
BRIODY PROSPECTOR MINE

Location

20 JACK SMITHS LANE LEXTON, PYRENEES SHIRE

Municipality

PYRENEES SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7523-0080

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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 , however quartz was also extracted from this pit below the level of the bank. The site represents two phases of <i>ad hoc</i> gold prospection.
Archaeological Significance	Moderate - pit is located in a paddock under grass and would not have been subject to much, if any, ground disturbance. Possibility of further sub-surface remains.
Hermes Number	162632
Property Number	

History

While there is no specific documentary evidence about Briody Prospector Mine, it is reasonable to conclude that it was for extracting gold. There were no large discoveries of gold in the immediate vicinity of Lexton, although commercial quantities were extracted on a small scale from mines in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with the closest being the Luxor Mine two miles northwest of the Lexton Township and the Star of Lexton company shafts at unspecified locations in 1892. The precise history of the site is not known, but Oulton does provide information about the twentieth century mining history of the area close to the Briody quartz extraction pit. In the 1930s the Government provided basic prospecting materials, a tent and a railway ticket to unemployed men willing to try their luck at gold mining (Oulton 1985: 11 8). Some 15,650 men took advantage of the scheme and some of these made their way to an area of Crown land near Granite Hill, known as 'Cos', short for the Cosmopolitan Gold Sluicing Company which had earlier operated in the area. Briody Prospector Mine could be related with this scheme although is more likely to represent *ad hoc* gold prospecting in 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/>