
LONE HAND BATTERY AND CYANIDE WORKS

Location

PROVIDENCE SPUR TRACK WONGUNGARRA, WELLINGTON SHIRE

Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0005

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10986

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: (The Lone Hand mine east of Grant appears to have no connection with an earlier Lone Hand [formerly Mountaineer] Reef worked at Good Luck Creek in the 1860s and 1880s.) The Lone Hand Reef is an easterly continuation of the Jolly Sailor's, a reef which was worked as early as 1864. The Lone Hand extension was opened up in the early 1900s by a co-operative party of miners. They crushed stone with a 5-head battery, driven by an 8-hp engine, situated in Mornington Gully near the reef. The Royal Flush Reef, nearer to Grant, was worked in conjunction with the Lone Hand, but was a poor performer. Work on the Lone Hand mine ceased in 1907, and although prospectors re-tried the reef in 1913-14, nothing payable was found. There was a battery in Mornington Gully as early as 1865, when Kitchingham & Co. erected a steam-powered Balfour's patent crusher 'immediately next to' the Jolly Sailors claim, to service mines along the reef. Like most Crooked River reefs, the Jolly Sailors was abandoned in the late 1860s, but it was re-worked in the early 1870s by the Hopeful and Ballarat companies. The Mornington battery (or 'Mornington mills', as it was

called) was again put to use, and was rebuilt in 1875 after it was seriously damaged by bushfire. Nothing more is known of the Mornington battery, other than it was used for a trial crushing from a new reef in 1880. The Jolly Sailors Reef was again worked in the late 1880s, when a 300-ft tunnel was driven to intersect it. The next recorded workings were those on the Lone Hand extension. It is possible, though unlikely, that the repaired Mornington battery was re-used in the early 1900s.

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/>