

HIGHLAND CHIEF MINE SETTLEMENT SITE

Location

EZARD TRACK BROOKVILLE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8423-0016

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	1892: Highland Chief Reef discovered Ca.1900: Highland Chief Mine closed
Archaeological Significance	The Highland Chief Mine Settlement site is of high archaeological significance because of its association with the Highland Chief Mine, being the dominant housing site of the area. It also has a high potential to reveal archaeological features, deposits, relics and artefacts not only pertaining to the development of the mining landscape itself, but also those who worked and lived within the area.
Historical Significance	The Highland Chief Mine Settlement site is of historical significance for its association with mining within the Swifts Creek area, as well as its known use as a settlement site for the Highland Chief Mine.

Hermes Number 194689

Property Number

History

Gold was discovered around Swifts Creek in the mid 1850s. The Highland Chief reef at Brookville wasn't discovered until 1892. A Company was formed in 1896 to run the mine. Good money was invested, and equipment that was bought and installed included: a 10-head battery, cyanide plant, vats, charcoal filters, battery house, engine room, assay house, furnaces and tramlines. The mine was situated less than a few kilometres from the old Brookville Township, which was formed in 1895. However, the Highland Chief Mine settlement, of around 30 houses and other buildings was formed just a short distance away from the mining area. Bridle tracks linked the settlement to the mines and Main Township. The Highland Chief operated for a few more years before it closed down. In 1900 the Battery and associated equipment was sold to the Brunswick Syndicate who relocated it to other mines in the area. The Brookville area was commonly called Scotch Hollow because of large number of Scotsmen there which is reflected in the names of prominent mines: Highland Chief, Highland Creek, Rob Roy, Aberdeen, Scotchman, & Lady McGregor

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/>