

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 21/02/19

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## BLACK SNAKE BATTERY AND CYANIDE WORKS

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### Location

GIBRALTAR RANGE ROAD HAWKHURST, WELLINGTON SHIRE

### Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

### Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

### Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0011

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 10992

Property Number

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### History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Reef claims at Black Snake Creek were first opened up in 1865. In 1867, the Kong Meng Co. took up the Black Snake claim (called 'the most promising looking reef in the neighborhood of Grant'), about 5 km from the junction of Black Snake Creek and Wonnangatta River. The company erected a 4-head water-powered battery, and worked the mine for about three years, reputedly crushing 600 tons of quartz for an average of over 1 oz per ton. The Black Snake mine was idle for a number of years before it was taken up again and a lower tunnel driven along the line of reef for about 150 ft without striking payable stone. In 1907, a party obtained a government grant to extend the Kong Meng tunnel, but again got nothing payable. During the depression of the early 1930s, the government encouraged unemployed men to take up mining on Black Snake Creek. A small 'susso' settlement, with a post & telegraph office and school, was established. The diggings

yielded poorly and by 1933 only 15 men remained. The following year, the government initiated roadworks to supplement the diggers' employment. Eight men were prospecting in the area (with government assistance) in 1936, and their eleven children attended the school at Black Snake. By 1942 the field was deserted.

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*