
MAXWELL CONSOLIDATED OR JUST IN TIME

Location

DAYLESFORD-HEPBURN ROAD HEPBURN SPRINGS, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0662

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 2005

During the Depression of the early 1930s, the price of gold rose from £4 to £8 an ounce. The conditions of the times and the massive price rise caused a mining revival throughout the State. The key company in the mining revival at Daylesford was the Maxwell Consolidated. This company was vigorously prospecting in 1936 and by 1938 had installed a large mining and crushing plant. Rich crushings in the same year enabled the company not only to pay off a joint State and Commonwealth prospecting loan, but to distribute a small dividend to its shareholders. The following two years brought more success: £13,743 distributed in dividends in 1939, and £27,486 in 1940. The profits enabled the company to install more plant, including a cyanide works. The company's production declined in 1941, and from this time until its close in the early 1950s it was engaged in unproductive developmental work.

The Maxwell Consolidated Gold Mine is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Maxwell Consolidated 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 use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The site stands has extensive and well preserved foundations and, as such, is a fine example of 1930s mining revival technology.

The surviving plant at these mines form an important reference point for an understanding of the technological history of gold mining.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 8264

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: During the Great Depression (early 1930s) the price of gold rose from £4 to £8 an ounce. The conditions of the times, and the massive price rise, caused a mining revival throughout the State. The key company in the mining revival at Daylesford was the Maxwell Consolidated. This company was vigorously prospecting in 1936 and by 1938 had installed a large mining and crushing plant. Rich crushings in the same year enabled the company not only to pay off a joint State and Commonwealth prospecting loan, but to distribute a small dividend to its shareholders. The following two year brought increased success: £13,743 distributed in dividends in 1939, and £27,486 in 1940. The profits enabled the company to install more plant, including a cyanide works. The company's production declined in 1941, and from this time onwards, until its close in the early 1950s, was engaged in mainly unprofitable and unproductive developmental work. In 1949 the company installed a diesel driven compressor and in 1950, the company changed hands and was known as the Aurora Company. The new company overhauled the winding plant.

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/>