
VICTORIA-HOMEWARD BOUND OPEN CUT

Location

A1 TRACK GAFFNEYS CREEK, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8123-0027

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 12158

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The Victoria or Homeward Bound Reef on Raspberry Creek was one of the earliest reefs worked on the Gaffney's Creek field, from 1860. In 1860, a battery of eight square heads, powered by a 20ft-diameter waterwheel was erected 50 ft above the creek by O'Connor and party. Three hundred feet higher up, they cut a quarry into the hill, which yielded richly. At the end of 1864, the open cut had a vertical face of 60 ft and a shaft had been commenced to work the lower ground. The Victoria GMC purchased the claim and in 1865 began driving a tunnel in order to work the lower levels of the mine at less expense. The old square stamps were replaced with revolving ones in 1867. The mine was let on tribute and for a couple of years vast quantities of stone were crushed for relatively small returns (e.g., 2,000 tons for 216 oz) suggesting that the open cut was still in use. Despite flagging yields late in the decade, the Victoria was one of only a handful of Gaffney's Creek mines to have made a profit

during the 1860s.

The mine was recapitalised in 1871 and a new battery of 15-head erected (not surprisingly, the old one was worn out). A new tunnel was commenced, intended to strike the reef about 460 ft above creek level. At the same time (?) a level -the lowest- was put in from the creek. The mine was 'talked up' but failed to produce better yields. Tributers struggled on ('prospecting with three men and the battery') until 1880, when continuing poor prospects and excessive water finished the mine.

The Victoria ground was taken up again in 1888 and the New Victoria and Golden Belt Co. was formed. The battery was shifted downhill, but no gold was found.

References: Flett, p. 109

Lloyd & Combes, p. 111

Mining and Geological Journal, 1948

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Gaffney's Creek Subdivision), June 1865, June 1867, December 1868, September 1871, March & June 1872, September 1877

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/>