
GREEN'S CREEK BATTERY

Location

ALPINE NATIONAL PARK AND OFF DARTMOUTH JEEP TRACK DARTMOUTH, TOWONG SHIRE

Municipality

TOWONG SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8424-0012

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO2

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Greens Creek Gold Battery Site consists of the remains of a 10-head stamping battery, horizontal steam engine, two multi tubular boilers, and various buried and partly buried pieces of machinery. In the vicinity of the battery is a dray track and inclined tramway. The site is on the Register of the National Estate and has recently had major conservation works.

How is it significant?

The Greens Creek Gold Battery Site is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Greens Creek Gold Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The battery is significant as one of the most intact sites of

its kind and age in the State. It was installed in 1884 to crush stone obtained from the Morning Star Mine, which is located on the spur, 500 feet above the battery. 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 Greens 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 Greens Creek 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 11070

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The Morning Star mine was situated on a ridge 500 ft above the battery site, and about 25 chains (500 m) to the south-west. A cable-operated counter-balanced tramway ran directly down the hillside conveying ore from mine to battery. A parcel of 400 tons crushed late in 1884 yielded a disappointing 240 oz, and was the only large crushing recorded for the Morning Star mine. A number of other mines in the vicinity sent ore to the Morning Star battery for crushing. The Golden Eagle Reef, half a mile down Greens Creek to the west, was connected to the battery by a track cut along the hillside, along which ore was carried either by horse drays or a horse tram. The battery also crushed for the Clara mine. It is likely that the Morning Star Co. battery crushed more quartz for neighbouring mines than it did from the company's own mine. A year after the battery's completion, there was still insufficient quartz from mines in the locality to keep the plant running at anything like full capacity, and average yields were also beginning to decline. Claims were abandoned as miners drifted away to fields offering better prospects. That Greens Creek never rated highly as a mining locality is evinced by the number of miners there in its heyday: 38 in June 1884, 20 at the end of September, and just seven in mid-1885.

There was a slight revival in 1887, when some further crushings were done for the Clara mine and Morton & party, but the Morning Star mine did not reopen and within a few months the battery was again idle. In 1888, the Saltpetre United GMC called for tenders to remove the Morning Star battery to a site on Saltpetre Creek. It is not known whether the Greens Creek plant was actually sold at this time, but the move obviously never went ahead as planned and in the following year the Saltpetre Co. installed an alternative plant with Cornish Rolls driven by a Pelton wheel.

All the mines on Greens and Larsens creeks had closed down by the early 1890s. In 1905, the Dark River Mining Sub-division was abolished, almost all mining activity on the field having ceased. Churchward says that the Morning Star battery (already idle for 15 years) began to be known, at about that time, as the 'Greens Creek battery'.

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/>