
STAR OF ERIN MINE WORKINGS

Location

MOONLIGHT SPUR TRACK KNOCKWOOD, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8123-0004

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10804

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Milner says that the Star of Erin, about 4 or 5 miles north-east of Enoch's Point, on left-hand branch of Enoch's Creek, was the largest mine on Enoch's Creek, although quite small by Victorian standards. The Star of Erin Reef was worked from 1864. In 1865, five claims amalgamated to form the Star of Erin Co. and to drive a tunnel in search of the main reef. Instead, a new shaft was started. In 1866, an 8-head battery was erected, powered by a 30ft-diameter waterwheel, with a 208-yard tramway connecting mine and battery. Big things were expected; but little was achieved. The company was 'signally unfortunate', its initial crushing proving 'eminently disappointing'. The machinery was blamed, so that the claim was not considered a total failure. The lease was forfeited and the plant sold by the bank.

In 1898, the Star of Erin Reef was again being worked, having apparently been tried on several occasions in the interim. Murray noted two tunnels and various surface workings and trenches. A water-powered battery was

being erected several hundred feet below the workings; only 'very primitive appliances' had been used in the past. Nothing is known of later developments, although Milner's work indicates that a suction gas engine and gas-producer were later employed.

References:

Milner, p. 23

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Big River Subdivision), March & September 1865, March, September & December 1866Murray, pp. 23-4

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/>