
Swantons Battery Site and Cyanide Vats, Stuart Mill area, STUART MILL



SM 27 - Swantons Battery
Site and Cyanide Vats, Stuart
Mill area, STUART MILL

Location

STUART MILL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7524-0027, H7524-0028, H7524-0029

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 30, 2004

This area includes a battery site which is dominated by the remains of a large stone boiler setting, together with a scatter of ripped up bed logs and stamper foundations. A tailings dump 30 m wide and 1.5 m high, and three buried galvanised iron cyanide vats are also located on site. The battery operated in the 1890s, while the cyanide

vats date from this century.

The Swanton's Battery site and cyanide vats are **historically** and **scientifically** important at a **LOCAL** level as a substantially intact example of an important gold mining technique. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria.

Overall the Swanton's Battery site and cyanide vats are of **LOCAL** significance.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	113717
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Site 63.0. Battery site (Maybe the site of Swanton's battery which was operating in 1897).

Battery site. Site is dominated by the remains of a 25 ft long, 8 ft wide, stone boiler setting. On the eastern side of the boiler setting is a scatter of ripped up bed logs. The area of the stamper foundations has been excavated.

Sludge pond. Downhill (north) from the battery, slightly to the east is a small quarried sludge pond.

Physical Description 2

Site 63.1. Cyanide works (Cyaniding commenced in the Mining Division c.1897).

Tailings dump and cyanide works. Downhill (slightly to the west) from the battery site is a raised treated tailings dump which is approximately 30 metres wide and 1.5 metres high. On top of the heap are three buried 19 ft diameter galvanised iron cyanide vats. In the gully below the dump is a small water dam.

Tailings dump. Uphill or south of the battery is another raised dump of treated tailings (measuring approx. 50 x 30 metres, 2 metres high).

Physical Description 3

63.2. Reef workings (Old Christina Reef, late nineteenth century).

Reef workings. 300 metres south of the battery side is a line of bulldozed small mullock heaps.

Physical Description 4

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 63.2 has poor integrity and little historical significance and hence low cultural significance. Sites 63.0 and 63.1 have:

- . Historical Significance, because together the two sites represent a sequence of uses (quartz crushing and cyaniding) over time.
- . Scientific Significance, because of the survival of a battery foundations and cyanide works.

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/>