
SPARGO'S PYRITES GOLD WORKS

Location

75-79 SPARROWHAWK ROAD MAIDEN GULLY, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7724-0058

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO556

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 14, 2005

Spargo's Pyrites Gold Works contains the remnants of six circular brick bases, several concrete floors, a culvert and a small mound of calcined sand. The treatment of auriferous pyritic ore, to facilitate gold extraction, commenced on the Bendigo goldfield in the early 1860s. None of the early attempts proved profitable until the introduction of the chemical chlorination process during the 1870s. Records show that John Spargo's treatment works was operating at Bendigo by 1872, the plant including a reverberatory furnace and arastra (grinding mill or Chilean mill). By the 1880s, Bendigo had become a major centre for the treatment of 'refractory' ores, with several large pyrites companies, including Spargo's, operating up until the First World War. Spargo's, like many others, closed during the war due to the lack of manpower, etc., and does not appear to have recommenced after the war.

Spargo's Pyrites Gold Works is of historical, scientific and archaeological importance to the State of Victoria.

Spargo's Pyrites Gold Works is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. In some ores, the greater part of the gold is combined with pyrites,

making the gold very difficult to extract. From the mid-nineteenth century, miners experimented with various metallurgical (heat treatment) processes to unlock gold from pyritic ore. Extant evidence of these metallurgical processes, of which Spargo's Pyrites Works is an example, are extremely rare in Victoria.

Spargo's Pyrites Gold Works is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 8361

Property Number

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/>