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# MORNING STAR MINE & MACHINERY SITE

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## Location

MORNING STAR CREEK HEYFIELD, WELLINGTON SHIRE

## Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8222-0001

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO112

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site consists of a metal pitchback waterwheel. The waterwheel is a remnant of a ore a crushing battery which was installed during the period 1904-10 and was one of a number of mills put in to serve mines working along Morning Star Creek. The site is badly obscured by blackberry bushes.

How is it significant?

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The waterwheel is the only recorded one of its type surviving in Victoria. 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 Morning Star 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 Morning Star Gold 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.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10844

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Reefs were worked on Morning Star Creek by 1864, the most successful being the Crinoline Reef. Further down the creek, the Morning Star Co. put some rich stone through their steam-powered 12-head battery, erected (according to Milner/Supple et al) in 1865 (I found no record in the Mining Surveyors' Reports). Mines along Morning Star Creek were re-tried between 1904-10, and it was probably during this period that the extant waterwheel was installed at the Morning Star mine site. The amount of actual mining carried out was minimal and little gold was produced. References: Milner (1989/1) Supple et al, M12

*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/>*