
WOAH HAWP CANTON MINE SETTLING PONDS

Location

705-711 GEELONG ROAD CANADIAN, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0461

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

The Woah Hawp Canton Mine Settling Ponds is of local significance due to its association with the Gold Rush generally, and Chinese miners in Ballarat more specifically. Under the terms of the Heritage Act 2017 there is protection for all historical archaeology sites and objects in the state.

Please visit the Heritage Victoria website to find out more about the Heritage Inventory.

Archaeological Significance	Documented evidence states that the Woah Hawp Canton Mine and associated settling ponds was in operation from circa 1880 to 1916. Following the closure of the Woah Hawp Canton (H76220126) the settlings ponds were also covered with fill. CHMP testing determined the sub-surface evidence of the settlings ponds is generally at a depth of 400-700mm. The fill has caused the site to be filled above the adjacent Canadian Creek floodplain located to the east. The settling ponds were comprised of red brick, asphalt and concrete, these materials were identified in multiple test pits. Since the demolition of the c. 1940s dwelling (2007) the property has been vacant land. It is now proposed to construct a hotel on the property. This demonstrates the site's significance for historical archaeological features, deposits and artefacts.
Historical Significance	The site is significant for its association to a cluster of mines in the close vicinity of the settling ponds. The settling ponds are an example of mining operations in the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century in the heart of the goldfields. The site will provide an opportunity to gain further knowledge of mining operations in the local Ballarat area.
Hermes Number	203710
Property Number	

History

The associated site - Woah Hawp Canton (H7622-0126) consists of a substantially intact three-finger mullock heap 40m by 30m by 12m high. It is part of a cluster of mines, all of which were connected to and worked by the Woah Hawp Canton Company in the period from 1909 to 1916. This cluster of mines includes Tinworth's and the North Prince Regent/South Woah Hawp.

The Culture Victoria website, accessed 14/06/2019 states that the The Woah Hawp Canton Quartz Mining Company of Ballarat was founded in 1882 by a conglomeration of Chinese shareholders and business men who chose to employ Chinese workers.

That said, a photo of the 'Woah Hawp Canton Mine' dated to 1880 is available on the Culture Victoria website, accessed 14/06/2019.

Unfortunately, due to scant and conflicting records as to the period of operations of the Woah Hawp Canton Mine it is not possible to state precisely when the settling ponds were constructed or in use; however, it is likely to have been in the order of 1880-1916.

Following the closure of the Woah Hawp Canton (H7622-0126) the settlings ponds were covered with fill. The sub-surface evidence of the settlings ponds is generally at a depth of 400-700mm. The fill has caused the site to be artificially elevated above the adjacent Canadian Creek floodplain located to the east.

The southern section of the site - for which there is only surface brick as evidence of the settling ponds - was the location of a dwelling from the 1940s to 2007. The dwelling was of a weatherboard construction; however, likely had brick in the foundations and chimneys and the origin of the surface brick may, or may not be, linked to the dwelling. Since the demolition of the dwelling the property has been vacant land. It is now proposed to construct a hotel on the property.

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/>