

WATER WHEEL AND MINE MACHINERY



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1 wells battery weon mine cunningham gully murmungee side elevation



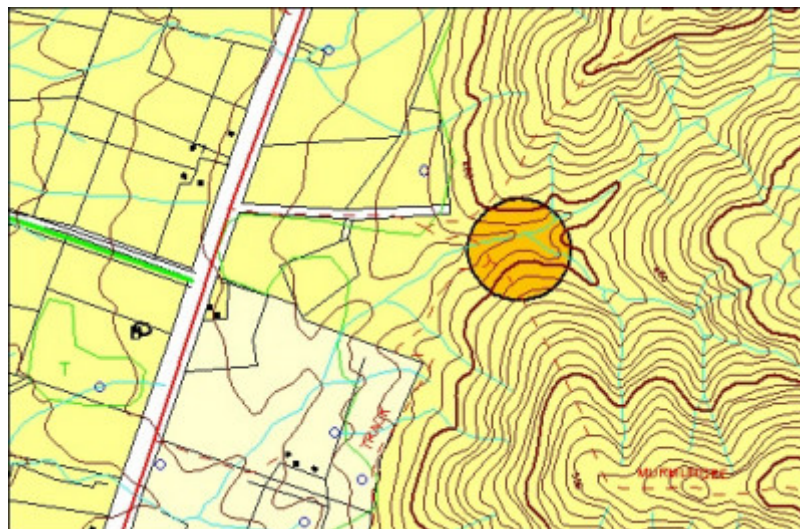
H00356 wells battery weon mine cunningham gully murmungee2 april2003



H00356 wells battery murmungee6 apr03



H00356 wells battery murmungee5 apr03 pm1



H00356 location

Location

WEONE MINE, WELLS BOUNDARY TRACK MURMUNGEE, WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Municipality

WANGARATTA RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0356

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO163

VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 30, 1999

Situated in a low forested glade, this ramshackle collection of structures is probably unique in Victoria. Although erected in fairly recent times, it demonstrates superbly the small gold mining practices of the past. The engine and crusher originated from an old mine at Stanley and survive from earlier times. The roughly hewn timber and iron structures epitomise the aesthetics of rough bush buildings.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Construction dates | 1939, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Other Names | WELLS' MURMUNGEE BATTERY, |
| Hermes Number | 866 |
| Property Number | |

History

SITE HISTORY: (David Bannear 1994) Gold was discovered in Cunningham's Gully in 1858. Reefs were opened in the vicinity from the mid-1860s, the first of them being McLean's Reef, discovered by alluvial miners in McLean's Gully. A water-powered battery was erected in Cunningham's Gully by Dean & Co. in 1868, to crush for their King, Annandale, Solway reefs. The Murmungee–Bowman's Forest

reefs were briefly the major gold producers on the Beechworth field. Operations at that time were short-lived, though, due in part to the scarcity of water in the locality, and the battery was removed in 1871. When the Bowman's Forest reefs were revived in the mid-1880s, a steam-driven battery was erected at Murrungee by George Biddington. Development of the reefs was again limited to surface scratchings, where rich stone was easily procured. The mining registrar wrote of the reefs in 1887 that 'up to the present none of them have developed into good permanent reefs'. There were small parties working on reefs about Murrungee early this century. One of them, Wells and party, erected a small battery on their prospecting claim on McLean's Reef in 1915. The party was still prospecting in 1917. The fate of the 1915 battery is not known, but according to information cited by the National Trust, the existing plant was erected in 1939 and the mine, known as the Weone, worked (unprofitably) until the late 'forties by Walter Wells and his son Max. They crushed stone, not just from the Weone, but from various quartz shows in the vicinity. The shallow workings evident near the battery today suggest that the Murrungee quartz workings never progressed much beyond the surface scratchings noted in the mid-1880s. In the early 1980s, the local branch of the National Trust proposed that the waterwheel and other remaining plant be re-sited to Beechworth, after the theft of several components from the Cunningham Gully site. The plant is still owned by Max Wells.

References: Department of Mines Annual Report, 1906, 1915, 1917, Flett, p. 68, LCC, p. 87, Recommendation N8, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file no. 3276
Australian Heritage Commission, file no. 004531 2/08/230/0011/02
Mining Surveyors' Reports (Beechworth Subdivision), March & June 1866, December 1867, March–December 1868, December 1870, March–September 1885
Associated People: Tenant WALTER C WELLS

Extent of Registration

United Shire of Beechworth. No.356. Water Wheel and Mine Machinery, Weone Mine, Cunningham Gully, Murrungee.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3650]

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/>