
PRINCE IMPERIAL AND ALBION CONSOLS

Location

37 COBBLERS LANE BONSHAW, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0135

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 30, 2021

What is significant?

Local Significance; evidence of mining in the Sebastopol and wider Ballarat area. These are the remnants of one of Ballarat's larger, longer-running companies (the incorporated Band of Hope and Albion Consols Company), with the Albion Company having pioneered the boring- before- shafting methodology in Victoria.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	Difficult due to the inability to access the property. From the roadway both mullock heaps appear to be in a poor condition, with little evidence of spreading in the northern heap and some of the southern heap (although I was able to get much closer to the southern heap). The southern heap has been impacted by rabbit warrens, and it is reasonable to suggest that the northern one has as well- some evidence was able to be seen in close up photographs, and small, unidentified animals were seen darting around on both heaps. Both have been impacted by vegetation growth, especially European Grass, but especially the southern heap which also has blackberry bushes and Scottish Thistles around the base. The site has been recently ploughed and according to neighbours was until recently used as farming land. The previous owner had recently sold the land to developers (see "threat"). No evidence of either mine shaft was visible from the roads nor from aerial imagery on Google Maps.
Other Names	PRINCE IMPERIAL NO. 1 SHAFT,
Hermes Number	11972
Property Number	

History

The greater region of Ballarat was first settled by Europeans in 1837/1838, when brothers Archibald and William Yuille established a pastoral run they named "Ballaarat". William built his small settlement near what is now Sebastopol, with Archibald building at Black Swamp, now Lake Wendouree. They abandoned this run in 1851 following the discovery of gold at Buninyong, Clunes and Golden Point. By 1871, Ballaarat had a population of approx 50,000 as a result of these discoveries, with the area to the south of the city, including Sebastopol, being especially fruitful.

Sebastopol was originally a small town independent of Ballaarat. Located approx 4km to the south of the CBD, it was established in 1854 and declared a borough in 1864, by which point it had a population of approx 20,000. It was settled after the shallow alluvial gold deposits in Ballaarat had been exhausted, primarily by Welsh and Cornish miners who were accustomed to deep lead mining and were able to access the deeper gold deposits which existed on the Sebastopol Plateau. Gold mining decreased between 1871 and 1881 and ceased entirely between 1883 and 1885, but was renewed in 1886 with a number of new shafts being sunk. This was however only a brief reprieve and Sebastopol never fully recovered, with the last mine closing in 1918.

The Albion Company was the first mining company in Victoria to employ the methodology of boring prior to sinking a shaft. They first employed this methodology on the Sebastopol diggings on the 21st of June 1856, with commencement of the sinking of the mining shaft on the 4th of June 1858 (Niven 1887: 221). On the 7th of March 1869 the Albion Company united with the United Hand-in-Hand and Band of Hope Company to form the incorporated Band of Hope and Albion Consols Company. This joining left the company with a combined 400 acres of mining rights as well as a large amount of shares and capital. In September 1869 nineteen horses were employed in the underground works of one of their mines, as well as the employment of 900 men. However which mine they were all employed at is not noted (Niven 1887: 222).

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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/>