
PIONEER BATTERY SITE



1 pioneer battery site pioneer creek bonang front view

Location

GAY ROAD ERRINUNDRA, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1429

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO289

VHR Registration

February 12, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

What is significant?

The Pioneer Battery Site consists of the remains of one 5-head stamping battery, hut site, cyanide works and mine workings. The Pioneer lease on the Bonang River was noted as early as 1898 and in the early years of the 20th century, the Bonanza, South Bonanza, and Rising Sun mines were also worked in the vicinity with fair success. In 1904, the Bonanza mine (owned by an English company) was said to have a 'good treatment mill'. The manufacturer's mark on the Pioneer Battery, 'P.N. Russell & Co Sydney Engineers 1868', bears out the historically strong connection between the Bendoc-Bonang goldfield and Sydney, rather than Melbourne. Its early date (pre-dating this goldfield) suggests that the battery had previously been in use elsewhere-probably in NSW, possibly Kiandra-Cooma, or even at the nearby Rising Sun mine, where NSW owners installed steam plant as early as 1871. Although being very close to Delegate River, the machinery has not been significantly scavenged.

The Pioneer Battery Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Pioneer Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The battery is historically important for its links with a Sydney manufacturer rather than the more usual Victorian ones, emphasising the connection between the Bendoc-Bonang Goldfield and other NSW high country goldfields.

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, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The abandoned mining machinery at the Pioneer battery site is historically important for its evocation of the adventurousness, hardship, and isolation that was part of mining life in the high country areas of the State.

The Pioneer Battery Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining. Its relatively good level of integrity due to lack of scavenging adds to the archaeological significance of the site.

Permit Exemptions

Nil

Construction dates 1898,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5373

Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1429 in the category described as a Heritage and Archaeological Place:

Pioneer Battery Site, Off the Pioneer Creek, a tributary of the Bonang River, East Gippsland Shire Council.

EXTENT

1. All of the Crown Land including the remains of one 5-head stamping battery, hut site, cyanide works, mine workings and remains of any other quartz mining artefacts within a 100 metre radius with Australian Map Grid co-

ordinates E6575 N58968 on 1:100,000 map sheet number 8623 Bendoc.

Dated 5 February 1998

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G6 12 February 1998 p.355]

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/>