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# THORNHILL COMPANY

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## Location

DEMO TRACK NEWSTEAD, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0175

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SiteCard data copied on 04/07/2024:

## What is significant?

The remains of a quartz mine with remains of roasting kilns from two mining periods.

(1) pioneering quartz mining late 1850s/early 1860s) and (2) company mining in the late 1880s. At least four kilns from phase 1 and set of kilns from phase 2.

## How is it significant?

The site is significant due to:

Intactness: retained evidence of the key aspects of two phases of quartz roasting

Condition: retains fabric (quartz roasting kilns) in a condition that can be understood and interpreted

## Why is it significant?

Despite disturbance due to the filling of mine openings and/or removal of mullock for road making, the site is significant due to the survival of quartz roasting kilns. These type of kiln are one of the defining symbols of the Victorian gold rush and the pioneering of quartz mining in central Victoria.

Interpretation of Site	A quartz mining site that has been extensively bulldozed/excavated for shaft filling and/or extracting gravel for road making. Despite the disturbance the site possesses relics associated with two phases of mining (1) pioneering quartz mining late 1850s/early 1860s) and (2) company mining in the late 1880s. The relics are quartz roasting kilns - at least four from phase 1 and set of kilns from phase 2. The quartz roasting kilns are the only visible constructed features on the site. Archaeological excavation may reveal more features.
Hermes Number	7848
Property Number	

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## History

The mine site had three main periods of mining: • Period 1: Reef opened up in 1856 by Mr Thornehill or Thornhill and worked by him and other small claimholders into the 1860s. The remnants of the four small kilns mostly likely belong to this period of mining. • Period 2: English company formed (Thornhill Co. )in 1871 and worked until c.1887 • Period 3: South Australian company (Thornhill Reef Co.) formed in 1883 and worked until c1888 In the Muckleford area, successfully worked reefs of the 1860s included the Blow-up, Dunns, Excelsior, Kangaroo, Red White and Blue, Smiths, and Thornhill reefs. Thornhill Reef Company In 1871, the Thornhill Company was floated on the English market. Shaft sinking commenced and by June 1872 their engine shaft was below the 500-ft level and crushing machinery was to be erected. [Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1872]. The stampers were in place by December 1873 and repairs were being made to the smoke stack and flues. The prospects of the mine were considered good and there was a large body of stone reading for crushing. [Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1873] The Thornhill Company closed down shortly after the end of 1873. In 1883 the Thornhill Reef Company under new management commenced sinking a new shaft from the surface and had purchased a new crushing plant consisting of a 16hp engine and 20 head of stamp. [Mount Alexander Mail, 15/10/1883]. By Jan 1884, the battery had been erected, there were 20 men employed, the shaft was down to water, and Green Gully was beginning 'to have the appearance of a settlement from the miners erecting weatherboard cottages for themselves' [Mount Alexander Mail, 7 Jan 1884]. In March 1888, the local mining surveyor reported that quartz was now being paddocked, pending the construction of kilns for burning and repairing their battery for crushing. The company only worked for a short time after 1888.

*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/>*