
WHITEHORSE GULLY NO.2 SHALLOW REEF WORKINGS

Location

MOSQUITO TRACK MARYBOROUGH, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0180

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The line of reef workings shows the north-south orientation that typifies Victorian reef mining, accessing the steeply dipping N-S fault reefs. The scale of the workings varies, with outlying workings of small scale and large mullock dumps in the central section indicative of substantial, capitalised operations. Surface disturbance by bulldozing may have compromised or removed archaeological evidence of haulage methods employed at the mines. The existence of camps along the line is indicative of reasonably-sized labour forces employed at the mines. A crushing plant site is visible beside the central section of workings and may be an early site. Later crushing facilities may have been installed in lower areas with larger catchments for water supply.

Archaeological Significance The battery site is disturbed but retains a limited potential to reveal further information on the scale and nature of the quartz crushing operations carried out. Hut sites identified by stone fireplace ruins are numerous and appear in clusters (camps). The survey was a cursory one and there is high potential for more hut sites to exist adjacent to the line of workings. There has been considerable ground disturbance along the line of workings due to previous risk mitigation works in the mid 1900s (bulldozing). Archaeological significance is assessed as Medium.

Hermes Number 7231

Property Number

History

The Maryborough goldfield was opened in 1853 and the following year saw the first of a number of great rushes to the area. The first lease on Frenchman's Reef appears to have been applied for in early 1860. Large crushings of half-ounce stone were reported in 1867 and in September 1868 the Mining Surveyor reported: "*At Frenchman's Reef several claims are proving valuable. The Ah-Hing Co crushed 75 tons, which averaged 1 oz per ton. Depth of sinking 120 feet, width of reef 12 inches. Bertram and patty also crushed three parcels from their claim.*" In March 1969 a crushing of over 1 ounce of gold/ton was recorded from the reef. No further information of the reef workings has been found.

Sources:

The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, J Flett, 1970;

Mining Surveyors' Reports, Maryborough Division, April 1860, var. 1867, Sept 1868, (Mines Dept, Vic).

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/>