
MUSCAT PROSPECTOR MINE

Location

7 BIDDY MACS ROAD LEXTON, PYRENEES SHIRE

Municipality

PYRENEES SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7523-0081

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Archaeological Significance

The larger pit is sub-oval in shape measuring 5m in length northwest - southeast, 1.5m in width northeast - southwest with a maximum depth of 0.8m. The pit is concave in profile with a flat base. Remnants of a vertical wooden retaining wall (plank n= 6; wall 100 x 60 x 10cm) line the inner north end of the pit. A fragment of a wooden ladder on the base may suggest that a backfilled shaft may also be present. The pit is flanked on the east and west sides by irregular banks of upcast material (broken and crushed quartz in a matrix of clayey silt), on average 2-3m in width and 0.6m in height. Three smaller sub-oval pits are cut into the west bank, measuring on average 2m in length, 1 m in width and 0.6m in depth.

Site is likely to have had limited disturbance.

Interpretation of Site

The larger pit (phase 1 activity) is likely a quartz extraction pit with excavated material heaped around the edge where, in pursuit of gold, quartz was broken and crushed. The smaller pit (phase 2 activity) is likely a later fossick pit where previously excavated material was reworked. The site represents two phases of ad hoc gold prospection.

Hermes Number	162630
Property Number	

History

While there is no specific documentary evidence about Muscat Prospector Mine, it is reasonable to conclude that it was for extracting gold from the quartz. Several large gold mining companies operated in the area including the Northern Hope Company, The Sons of Freedom groups of companies and an English company called The Carter's Deep Leads. The site, as it is not a commercial venture, nor is it particularly extensive, is most likely the result of a property owner attempting small scale *ad hoc* prospecting in the late nineteenth century or more likely the early twentieth century.

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/>