
BULL GULLY MINING COMPLEX

Location

OFF GRAVES TRACKS ADELAIDE LEAD, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0137

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 14, 2024

What is significant?

Site of a battery which may have been erected by the government to facilitate prospecting for quartz gold. Around this site are alluvial diggings. One puddling machine site is located within the extent of H7623-0137. The house foundations also are related to alluvial mining. The cyanide works (vats, vat imprints and tailing) is a post mining operation, as to are well preserved remains (no crane however) of a eucalyptus distillery.

How is it significant?

The site is significant because of it contains a palimpsest of different gold and forestry activities which individually and as a whole have:

Intactness: there is retained evidence of all the gold and forestry activities that took place on the site.

Integrity: a compact arrangement of historic relics which demonstrates the continuing use of the site from the late 19th-century to the 1930s.

Condition: retained fabric in a condition that means the continuing use of the site can be understood and interpreted

Why is it significant?

The site has local significance as a relic of Victoria's historic gold mining industry and demonstrating the relationship between an abandoned quartz battery and eucalyptus distillation. The historic features are visible

and form a compact arrangement that makes the site an excellent one for demonstrating how the site was used through time.

Interpretation of Site	<p>The site has a palimpsest of uses that spring from the gold mining, both alluvial (represented by the puddling machine site) and quartz mining (represented by the battery site). Cyaniding is a sub-branch of the quartz mining industry, the cyanidation process, was introduced in the years leading up to the First World War. Cyaniding was a cheap, simple and very effective process of retrieving the fine gold (invisible to the naked eye) from crushed quartz (tailings). The distilling of eucalyptus oil has been carried out in the Box-Ironbark forests of Victoria since the 1870s. Its expansion in the 1890s into a significant industry was a local response to the declining fortunes of the region's quartz gold mines. Thrown out of work, some miners turned to eucalyptus oil production, finding all the necessary ingredients in their backyards. The forests around Bendigo, Inglewood, Wedderburn, Maryborough and St Arnaud contained large tracts of oil-rich Blue and Green Mallee, as well as steam boilers and large dams abandoned by quartz miners</p>
Other Names	BULL GULLY BATTERY,
Hermes Number	7188
Property Number	

History

Battery: One at Koetong is in the course of construction, and another at Mariners Reef, Maryborough, is being overhauled with a view to being put in commission. [Mines Department Annual Report, 1916, p.12]. Local information suggests this may have been the site of private battery. The above information, taken from the 1916 Annual Report, shows that a government battery was also erected in the area in 1916. The Mines Department report gives the battery's location as Mariners Reef. Eucalyptus Distillery: Local information suggests the plant operated c.1930s/1940s Cyanide Works: Cyaniding commenced c.1987 and continued to First World War. Recommended in the 1930s when the price of gold rose dramatically Puddling Machine Site: The state of preservation suggests the puddler operated in the twentieth century) House site: Looking carefully, you will see some low stone and mud walls. These ruins are all that remain of the family dwelling of Thomas Rice. The name Thomas Rice is synonymous with the discovery of gold in Maryborough. Brothers Thomas and William Rice were in transit from Avoca to Yandoit in June 1854, when they found 24 ounces of gold in a short time, in an area off the Avoca Road, starting a minor rush. [Exploring Maryborough and District, Maryborough Field Naturalists Club Inc]

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/>