VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

VICTORIA FALLS HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATION

Location

VICTORIA FALLS ROAD COBUNGRA, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0016

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO235

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 30, 2005

What is significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station was constructed by the Cassilis Gold Mining Company on the Cobungra River, just below the Victoria Falls. It is the site of Victoria's earliest large-scale hydro-electric power scheme constructed for gold mining purposes. Power was generated through a Pelton wheel. The scheme was completed in 1907, and by 1909 all steam engines at the mine in Power's Gully at Cassilis had been replaced with electric motors. The power station operated until the mine closed in 1916. The machinery from the power station was sold and removed to Tasmania where it continued it involvement with the mining industry. The significant visible components of the site are:
* Concrete and stone foundations of the power station.
* Settling dam with masonry outlet
* Pipeline route

How is it significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of historical and technological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?
The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is historically important due to its association with the construction of Victoria's earliest gold related hydro-electric scheme. The gold mine was located at Cassilis, 27kms away.

The Victoria Falls Hydro-Electric Power Station is of technological importance for the survival of a range of foundations and earthworks that illustrate all aspects of the underlying technology. No other site of its age and type retains this evidence. The site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which may be able to contribute to an understanding of the use of hydro electric power in Victoria.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10997

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: In 1907, the Cassilis GMC constructed a hydro-electric power station on the Cobungra River, about 6.5 km from its junction with the Victoria River, just below the Victoria Falls. Water from Victoria River was delivered to the power station by a race built along the spur separating the Cobungra and Victoria Rivers. The race was unlined and measured 3 ft deep, 4 ft wide at the bottom, and 7 ft wide at the top. It filled a settling dam at the top of the spur, from which point water was delivered to the power plant by 1650 ft of piping, which reduced in size from 34 inches to 38 inches diameter. The powe station was equipped with a Voith pelton wheel, and began operating in 1908. A power line ran between the power station and the Cassilis mine, a distance of some 27 km.A holding dam of 250 million-gallon capacity was to have been constructed on the Victoria River, at the commencement of the water race, but this was not done. As a result, an insufficient supply of water caused frequent power shortages and stoppages at the Cassilis mine. The power station's poor performance was largely to blame for the ultimate closure of the Cassilis mine in 1916. Early in that year, a dam

was built above the power plant, but the first substantial rains washed it away. The power plant was sold to a Tasmanian silver mine in 1917.

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/