
CHRYSEIS & PERSERVERANCE COS

Location

BUNINYONG-MOUNT MERCER ROAD GRENVILLE, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0226

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11876

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

CHRYSEIS GOLD MINING COMPANY/
PERSEVERANCE Co.

LADIES' MEETING GOLD MINING Co., Durham Lead,

01.1863: commenced operations

1863: leased a 130 acre narrow strip from Mr Dunstan; paying £100 and 1.75% of an gold won; this was a wet mine, pumping at 33,000 gallons an hour did not keep the water down.

23.03.1863: the Durham Lead is attracting considerable attention at this time and several new companies have commenced operating on a large scale including the Chryseis or Golden Lady which holds 6000 feet and is the largest claim in the district, a powerful engine is being erected.

03.1864: have driven 300 foot for the gutter; when boring discovered a branch gutter at a depth of 140 feet and have registered a claim; this gutter is thought to originate at the top of Macaulay's gully.

03.1864: shaft down 96 feet; using an 18 inch by 36 inch steam engine for pumping, 2 boilers: 18 feet by 5 feet; a 12 inch pumps with crank worked directly from the shaft of the balance bob; working continuously with 4 x 4 foot strokes per minute; maximum stroke 7 feet; water increasing; have flat rope, trucks and cages; tramway laid underground; using cast iron puddling machine with centre discharge

12.1864: broken through in driving into runs of wash-dirt, gold is payable, but has not been fully tested.

03.1865: swamped out after finding what was thought to be the main run, the small amount of wash-dirt obtained was very rich.

06.1865: water still a problem.

12.09.1865 : calling tenders for 16 inch pumps; the 12 inch pumps not operating due to broken clack valve; 10 inch pumps inadequate on their own; baling tanks and 10 inch pumps discharging 600-700 gallons per minute

07.11.1865: getting ready to fix large pumps

28.11.1865: new 16 inch pumps operating and water down to the cap pieces; 10 inch pump overhauled

12.12.1865: pumping at the rate of 100 gallons per minute

22.05.1866: 1000 feet of 8 inch air pipes purchased for 60 pounds 15 shillings; 16 inch lift sold to the Scarsdale Great Extended Company for 470 pounds

23.01.1866: pumps still working 9 strokes per minute

28.08.1866: hemp rope broke; all replaced with wire ropes; pumps discharging 33,000 gallons per hour; using baling tanks as well as pumps; only one cage now for wash-dirt; 500 trucks raised every 24 hours instead of 800; 28,570 tons of water pumped from 218 feet for the week; machinery in good order

05.1866 to 10.1866: recorded production of 476 ozs 18 dwt 6 gr (or 14.384 kg).

27.11.1866: water heavy; using 3 new tanks; bucket put in working barrel to work 12.5 inch column as both a drawing and a plunger lift; machinery thoroughly overhauled and repaired; boilers cleaned out; pumping 700 gallons per minute; capable of pumping 800 gallons per minute

01.01.1867: engineer estimated cost of erecting a 24 inch cylinder steam engine and 22 inch pumps would be 2600 pounds; bank gave notice of intention to foreclose if work not resumed

1867/8: idle when reported on by Etheridge and Murray sometime in 1867/8; reported to have yielded payable wash-dirt but had been abandoned because the pumps could not cope with the water; a constant flowing stream issues from the mouth of the shaft which gives off a sulphur smell.

(new company)

28.09.1867: to purchase 26 inch cylinder steam engine and 20 inch pumps for 3200 pounds; to dispose of small engine and 2 sets of pumps for 650 pounds

(new company - the Perseverance)

06.1870 : procured a powerful pumping set of 17 inches and placed it on the old Chryseis shaft to try and stop the great inflow of water.

09.1870: taken over the old Chryseis ground, but unable to overcome the water despite using two powerful sets of pumps

06.1871 : yield of 130 ounces.

09.1871 : yield of 300 ounces.

12.1871 : yield of 680 ounces.

06.1872 : yield of 1036 ounces.

09.1872 : yield of 1032 ounces 14 dwt 23 grs.

12.1872 : yield of 1032 ounces.

03.1873 : yield of 1132 ounces.

06.1873 : yield of 1100 ounces.

09.1873 : yield of 1000 ounces.

12.1873 : yield of 1100 ounces.

03.1874 : yield of 1100 ounces.

06.1874 : yield of 736 ounces 7 dwt 12 gr.

09.1874 : yield of 784 ounces 10 dwt.

1875: the great decline started.

09.1875 : yield of 400 ounces.

07.1871 to 09.1875: recorded production of 10,453 ozs 12 dwt 11 gr (or 325.152 kg),

12.1875: working on the main Durham Lead is confined to the No. 2 shaft of this mine.

09.1876: being worked by English tributers with considerable success.

03.1877: workings have proved to be payable, the wash-dirt having improved considerably.

09.1877: yields have improved; rough gold in pieces up to 3 ounce has been obtained.

03.1878: mining operations have been suspended; there is interest in the drainage scheme being carried out.

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/>