
GREAT EXTENDED MINE SITE

Location

SCHICHER GULLY MARYBOROUGH, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0200

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO121

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SiteCard data copied on 04/07/2024:

What is significant?

The remains of a 19th-century quartz mine that has a large mullock heap and some mining machinery foundations. There is a battery site, one cyanide vat imprint and a large embankment. The mine's tailings dump has largely been quarried.

How is it significant?

The site has significance because of its:

Intactness: retains evidence of the key aspects of a quartz mine – mullock heap, machinery foundations, battery site, tailings and dam.

Integrity: a compact arrangement of mining relics which demonstrates the basic outlay of a quartz gold mine

Condition: retained fabric in a condition that can be understood and interpreted

Why is it significant?

The site has local significance as a relic of Victoria's historic gold mining industry.

Interpretation of Site Historic quartz mine that still retains machinery foundations. The mine's tailings dump has largely been quarried. The site lies near to houses.

Hermes Number 7251

Property Number

History

Blucher's Reef was opened in 1857 by Mr C. Von Malesky, and was originally worked by parties of four and six men, holding claims of about 200 feet in length along the line of lode. The water level was reached at 186 feet, and to that depth the stone was exceptionally good, returning as much as 50 oz to the ton. The claims fell into the hands of Messrs Williams, two local mining men, and by them the reef was operated on to a depth of 440 feet, at great disadvantage on account of the mine being worked on the lode, the underlay of which is about 1 in 3. The present main shaft, 11 feet x 4 feet, is situate about 400 feet to the west of the surface line, and if continued down should cut the reef at a depth of 1000 feet. It was commenced over 25 years ago, when it was sunk to a depth of about 100 feet. It then stood for a considerable time, until the Great Extended Quartz Mining Co. was floated, Messrs E. Morey, Bailey, and Edwards, of Ballarat, being largely interested. Winding, pumping, and crushing machinery was erected, and the main shaft sunk to a depth of 450 feet. The company suspended operations, and let the mine on tribute, but with no good result, the tributers to having the capital required to sink the shaft and crosscut to the reef at a lower level. Subsequent companies carried the shaft down and prospected the reef at the 720-foot level, but with poor results. [Australian Mining Standard, Special Edition, June 1, 1899, pp. 105-8] Great Extended Company The London Chartered Bank have sold their claim on Blucher's Reef to the Great Extended Company, and the owners of adjoining claims have also sold their claims to the above company, who now possess nearly the whole of Blucher's Reef. The company are possessed of ample means and have already begun in good earnest to work their mine. The main shaft is down to 150 feet and has been so laid as will enable the company to strike the reef at a depth of 1,000 or 1,200 feet from the surface. The estimated cost of proving the reef to a depth of 500 feet is £6,000; but as the company intend to place a thoroughly efficient crushing plant, and also a plant for treating pyrites, on the claim, the estimated total cost of proving the mine, and providing for it suitable machinery, is £20,000. The working of this mine will confer a great benefit upon the district, and it is to be hoped that the courage and enterprise of the company will meet with entire success. [Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1875] June 1878: The Great Extended Company have been compelled to stop work on their mine at Blucher's Reef. This is one of the best-defined reefs in this district. The stoppage of this mine has thrown a number of men out of work. [Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1878]

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/>