861: succeeded in getting out a machine of wash-dirt which yielded 19 ozs; a fresh influx of water ended the operation and it appears that present pumps will have to be replaced with pumps of larger bore.

05.1861: have overcome their difficulties and are getting from 12 to 20 ozs per machine.

06.1861: presently the best paying claim in this district, yields of 60 ozs per machine are not unusual.

07.1861: giving magnificent returns; likely to be involved in litigation with the Centaur Co. for encroaching into their lease area, the lease has not yet been issued.

08.1861: continues to pay well, last dividend was £16 per man per week.

09.1861: gutter reached; operations suspended and 18 inch pumps fixed.

perpetual injunction has been issued against the company in favour of the Centaur Co.; dividend of £10 per man for the last fortnight; sinking a new shaft at the deep end of the claim.

10.1861: have been driving through the reef to the tunnel gutter on the upper end of the claim and have broken through, but the gutter is rather poor; sinking a new shaft towards the southern end of their claim.

11.1861: reached the tunnel gutter at the upper end of their ground but it is so poor that they have started sinking a shaft near their deep ground, this shaft is 60 feet deep.

12.1861: shifting machinery to a new shaft, which is down 100 feet .

21.03.1862: machinery has been removed to the lower shaft, and will start in a few days.

01.1863: getting very rich ground.

03.1863: two shafts are down to a depth of 180 feet; machinery includes: a 13 inch by 30 inch steam engine for pumping and winding, a boiler: 20 feet by 5 feet 6 inches, Round's flat chains, a wooden puddling machine, the company intends to erect iron puddling machines,

10.5 inch pumps used to drain the gutter; now also using tanks attached to the cages.

10.1863: will be worked out in a month or two.

03.1865: 12 months previously the now defunct North American Gold Mining Company sold a 14 inch by 30 inch steam engine plus puddling machines with cast iron bottoms and wrought iron sides to the Investigator Freehold Gold Mining Company for £550.

11.1859 to 03.1863: recorded production of 3,770 ozs 16 dwt 11 gr or 117.288 kg.

*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/>*