
EXHIBITION BATTERY

Location

DARGO FOREST ROAD DARGO, WELLINGTON SHIRE

Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0012

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO113

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10993

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: The Exhibition Co., mining about 5 km south-west of Dargo township (in a paddock on the south side of the road to Waterford), installed a steam-powered battery in September 1881, at which time they already had 100 tons of quartz awaiting crushing. With yields of 1¼ oz per ton, the company was able to pay a £200 dividend by the end of that year. The battery also crushed for other mines in the vicinity, including the Parnell and the Perseverance. Constant water shortages dogged the battery's operations: in the winter of 1884, its passes and hoppers were choked with quartz, which could not be cleared until sufficient rain fell to fill the battery dam. The Exhibition mine was worked by tributers from 1885, and continued to give good

returns from a 'thin and difficult' reef throughout the 1880s. Due to a large gap in mining records, the next-found reference to the Exhibition Reef is dated 1906, at which time payable stone was being raised by the Exhibition Co. No mention was made of a battery at the mine; a government battery at Dargo served other small mines in the vicinity at that period. The Exhibition mine was in the hands of tributers from 1908 until it closed down in about 1910. Christie & Gray say that the battery now located in Shortcut Road, 5 km south of Dargo, is the government battery which was removed from Dargo to Grant in 1911, then moved to its present site during the 1930s. Churchward (Table 4.1) calls the site the Exhibition battery and, given that the location coincides with that of the Exhibition Reef, that interpretation seems more plausible than Christie & Gray's claim that it was the government battery. Had the government installed a battery for the use of prospectors in the Exhibition/Perseverance reefs locality during the 1930s, it is unlikely to have been left on the site to decay.

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/>