

## A photograph of the historic industrial site of the Port of Los Angeles. In the foreground, there is a paved road with white lane markings. To the left, a small, weathered building with a blue roof and white walls stands. In the background, a large, tall crane with a lattice structure is visible, along with other industrial buildings and structures. The sky is clear and blue.

CENTRAL DENHAM GOLD MINE DENBIGO

Site plan showing position of historic structures as numbered

1. Main building (1901, 1905 extension)
2. Store, new part (1905 extension)
3. Dry storage room, laundry, cold, waterworks and 1901, 1905 extension
4. Crane change room (1901, 1905 extension)
5. Mail room office (1901, 1905 extension)
6. Manager's office (1901) extension
7. Power house (1901)
8. Carriage house (1901)
9. Store (1901)
10. Mini-mine (1901) (1901)
11. Carriage house (1901)
12. On the (1901) and (1901) extension
13. Power house (1901, 1905 extension)
14. Laundry (1901)
15. Bank (1901)
16. Bank (1901)
17. Store (1901)
18. Store (1901)
19. Oil press (1901)
20. Original water block (1901)
21. Water tower (1901)
22. Engine house (1901)
23. Engine house (1901, 1905 extension)
24. Engine house (1901)
25. Engine house (1901)
26. Engine house (1901)
27. Engine house (1901)
28. Engine house (1901)
29. Engine house (1901)
30. Engine house (1901)
31. Engine house (1901)
32. Engine house (1901)
33. Engine house (1901)
34. Engine house (1901)
35. Engine house (1901)
36. Engine house (1901)

H1841

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO286

## VHR Registration

November 18, 1999

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 11, 2024

### What is significant?

Bendigo is Victoria's premier quartz mining centre having produced over 22 million ounces of gold between 1851 and 1954. This gold was won through the exploits of over 5,500 gold mining companies. The gold won had a profound impact on the State's economy stimulating new industries, raising the standard of living for generations of Victorians and leaving a city with many fine examples of Victorian architecture. Bendigo's nineteenth century foundries and engineering works helped make Victoria the manufacturing hub of Australia.

The Central Deborah Gold Mine was formed in 1939. The mine was one of a minority that continued to function during the Second World War. In 1939 the mine boasted a small timber poppet head, boiler steam winch, compressor, blacksmith shop, store, change rooms, and offices. Between 1945-46 the company upgraded the mine with extensions to sheds and the installation of new steam machinery, electric air compressor, steel poppet head, and ore bins. Essentially the plant that can be seen on the site today is of this period.

The Central Deborah Company Gold Mine closed in 1954. Today it is the only one of Bendigo historic gold mines to have retained its mining equipment in working condition.

### How is it significant?

The Central Deborah Gold Mine is historically and scientifically significant to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Central Deborah Company Gold Mine provides Bendigo and the State with one of its most tangible and important links to mid twentieth century quartz mining. It is of outstanding historical significance as the last intact and working example of the 5,500 quartz mines that won Bendigo widespread fame as a gold mining centre. At one time Bendigo had the world's deepest shafts. Of particular scientific importance are original buildings, fittings and mining machinery that document the mine's essential character from 1939 to 1954. The working machinery- including a Cornish boiler, winding engine and two compressors - comprises one of the few publicly accessible and in-situ collections in the State. Central Deborah Company Gold Mine is now a popular tourist mine and a living part of the story of gold mining in Australia. Its historic mining equipment is used and demonstrated and several levels underground are accessible to visitors.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General

exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

#### **General Conditions Of Exemption**

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### **Interior**

All the interior alterations which do not impact on the exterior of the building or object are permit exempt in the following buildings only:

2. Materials Store
5. Shift Boss Office
6. Mine Manager's Office
9. Store Room
10. Mine Managers Garage
11. Carpenters Shop
12. Ore Bins
13. Poppet Head
14. Launder Trough
16. Iron Chimney
19. Oil Store
20. Concrete Winch
22. Exhaust Tank
24. Air Receiver

The installation of emergency lighting, hazard signs and machinery guard rails provided that the design and location of these items is considered and that their placement is visually 'neutral'.

## Exterior

Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like.

The fixing, refixing or conservation of corrugated iron sheeting on the walls and rooves of the following buildings:

1. Blacksmith Shop
17. Boiler house
18. Stoke hold
21. Winder House
23. Steam Compressor House.

The replacement of corrugated iron sheeting on the walls and rooves of the following buildings:

3. Dirty Change Room
4. Clean Change Room
7. First Aid Room
8. Carbide Light Room

The repair of windows as long as they are retained to their existing design.

