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# WELCOME REEF SYNDICATE BATTERY

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## Location

LOWER TRACK MALDON, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0149

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SiteCard data copied on 28/06/2024:

## What is significant?

The remains of an early 20th century quartz mine

## How is it significant?

Due to its integrity

# Why is it significant?

A highly visible site that clearly shows the key operations of a small scale quartz mine

Interpretation  
of Site

The battery site has a line of decaying battery stumps belonging to two battery boxes. The rough concrete footings for the eastern battery box contains a 7-1/2ft long line of stamper footings, made up of six, 1-1/2ft thick, stumps. The western battery box has only a 4ft long line of stumps. This arrangement suggests a battery having 12-head of stamps. A bed log with 1 inch mounting bolts separates the two battery boxes. In front (north) of the stumps, on their north side, is a largely buried concrete engine bed which measures 6 x 2-3/4ft. The bed has 1 inch mounting bolts. 3m north of the engine bed, in direct alignment, are two small concrete beds. The smallest of the two concrete beds is 2ft square and has a 1-1/2ft diameter impression. Below the battery site is a 50m wide sludge pond. The pond contains a small dump of treated tailings. The pond continues to the southeast and is empty of tailings. In the gully below the tailings, upstream from the battery, is a large, breached water dam. Located near the battery (above and to the north) are some mine workings which have been badly disturbed through shaft filling. The main shaft has been filled but is now subsiding. 200m south of the battery site is the remains of a small, single-roomed mud brick hut which is associated with iron scraps. The rubbish would date to the 1930s onwards. No fireplace is evident. The Welcome Reef Syndicate battery still possesses archaeological value and should remain a VHI-site. Apart from FMQF270 (foundations for unknown equipment) the other locations (mine openings) have poor archaeological value. This is due to their surrounds having been scrapped clean of material for shaft filling and/or associated with prospecting. The battery site is a good example of how a quartz mine worked - the mining of ore and its treatment. A protected abandoned mining site located in the State Forest has meant this place has largely remained intact.

Hermes  
Number 7822

Property  
Number

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## History

The Welcome Reef Syndicate Battery operated c. 1911-12. The Welcome Reef Syndicate erected a 12-head crushing plant on its lease (situated near Sandy Creek), and commenced mining operations in June last, since when operations have continued with, I understand, payable results. [Mines Dept annual Report 1911]

*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/>*