
A1 GOLD MINE

Location

A1 TRACK GAFFNEYS CREEK, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8122-0108

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The open cut represents the earliest phase of workings, from 1862-1870. The mullock derives from a variety of sources - the open cut, No 4 adit, and the hoist shaft. The period represented is 1860s-1915. The site is representative of open cut mining processes, but not ore treatment or the living and working conditions of the miners.

The rock-walled feature that is built into a mullock dump in the gully is of unknown purpose. The structure is substantial, 7 m wide at the top with wing walls 7 m long at each side. . It may have retained the mullock around an ore pass connected to workings below. The long rock wall is a line of large spalls from the open cut.

Archaeological Significance

The site contains abundant mining features relating to the working of the open cut and adit.No associated hut or machinery sites have been located. There remains a possibility that sites associated with the earliest workings in the gully may have been buried by the mullock heaps and survive at the original ground surface. It is also possible that sites may be hidden in dense vegetation at the site, away from the dumping areas. Archaeological significance is medium, based on potential.

Historical Significance	The A1 Mine was historically the 7th largest gold-processing operation in Victoria. Its greater historical significance was in the mid 1900s when it was one of a handful of flagship companies that carried the hopes of Victorian mining. This era coincided with the period of peak gold production from the mine, but the fabric that once supported this high significance is now gone. The open cut was long finished at this time.
Other Names	CASTLE REEF,
Hermes Number	149590
Property Number	

History

Gold was discovered in Raspberry Creek in 1860. A large formation was visible in a rock outcrop above the creek, and a prospecting claim on this outcrop was pegged out in September 1862. In 1864, the outcrop had a open cut with a 60 foot high face. In December of that year the A1 Gold Mining Company was founded. A tramway to the mill was constructed in 1865. While the open cut was essentially finished by 1870, the property changed hands and continued to be developed over the next 110 years. The peak decades of production were the 1940s, 50s and 60s, when over 220, 000 ounces of gold were produced.

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/>