
NEW BLACK HORSE MINE

Location

BLACKHORSE LANE MOUNT EGERTON, MOORABOOL SHIRE

Municipality

MOORABOOL SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7722-0044

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11665

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The Mount Egerton goldfield was discovered in 1853 by a party of Ballarat miners led by George Grell. The field was rushed in 1854 with miners concentrating their efforts on extracting gold from one long line of quartz reefs. This line was eventually traced from Mount Egerton to Gordon and beyond. The dash for quick profits saw the bulk of early quartz workings abandoned by 1858-59 when the shafts dropped onto water.

During the early to mid 1860s the Mount Egerton field experienced several disastrous mining booms and busts. In 1867 confidence in the field was maintained when the Egerton Company, along with an adjoining Black Horse Company, were successful in obtaining steady and sometimes outstanding yields. These two companies, through various re-organisations, continued to dominate the Mount Egerton field for the next 20 or so years. The Black Horse had three main re-organisations - Black Horse (1867-1874), New Black Horse (1874-early 1880s), and

Black Horse United (early 1880s - 1900s).

Both the Egerton and Black Horse companies had their turns at being the division's largest gold producer. The former held the record throughout much of the 1880s, and the latter for a shorter time during the late 1880s / early 1890s. The Egerton was to pay out some £300,000 in dividends and the Black Horse obtained £460,000 worth of gold and paid out £178,000 in dividends.

The Black Horse mine continued to work through the 1890s and into the early 1900s. The later mining efforts of the company proved unprofitable because of the expense of working at great depths -by the 1900s the company was exploring below the 2,000 foot level.

Machinery: The mining register records the following machinery installation for the Black Horse mine: Sept 1870 - 30hp engine; June 1877 - 22-head stamp battery; June 1877 - New boiler and brick stack; and March 1879 - erection of new 30-head stamping battery. Foundations surviving today would date to the 1870s.

References:

Flett,J., "The History of Gold Discoveries in Victoria" 1979 pp374

Mining Surveyors Quarterly Reports: December 1860; July 1863; September 1870; June 1877; December 1877; March 1879

Department of Mines, Annual Reports 1903 and 1904

Australasian Mining Standard, June 1 1899

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/>