BURNS HILL ADIT UPPER TUNNEL

Location

NORTH STREET CHEWTON, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1235

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	This adit is part of the extensive network of shafts, open cuts and tunnels that make up the Burns Hill workings
Hermes Number	193367
Property Number	

History

Burns Hill workings is one of the earliest mining areas to be developed in the Chewton district. The area was first opened in the 1850s. Early work was carried out via tunnels and open cuts, many of which can still be found . Early returns were promising and before long tunnels were driven to exploit the reefs at depth. Several companies were active in this locality, the most notable being McWaters and Co and Salmon and Co. The records of McWaters and Co are somewhat suspect as the company is variously recorded as McWaters and CO, McWatturs CO, McWatturs and Lord. Also, McWaters and Lovelt, and McWalter began to appear in relation to

Burns Hill sites from the 1860s. It is possible that these names are just variations on McWaters and Co and may refer to the one company.

In 1860 the Golden Point Co erected machinery and began crushing for mining companies on Burns Hill. December 1874 saw The Bertha Co progressing with the erection of crushing machinery. For the following crushing records it is assumed that the ore was hand-picked rather than run-of -mine. Salmon and Co between 1864 and 1867 produced 34.45 kg of gold from 805 tons of ore and McWaters and Co between 1864 and 1879 produced 20.57 kg of gold from 1,217 tons of ore (Willman, 1995; p 62). Salmon and Co, during December 1864, crushed 113 tons for 246 ounces. The reef continued to return profitable yields to the end of 1867.

In 1869 the Burns Hill Co was formed, but no work by them is recorded .

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/