BEEHIVE COMPANY GOLD MINE

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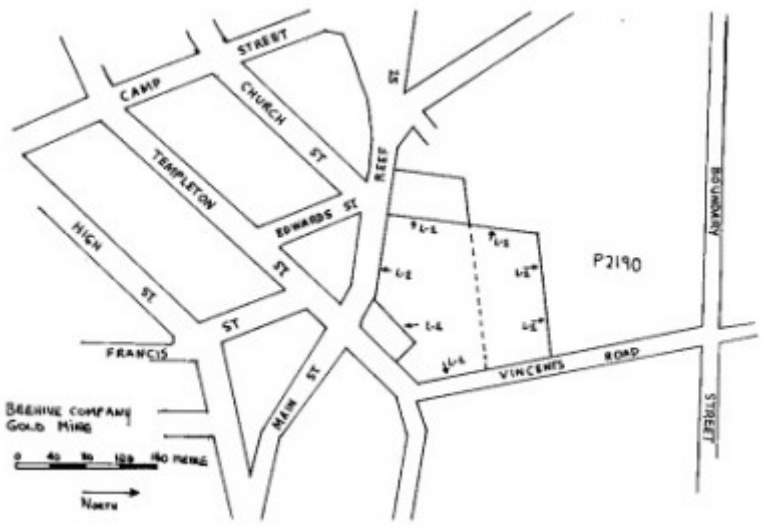

beehive company gold mine main street maldon plan

Location

MAIN STREET MALDON, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1361

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO454

VHR Registration

October 16, 1997

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 13, 1999

What is significant?

The Maldon quartz reefing field, although relatively small compared to others in the State, was extraordinarily rich in gold. The hardness and heavy mineralisation of the rock containing the gold placed Maldon's mining companies in the vanguard for the introduction of new mining technology. Beehive Reef was opened in 1854 and was mined until 1918. Large-scale mining commenced in 1860, when machinery described as the 'most extensive in the colony' was installed. The 60 horse-power engine powering the machinery was called at the time the 'most powerful employed in mining speculations in Victoria'. The site's towering brick chimney stack, constructed in 1861, has been recognised historically (since 1923) as a monument to Maldon's nineteenth-century gold mining.

How is it significant?

The Beehive Company Gold Mine is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Beehive Company Gold Mine is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic example of an important form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, quartz mining, with its intensive reliance on machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The Beehive Company Gold Mine is important as a manifestation of this aspect of gold mining.

The Beehive Company Gold Mine is scientifically important for the survival of its brick chimney stack. This stack provided draught for the steam boilers. Chimney stacks, like the Beehive one, were once a common sight on mid- to late 19th-century quartz mines. The Beehive stack today is the only one of its age and size still standing in Victoria. The significance of the stack has already been recognised through a National Estate listing and is now a landmark and heritage symbol for the township of Maldon, Australia's first notable town. The stack's scientific value is enhanced by its association with a broad range of mining relics. The Beehive Company Gold Mine is also significant for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide information about the technological history of gold mining.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don’t harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Specific Exemptions:

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:
(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

No permits are required for the following classes of works provided they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Plan For Historic Mining Sites prepared by David Bannear in 1996.

Mineral Exploration
Fire suppression duties
Timber production
Weed and vermin control
Public safety
Rehabilitation

Construction dates	1854,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	5244
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

1. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 608042 held by the Executive Director and including all above-ground structures; chimney stack, flues and boiler settings, mining and ore processing machinery foundations, cyanide vats and vat foundations, slum pond, quartz roasting kiln, and tramway embankment; surface workings; all archaeological deposits and artefacts.

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/