
HOWQUA UNITED GOLD TREATMENT WORKS



1 howqua united gold
treatment works howqua hills
track howqua front view

Location

HOWQUA HILLS TRACK HOWQUA HILLS, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1279

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO35

VHR Registration

December 19, 1996

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 1999

What is significant?

The Howqua United Gold Treatment Works consists of the remains of pyritic roasting furnace with an intact brick chimney stack. Near the roasting furnace is a battery site which was powered by a waterwheel (which, at 63ft diameter, was reputedly the third-largest ever to operate in Victoria. A 1.0km long inclined tramway connects the battery site to the mine workings (a small glory hole or open stope).

How is it significant?

The Howqua United Gold Treatment Works is of historical, scientific and archaeological importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Howqua United Gold Treatment Works is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. When the greater part of the gold in some ores is contained in its pyritical contents, the gold is very difficult to extract. From the nineteenth century miners experimented with various metallurgical (or heat treatment) processes to unlock gold from heavily mineralised ore. Evidence of these metallurgical processes, such as the one carried out by the Howqua United Company during the late 1890s, are extremely rare in the State of Victoria.

The Howqua United Gold Treatment Works is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates 1890,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Hermes Number 4999
Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1279 in the category described as a Heritage and Archaeological Place:

Howqua United Gold Treatment Works, Howqua Hills Track, Howqua Historic Reserve, Delatite Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the Crown Land including the remains of the roasting furnace, brick chimney stack, waterwheel pit, any other quartz mining artefacts within a 100 metre radius with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E412 N830 on 1:100,000 map sheet number 8123 Mansfield.

Dated 7 November 1996

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G50 19 December 1996 p.3299]

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/>