
MURRINDAL SILVER-LEAD MINE

Location

BASIN ROAD BUCHAN, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8523-0002

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site Heritage Inventory Interpretation:

Hermes Number 11610

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

In 1873, the Murrindal Silver & Lead Co. was working a 30-yard-long quarry, and had erected smelting furnaces and smelting house, blacksmith's shop, and powder magazine. The failure of the company's furnaces was blamed on defective construction and lack of skilled smelters. In 1881, the Nevada Co. made 'certain alterations' to the furnaces, but their operations lasted less than a year. In 1885, the old furnace was pulled down, and a large excavation cut into the hillside to house a new furnace 'on the latest improved principles', but the 'flues, stack, &c.' were still to be used. The Melbourne syndicate which held the Murrindal lease at that time had an English-made Vortex turbine on the Buchan River, as well as a steam engine on the Murrindal, supplied with

water from a well. In 1898, Rosales wrote that earlier smelting techniques at Murrindal had employed 'an American ore hearth and a Spanish reverberating furnace'. These were presumably the furnaces employed by the Murrindal Co. and the later Melbourne syndicate.

In 1894, the Buchan Proprietary Co. took over the Murrindal and Back Creek mines, using its plant at the Murrindal mine to treat ore from Back Creek. In 1896, the plant at Murrindal (treating ore from the Back Creek mine) comprised a Flintshire furnace, 8-hp engine, 7-ton boiler, ore-breaking machine, sluice-box for cleaning ore from clay, and two jigging sieves. Also mentioned was a dressing plant, constructed by May Brothers of Gawler, SA, on their patented system. It was estimated that £100,000 had been spent on mine works and plant, and thirty men were employed at the mine and works. The mine closed in 1896.

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/>