
MONARCH BATTERY

Location

GREAT ALPINE ROAD HARRIETVILLE, ALPINE SHIRE

Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8324-0021

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO16

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 6, 2005

The Monarch Gold Battery Site consists of the remains of one 5-head stamp battery (in a 10-head iron frame), portable steam engine, shaking table, various buried and partly buried piece of machinery, blacksmith shop and quartz mine workings. The battery and portable steam engine etc., are remnants of crushing facility that last worked in 1935. The site is obscured by blackberry bushes and tree ferns.

The Monarch Gold Battery Site is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Monarch Gold Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. Although being very close to the main Harrietville Road, the machinery has not been significantly scavenged.

Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The abandoned mining machinery at the Monarch battery site is historically important for its evocation of the adventurousness,

hardship, and isolation that was part of mining life in the high country areas of the State.

The Monarch Gold Battery Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 11020

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The 10-head battery (2 x 5-head boxes) at the Monarch mine was originally purchased by the New Options Co. in 1896 and was operated by Pelton wheel at a site near the company's Crescent mine. The New Options Co. closed down in 1904, and in 1913 the battery was moved to the Monarch Reef.

The Monarch Reef was one of those discovered in the difficult country above the west branch of the Ovens, south of Harrietville, in 1896 and taken up by the New Options Co. After an initial few rich crushings, yields became small and patchy. Nonetheless, by 1900, the reef had produced 2,446 oz from just 519 tons. The Monarch was prospected again during the 1910s, after which the Monarch GMC was formed in 1913 and the ex-Crescent battery installed, powered by steam engine. The mine was taken over by C.F. Proctor in 1915, and he prospected and developed it for many years, driving an adit at battery level, without success. Finally, in 1927, payable stone was struck and crushing commenced. According to Lloyd, the mine employed a 5-head battery, initially powered by a portable steam engine, which was later replaced by an oil engine. The last recorded crushing at the Monarch battery was in 1935. Four years later, bushfires incinerated the mine buildings and badly damaged the battery.

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/>