
NORTH BRITON LEAD

Location

205 BROWNS ROAD SCARSDALE, GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0054

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 12050

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

North Briton Lead, rises on the south side at the base of Watsons Hill

05.11.1858: North Briton Lead has been discovered at Browns, and there are 200 shareholders on the list and a considerable number of claims have been taken up.

11.1858: lead was discovered; it runs to the west and nine claims were registered.

04.11.1858: a steam engine and other expensive machinery, being obtained.

06.1859: depth of sinking is 150 feet; width of lead is 50 feet; wash-dirt is from 1 to 4 feet thick; the lead pays well and the average yield is 1 oz per load; it is partly held under block and partly under the frontage system; the part of the lead held under the frontage system is worked from 4 shafts on each of which a steam engine is erected; the companies working the lead are well organised; two tributary leads, the Barber and the Morning Star fall into

this lead

08.1859: paying as well as ever, but becoming worked out.

ALABAMA Co.

10.1863: making wages.

BROWNS CONSOLS Co.

09.1877: yield for the quarter 120 ozs 13 dwt.

GRAND JUNCTION COMPANY.

06.1859: has a lease of 29.5 acres; bottomed at a depth of 180 feet; this shaft was the first in the Browne's district to meet rock.

07.1859: opening a drive into the gutter; prospects are encouraging.

08.1859: doing better than usual.

12.1859: not doing as well as the Great Briton and North Briton Companies.

07.1860: excellent yields.

11.1860: one of only 3 claims of any importance on the deep alluvial leads at Browne's.

12.1860: gold is patchy in this claim and the yields vary.

01.1861: scarcely making wages.

03.1861: make good wages; working in their first shaft while sinking a new shaft.

05.1861: sinking a new shaft.

07.1861: nothing has yet been taken from the new shaft.

08.1861: bottomed their new shaft much too shallow; driving for the gutter.

10.1861: not doing much.

11.1861: paying moderately.

12.1861: very poor paying as low as 30s per man per week.

GREAT BRITON Co.

06.1859: lease of 33 acres; the likely location of the Contest and the North Briton Leads.

08.1859: work suspended because of a legal dispute.

12.1859: successful and dividends of 30 pounds per man per week are common.

12.1859: recorded production of 60 ozs or 1.866 kg.

HAND-IN-HAND COMPANY.

03.1859: advertised for a 20 horsepower steam engine with pumps and gear complete.

06.1859: has a lease of 32.5 acres; bottomed on a north-westerly reef nearly 100 feet above the gutter and are now driving through the slate to meet the gutter.

07.1859: opened a drive at 225 feet; have not yet struck the gutter.

08.1859: yet to reach the gutter.

12.1859: not doing as well as the Great Briton and North Briton Companies.

07.1860: yield is below mediocre because of the spread out nature of the lead.

08.1860: claim sold; purchasers to re-organise the operation.

11.1860: one of only 3 claims of any importance on the deep alluvial leads at Browne's.

12.1860: one of the greatest failures at Browne's.

01.1861: sinking a new shaft.

03.1861: have fitted up a new steam engine are erecting two puddling machines in connection with it.

05.1861: sinking a new shaft.

07.1861: nothing has been taken from the new shaft.

08.1861: the new shaft has not yet bottomed.

10.1861: broken into the gutter and obtained an excellent prospect.

11.1861: have had first rate wash-dirt in the last few days; a relief for the owners who have been losing till now.

12.1861: ceased work some time ago and the company is apparently making new arrangements.

NORTH BRITON Co.

06.1859: at the junction of the Contest and Barber Leads.

12.1859: successful and dividends of 30 pounds per man per week are common.

1859: recorded production of 300 ozs or 9.331 kg.

UNITED BROWNE'S Co.

06.1860: getting magnificent yields.

07.1860: excellent.

11.1860: one of only 3 claims of any importance on the deep alluvial leads at Browne's.

12.1860: doing very well; ground is uniform and the mine is well managed.

03.1861: ground is very poor but the company processes a large quantity of wash-dirt; there is a large extent of the North Briton Lead in the north-west of their claim.

06.1861: working the remaining portions of the North Briton Lead.

07.1861: getting excellent wash-dirt from the North Briton Lead.

08.1861: getting very good ground.
 02.1862: have taken up a large part of the Contest Lead and have employed many men to work it.
 12.1864: a party using steam power are working on a flat near this old claim and are doing tolerably well.
 NEW NORTH BRITON CO., Browns,
 31.07.1875: invited tenders for supplying machinery and plant so that the operations can commence.
 11.08.1875: paid £480 for the plant of the Roxburgh Co.; company's claim extended over the Contest and North Briton Leads.
 21.08.1875: tenders called for removing and re-erecting machinery.
 28.08.1875: removal of machinery will commence next month.
 25.09.1875: good progress with erection of machinery; foundations excavated, bed logs and horses in position; engine on beds and boiler to be built in.
 02.10.1875: engine and building of boiler well advanced; proceeding with erection of housing.
 16.10.1875: building of stacks and housing over boiler nearly finished; contractors to commence sinking soon.
 31.10.1875: water delayed sinking till engine started; total depth of 45 feet; erection of puddling machine proceeding.
 13.11.1875: shaft at depth of 110 feet; reef struck at 100 feet with heavy wash containing gold 33 feet above the gutter; erecting puddling machine.
 01.12.1875: quarterly general meeting: plant purchased from the Roxburgh mine includes 12.5 inch cylinder, 20 foot by 5 foot 6 inch boiler, puddling machine, and pine tank.
 11.12.1875: contractors given up sinking and progress slow, current depth is 170 feet; putting up opening set for chamber will skid the shaft .
 08.01.1876: surface completed and tank, truck and cages put in shaft; commenced opening out chamber.
 19.02.1876: air drive connected ventilation improved and blasting now possible.
 18.03.1875: cleaned up well chamber and drives from last swamping; driving is slow but water is easing.
 29.03.1876: struck reef wash on flat reef in which gold was seen.
 03.06.1876: quarterly meeting decided to let mine on tribute to a party of 35.
 10.06.1876: taken on tribute by Bak Hap, well known Chinese tribute manager who has worked at the No. 1 Reform tribute.
 10.06.1876: auction notice for plant and tools: a 12 inch horizontal engine, a boiler 20 foot by 5 foot 6 inches, pumping and winding gear, bob and connections, rope and cages, buckets, block, bellows, anvil, blacksmiths tools, picks, shovels, grindstone, buildings, crab winch, iron rails, timber, and a shaft of slabs.
 17.06.1876: Chinese tributers have their material on the ground and are ready to start.
 24.06.1876: washed one machine for a yield of 5 ozs 8 dwt 10gr.

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