Removal of extraneous items that are from a later date than the 1939-54 mining period.

The placement of Exterior emergency lighting and hazardous chemical signs

The pulling down and rebuilding of sections of buildings to allow removal of machinery for repair purposes provided that the rebuilt work matches exactly the building prior to dismantling.

Construction dates            1939,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,

Hermes Number                5996

Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

The discovery of gold in Victoria thrust the colony on to the world map. Gold created a great migration wave, wealth that built Melbourne, along with many other gold mining cities and towns and their infrastructures.

Gold was found at Bendigo in August/September 1851, it was not until 3 December 1851 that the discovery was published in the Argus newspaper. With the advent of the alluvial rush, tens of thousands of hopeful diggers came to what was to become the rich Bendigo goldfield. Simple hand mining methods of alluvial gold retrieval gave way to over 3,000 horse-operated puddling machines and numerous steam-powered ones as well. With the decline of winning alluvial gold, naturally attention turned to the quartz reefs.

The first serious quartz reefing on the Bendigo field commenced in a very primitive way in 1852, this progressed and developed continuously through to 1954 when the last mines on the Deborah Reef ceased operating.

During the 103 years of mining activity over 5,500 quartz mines were sunk in Bendigo. Early in the twentieth century the world's deepest gold mine was the Victoria Quartz at 1.4 kms where gold was still being found. Bendigo produced a recorded 684.266 tonnes of gold, making it the richest goldfield in eastern Australia.

Quartz reef mining had various phases, open cut, simple shallow shafts with horse-operated whips and whims, steam machinery and later some utilised electric power.

An important support industry for gold mining was foundries and engineering works. No wonder Victoria became the manufacturing hub of the Australian colonies. Bendigo played an active role with its foundries at one time employing in excess of 800 men; machinery was produced for all parts of Australia.

**BENDIGO'S 1930S MINING REVIVAL AND THE CENTRAL DEBORAH**

In 1931 with the significant devaluation of Australia's currency, governments at federal and state levels, looked towards the gold industry as a means of producing wealth and debt redemption.

The Deborah Reef, was one of the two recommended for assistance in development of mining in Bendigo so as to stimulate a revival. The Deborah Gold Mine commencing in July 1932, paying its first dividend during 1938 and the Deborah eventually produced 1.63 tonnes of gold and its poppet head is still standing and can be seen from the Central Deborah. With the success of the Deborah, the North Deborah commenced operations in May 1937, and by August 1939 the first of over 100 dividends was paid. The North Deborah was the last mine to close in Bendigo after having produced 3.983 tonnes of gold. North Deborah's poppet head and brick chimney stack are still in situ.

Following the success of the mines on the south portion of the Deborah Reef it was then proposed to establish the central Deborah Gold Mining Company N.L.. Commencing in September 1939, the Central Deborah went on to produce 928.8 kg of gold to the middle of November 1954 when underground mining ceased.

## **Extent of Registration**

### **NOTICE OF REGISTRATION**

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1841 in the category described as a Heritage place and Heritage Object:

Central Deborah Gold Mine, 76 Violet Street, Bendigo, Greater Bendigo City Council.

### **EXTENT:**

All the buildings and structures marked as follows on diagram number 1841 held by the Executive Director and situated on Crown Land Parcel P127582, CL 130C/19, Parish of Sandhurst, County of Talbot including the portable objects specified:

B1 blacksmith shop including compressed air-powered drill shanker, sharpener, compressed-air drill steel hammer and hand tools  
B2 materials store  
B3 dirty change room  
B4 clean change room  
B5 shift boss office  
B6 mine manager's office  
B7 first aid room including three Bayne patent mining stretchers  
B8 carbide light room including carbide gas generator and carbide drums  
B9 store room  
B10 mine manager's garage  
B11 carpenter's shop  
B12 ore bins  
B13 tubular steel poppet head including sky shaft and collar and the attached trestle-way over the ore bins to the crushing plant  
B14 concrete launder trough  
B16 iron chimney stack  
B17 boiler house  
B18 stoke hold including fire box tools, drain cocks, and timber trolley  
B19 oil store  
B20 concrete winch block  
B21 winder house with winder and electric compressor  
B22 exhaust tank  
B23 steam compressor house  
B24 air receiver

Dated: 4 November 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 46 18 November 1999 pp.2456-2457]

*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/>*