
SLUM DUMP, CASEY'S BRIDGE, EAST ROKEWOOD CO.

Location

MAIN STREET CORINDHAP, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0194

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 11957

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Break-o'-Day Gully, Rokewood, No. 4 or Southern Division, Ballarat.

C1858: first opened, and found to be patchy.

11.1859: several old ground grants have been taken out under by-law 10 in this gully which is about 2 miles from the township, and some intend to erect machinery of sufficient power to work this ground.

07.1860: although patchy a several handsome nuggets have been found over the years; found to be rich at the junction with Frenchman's gully; the auriferous drift is only 4 inches thick and not very profitable.

04.1861: a party of 4 men have obtained £400 each within the last 4 months; wash-dirt is 4 or 5 feet thick and

only 15 to 20 feet deep.

05.1861: one company making £8 per man per week, most only making £2.

06.1861: some very good finds, Hall and Co. got a 6 lb, and a 1 lb nugget and 1 lb of fine gold from a load of stuff; 14 companies are getting gold.

07.1861: still worked as vigorously as ever; has been a godsend to the Rokewood district.

08.1861: small rush has occurred; 10 companies of about 40 men are making good wages, some as much as £10 per man per week, sinking is 70 feet through hard clay, cement and gravel across a hill.

09.1861: did not turn out as well as expected; Hall and Company were the most successful by far, realising £1200; the lead runs through Mr. Elder's property.

Mr. Elder charged a royalty of 30% on any nuggets over 20 ozs and 20% on fine gold; these rates were changed after strong opposition from the miners, who operated from 12 foot square claims; water to wash the gold was brought by a race along Corindhap Creek from Mr. Laffin's dam to where the slum dump now stands just upstream of Casey's Bridge; puddling machines owned by Mr. Elders Company were used to process the wash dirt which miners brought to this site from the Break-o'-Day lead on Mr. Elders property; inspectors were employed to check the gold, charge and collect the royalty; the puddlers worked in shifts and the operation was guarded; when the lead had been exhausted nearly 8 tons ? of gold had been won.

10.1861: still causing excitement; 7 or 8 companies are making £4 per man per week; prospectors have obtained £2400 or £600 per man in 10 months, they got 112 ozs in one week including a 45 oz nugget; depth varies from 8 to 60 feet; 80 men are at work.

11.1861: yields and mining activity have come to a stand still because the lead crosses private land.

03.1862: quite a lot of miners are prospecting in this area.

05.1862: most companies are earning good wages.

07.1862: company have found a 40 oz nugget.

05.1863: several companies are still prospecting; one company obtained 30 ozs of course from 15 loads of stuff in addition to several nuggets; another found nuggets of 90 and 3 ozs; another found 30 ozs of shotty gold from a few loads plus nuggets of 79, 5, and 2.5 ozs.

06.1863: shallow and old ground workings are almost exclusively in the hands of the Chinese.

03.1864: continues to yield fair wages.

06.1866: principally occupied by the Chinese.

09.1866: good prospects and plenty of activity.

03.1868: prospecting stimulated by the yields from the Break-o'-Day Co.

12.1870: notes that at Break-o'-Day (not the gully) that the mines are yielding better than for some time past.

03.1871: discovery of a 94 oz nugget has stimulated prospecting in the Rokewood area.

03.1872: seems to be worked out.

27.05.1895: It is estimated that the owner of the paddock containing the Break o'Day gutter and its reef washes so far as those rich drifts are proved, has received upwards of £100,000; some of the ground has been paid for by successive miners and even the tailings will yield a 5% revenue again - an agreement has been made with a man from Allendale who will sluice the refuse.

06.1896: the East Rokewood Co. erected machinery for the treatment of the sludge deposits of the old Estate Co. in Elders paddock. These deposits covered an area 200 m by 200 m and were 3 m deep. The machinery consisted of a Tangye pump and patent battery plates manufactured by Wynne and Tregurtha.

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For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>