
MITCHELLS OR COLLIERS SHAFT

Location

HOUSTON STREET DAYLESFORD, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0494

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 8150

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Argus or Cornish Hill was, during the period covered by the mining surveyors monthly and quarterly reports (1859 to 1891) normally referred to as Wombat Hill South. The hill was the focus of Daylesford most sustained quartz mining effort. The first reefs on the hill were opened up in 1854-55 and the place soon became a focal point for quartz mining. At the beginning of quartz mining at Daylesford many small parties or small companies of working miners held claims on the hill. The most successful of these was a party of Cornish men (known as the Cornish Company) and it was their luck which was to have a pronounced affect on the hill's, and to an extent the town's, subsequent nomenclature. Inspired by the extraordinary and continual success of the Cornish Company, the hill witnessed an intensity of mining and technological development which was on par with some of the State's greatest quartz reefing fields, such as Bendigo, Stawell, Clunes, Maldon and Walhalla. The following is a brief overview of the hill's machinery installation (mid 1850s to 1930s) which were undertaken by the Cornish, Argus, North Cornish, Cornish Extended, and Victorian Cornish Company: 1850s

First steam battery on the lower western slope of Cornish Hill was erected by Mr. C. Wilson. Operations of the first Cornish Company - an engine of 24 horse-power, and a battery of 12 heads, erected at Wombat Flat, on the west side of King-street. 1864 "The Arastra" company formed with the view of operating upon the large quantity of quartz tailings accumulated in Wombat Flat, accumulated from the Cornish Co.'s engine and engines in Long and Johnson's gullies. Cornish Quartz Company - A new 16-head battery was erected 1871 A pyrites kiln is being erected at south of the Argus Co. 1872 Cornish Extended Quartz Mining Co., Wombat Hill South, are erecting a 20hp engine. The Daylesford Pyrites Co. have a 6hp engine and furnace 30ft long; they also have two arastras. 1874 Cornish Co., maintains first position, have erected fourth engine - total 80hp will work up to 100hp. 1879 The Argus Company are erecting machinery over main shaft. A crushing of wash is being done at Freeman's battery. 1880 Cornish Quartz Mining Company intend to erect machinery on there newly acquired North Cornish claim. The intention includes; engine, 22in. cylinder and boiler. 1884 North Cornish Q.M.Co. have purchased the Stone Barn plant, at Kingston, which will be at once placed on the claim. Cornish Extended Q.M.Co. Have finished the erection of their plant which consists of a new 21-inch cylinder engine, with 2 boilers ... engine house is 90ft. long by 32ft. wide, with outer connexions. 60 000 bricks and 250 load of stone were used for the foundations, boiler and chimney. 1885 North Cornish Q.M.Co. purchased a 21-inch cylinder pumping engine with new boiler 1886 North Cornish Q.M. Co. purchased the Freeman's crushing plant of 16 head of stamps, situated close to the North Cornish shaft ... will give the company a total of 36 head of crushing power. 1886 Cornish Q.M.Co. purchased the lease and machinery of the Cornish Extended Q.M.Co., adjoining the Conish Co. South making one large lease with 7 powerful horizontal engines, varying from 11 to 29 inch cylinders, in all about 220 horse-power. There are also 3 Tangye and 28 head crushing plant. 1887 Cornish and York purchased a double 10 inch cylinder portable engine. 1888 Cornish Company ... At the new shaft, Havelock company's old ground, erected the most extensive and powerful pumping and winding plant in the district ... The company has, on various pars of the mine, no less than ten engines of various descriptions, making it one of the best and most complete plants to be found out of Quartzopolis. North Cornish Q. M. Co. taking down their plant of 16 square stamps and replacing same with 20-heads of revolving stamps ... when completed their plant will be 40-heads of revolving stamps. North Cornish No. 1 ... have purchased a new 10-head battery. North Cornish Q. M. Co., have cleaned out and re-timbered the Old Fear Not shaft, fixing a 21-inch cylinder. 1889 North Cornish No. 1, present erecting 10 additional stamps, total will be 20-heads. 1890 North Cornish Co. - battery of 50 stamps and 14 Frue Ore Concentrators. c.1903 No. 1 North Cornish combined with the Fear Not ground, and they to crushed at the big Victorian Cornish battery. 1905 Victorian Cornish Co erected three winding plants, a first-class tramway from Mitchell's shaft to the crushing plant, and effected considerable repairs and renewals to the crushing plant, which numbers 30 stampers. An additional battery of 20 stampers is in the course of erection. The South Victorian Cornish Co., erected a complete winding and crushing plant. The Daylesford Co. additional 10-head battery. 1906 Victorian Cornish G. M. Co. 50-head of stampers. There are four shafts; and twelve boilers and fourteen engines in use. The Daylesford G. M. Co. equipped with winding, crushing and pumping machinery 1930s Government battery on Jubillee Lake Road.

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.

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