GOOD HOPE MINE

Location

MCMILLAN TRACK AND GRANT HISTORIC RESERVE WONGUNGARRA, WELLINGTON SHIRE

Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0001

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO115

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 6, 2005

What is significant?

The Good Hope Quartz Gold Mining Precinct consists of the remains of two crushing batteries: the Good Hope battery (remains of three 4-head stamp batteries, horizontal engine, and a Cornish boiler), and the Good Hope Consolidated battery (remains of portable steam engine and one 5-head iron framed stamping battery). The Good Hope Battery, which was installed in 1865, and has collapsed but has not been significantly scavenged. The other battery was installed in 1910 and still stands. Both batteries are associated with mine workings.

How is it significant?

The Good Hope Quartz Gold Mining Precinct is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Good Hope Quartz Gold Mining Precinct is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The Good Hope battery is one of the oldest more-or-less intact batteries surviving in the State. 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 Good Hope Quartz Gold Mining Precinct 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 Good Hope Quartz Gold Mining Precinct 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 10982

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: During the great reefing rush of 1864, four reefs were worked on the Good Hope spur. The reef in the Good Hope mine was the only one on the Crooked River field that showed any permanence. At surface and shallow levels, it was far less rich than many others; but at depth, it proved its worth. It went on to be the longest-worked and deepest of the Crooked River mines. Its best years were 1865-70, and when the original Good Hope Co. gave up in 1877, the mine had yielded nearly 20,000 oz of gold.The Good Hope Co. erected a 12-head battery (powered by a portable 10-hpsteam engine, soon replaced by a 15-hp horizontal engine) on Good Hope Creek in 1865, to crush for the Collingwood and Uncle Tom reefs as well as its own. Due to a limited supply of water, only eight head of stamps were usually employed. Pumping machinery and settling boxes were erected to keep the water supply to the battery constant. In 1866, a Chilean mill, percussion tables, and a furnace were added to the plant; these proved very effective in retrieving gold from the pyritic ore.The mine was worked by a series of tunnels from the east side of the spur. In 1868, driving began for a fourth tunnel, lower than the first three, but the rock proved too hard and driving was discontinued in 1870. Pumping and winding machinery, and the small engine from the battery, were installed in a chamber cut in the No. 3 level of the original tunnel in 1869. The mine was yielding '2 oz stone' (ore yielding 2 oz per ton) at a depth of 620 ft, in 1871. From 1873, the Good Hope Co. struggled to find a run of gold in its mine. It was let on tribute to a party of ex-employees in 1877, but returns continued to be 'miserably poor'. In 1878, the tributers re-tried the lower tunnel (650 ft above Crooked River), abandoned ten years earlier, with promising results. A new company—the New Good Hope Co.—was formed to continue working the mine from that tunnel (the No. 4), bringing in an expensive National rock drill for the purpose. An air receiver and air pump (driven by the portable engine removed from No. 3 tunnel) was installed at the mouth of No. 4 tunnel. The mine continued to use the original treatment plant, and constructed a dam in 1884 to enable crushing in dry weather. The new company failed to find gold when it finally struck the reef, and was re-formed and recapitalised in 1885. A winding plant and air compressor were installed at a cost of £3000, but returns were sporadic until 1888 when good gold was struck at a depth of 780 ft. The company repaired its battery and installed two Watson and Denny's pans for pyrites treatment. No record has been found of the mine's operation during the 1890s—nothing, in fact, until 1905, when the Good Hope Consolidated Co. first rated a mention.In 1906, Dunn wrote that the old workings (four adits) had produced a total of 23,357 oz from 14,461 tons of stone. At that time, the No. 4 adit was 1,112 ft long, and plant at the tunnel mouth consisted of a 4½-hp Otto oil engine and dynamo, which worked an electric drill and lighting in the mine. The original four adits and plant appear not to have been worked beyond 1906, when a new adit was commenced on the opposite side of the spur. see 'good hope consolidated mine', below.

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/