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# UNITED MINERS MINE AND BATTERY SITE

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## Location

GRAVEYARD GULLY HARRIETVILLE, ALPINE SHIRE

## Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8324-0019

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 11019

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Discovered in 1866, the United Miners Reef had produced nearly 20,000 oz by 1874, nearly half of it in the first three years' mining. The reef straddled the Omeo Road, about 3 km south of Harrietville and was traced along the surface of the spur for about 150 metres. Initially it was worked by shaft, then by a series of five adits, No. 5 being the lowest.

A 10-head battery was erected at the mine in late 1867, and in its first ten months' crushing the mine paid dividends in excess of £16,000. In 1868, appliances were added to the battery to aid in the separation of gold from the pyrites in the ore. High-level production continued until 1874, when the gold cut out. The Admiral Co. worked No. 5 tunnel from 1877 into the next decade, erecting a battery which saw very little work. Very little gold was produced after 1875. Nonetheless, the early success of the United Miners mine made it by far the biggest gold producer at Harrietville during the 1870s. It was considered at the time one of the 'most important and

valuable mines' in the entire Buckland Mining Division.

The United Miners Reef was worked in a small way during the late 1880s and early 1890s. The Port Melbourne Co., working the mine in 1894, was considering installing a (new/additional?) battery. Soon after, the mine was sold to the large Harrietville Co., which appears not to have worked it. The mine was prospected from 1910-13, but no more gold was forthcoming. The United Miners was finished.

*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/>*