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# NEW CHUM BATTERY

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## Location

DEGREAVES CREEK OMEO, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8424-0003

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO288

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 6, 2005

The New Chum Gold Battery Site consists of a 15ft diameter iron waterwheel and the remains of a 4-head stamping battery. The wheel, which still retains its brass fittings, spokes and buckets has collapsed and now lies on top of the stamping battery. There is evidence of several hut platforms near the battery.

The New Chum Gold Battery Site is of historical, and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The New Chum Gold Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The iron-framed water wheel is very rare, with only one other known survivor (at the Morning Star battery at Donnelly's Creek). The New Chum waterwheel and battery was installed in 1898 to crush stone obtained from reefs on Bluey's Creek, a tributary of the Upper Tambo River.

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 Degreaves Creek 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 New Chum 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 11061

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: The site forms part of the Little Mt Tambo goldfield, a minor field dating to the mid-1890s when gold was found at Bluey's Creek, a tributary of the Upper Tambo River some 50 km from Omeo. In 1898, Walterson and Denham installed a 4-head battery and iron waterwheel (ex-Riley's Creek goldfield) at De Greaves Creek. According to report, they were obtaining an average of 3 oz to the ton from their mine.

*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/>*