
MT HUNTER TIN MINE MANAGERS HOUSE SITE

Location

WILSONS PROMONTORY, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8120-0024

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

See site card

Historical Significance	The site is of historical significance for its association with the Mt Hunter Tin Mine and its activities.
Archaeological Significance	The site is of archaeological significance for its ability to produce further information on the occupation of the Manager's House in the early 20th Century.
Hermes Number	124410
Property Number	

History

In 1902, tin was discovered approximately one mile east of Chinaman's Bay in the northeast of Wilsons Promontory National Park. Tin shortages caused by World War One prompted the Victorian Government to allow

tin mining in the park. In 1919, several mining syndicates joined to form the Mt Hunter Tin Mining Syndicate (amalgamating with, among others, the Surprise Syndicate), and obtained mineral leases for three areas of the Promontory. These were located on a 12 square mile reserve excluded from the national park in 1905.

Mining started in 1924, and was confined to the Lawson's Creek area. That same year, a pipeline route measuring 66 feet was constructed by local labourers, with 7500 feet of wooden, steel banded pipes. The pipeline was designed to pump sea water from the coast by the No.1 Pump Station to the main mine activity area for sluicing (No 2 Pump Station). They were designed to release trapped air from the pipes and reduce bushfire damage. Pump Station No 1 was located near the Manager's House (Westcott, 1995).

The Manager's House was occupied by the two managers, appointed by the Mt Hunter Tin Mine Syndicate. The first manager, M.M. Sinclair was dismissed in late 1924- early 1925 after major operating issues with one of the pump stations. He was succeeded by Malcolm Kirwan in March 1925, after an interim period of management by shareholder Charles Jarvis. Kirwan lived in a cottage at Chinaman's Bay, between Corner Inlet and Bidy's Camp. It is unknown if this cottage was built for Kirwan or had existed prior. While the mine manager lived in a weatherboard structure, labourers lived in tents.

Mining ceased in 1925, and most of the mine assets were sold and removed.

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/>