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# HIGHLAND CHIEF MINE BATTERY SITE 1

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## Location

DOROTHY CUTTING BROOKVILLE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8423-0017

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site  
1892: Highland Chief Reef discovered  
Ca.1900: Highland Chief Mine closed

Archaeological Significance  
The Highland Chief Mine Battery Site 1 is of high archaeological significance because of its association with the Highland Chief Mine, being the main battery site of the region . 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 Battery Site 1 is of historical significance for its association with mining within the Swifts Creek area, as well as its known use as a prominent battery of the Highland Chief Mine and a settlement site for its workers.

Hermes Number 194690

Property Number

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## 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/>*