

GREAT SOUTHERN MINE

Place No. 355

ADDRESS	27-41 Hodson Road Warrandyte	Last Update
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Great Southern Mine ran NNE mid-way between the east end of Hodgsons Road and the creek, parallel to the Warrandyte Main South Anticline. It consisted of three shafts, each 4-6 feet wide : a north shaft 100 feet deep, terminating in a short tunnel along the bottom of the seam, a central shaft about 120 feet deep, 80 feet further south and a further 80 feet further south, a south shaft about 50 feet deep. It is on private property.</p> <p>The Sailor's Reef Mine was almost parallel to and east of Gold Memorial Road at about no. 34, just north of a small creek. There are quarry excavations on the road here.</p> <p>Because they are on private property, the location or even existence of these mines is now not generally known.</p> <p>Other Gold mines in Warrandyte include Black Flat : the Dyke (1876), Black Swan Mine and Caledonia Mine (1903-1910); Fourth Hill & Whipstick Gully : Fourth Hill Tunnel (1856-8), Fifth Hill West Mine, Johnson's Mine, Gardeners Mine, Victory Mine (1896), Mantons Mine (1951-65) other : South Caledonia Mine and Pigtail Mine (c1874)</p>	
Condition	-	Integrity Not known
Threats		Key elements
Designer		

HISTORY	<p>The Warrandyte Sailor's Reef Gold Mining Company (Limited) was registered on 21 March, 1872. The manager was Benjamin W. Dods, a civil engineer of Emerald Hill and other shareholders were Johann W. Gunst, of Melbourne, a physician; Frederick Skinner of Bourke Street, a manufacturer; Robert Lorrimer, a broker of North Melbourne; John Bell Hickson, physician of South Yarra and John Earle Ingle, butcher of Emerald Hill, as well as Dods [1]. There were 24,000 shares of which 8,000 were paid up to the value of 4,000 pounds. It was taken up again (with Great Southern) in 1903 by Mr McGee [2].</p> <p>The Great Southern Quartz (Claim) Company was owned by Ben Logan and David Cargill, with Grant and Watkins, tributors. Ben Logan had taken out gold licence no. 235 on March 31, 1853. He lived in a timber cottage on the west side of Anderson Street, south of Yarra Street (now destroyed) [3].</p> <p>The mine was being dug, when it stopped 'on account of foul air' in December 1883, but crushing continued [4]. In September the next year, Logan obtained eleven ounces of smelted gold from almost 4 tons of quartz. It was reported that this was "an improvement, and there is every likelihood of its continuing as good for some time"[5]. By the end of October, they struck "some very good stone", and a crushing of 4 tons yielded 6 ounces and 14 pennyweights of smelted gold. A share changed hands after this for 25 pounds.</p> <p>"I suppose this is the first share sold for anything like this sum for some years", it was observed[6]. In the next month, 5 tons were milled, obtained in 9(?) days work, producing 20 ounces, 13 pennyweights of smelted gold. "Mr Cargill who a fortnight ago purchased a proprietor's share for 25 pounds, will get back his money in the first crushing. He was offered, by a local man, 40 pounds for his share, which was refused. The tributors paid 12 1/2% of the gross yield of gold. The whole of the ground to the north had been taken up and work commenced by the several parties. This should certainly be an impetus to prospecting . . ."[7].</p> <p>In March 1885, they obtained 5 ounces from 3 1/2 tons and expected a better crushing next time[8]. Records show the output had been as high as 20 ounces, 12 pennyweights from 5 tons, and consistently over an ounce from a ton, at about 4-5 pounds an ounce in value[9]. In August 1885, John A. Logan became a partner, the three men holding third shares.</p> <p>No further reports follow, but in July 1890, work was started again. "With a little patience in prospecting there is little doubt this will also be payable"[10]. Ben Logan died in 1892 at Warrandyte, aged 69. The Evelyn Observer commented : "One by one the old residents of the</p>
----------------	--

fifties are passing away, there being now only three left, I think." [11]

A further attempt was made by a Mr McGee on the Great Southern (and Sailor's) in September 1903. Then it was producing as much as 10 ounces to the ton, without machinery, giving about 3 ounces to the co-operative parties involved. [12]

SOURCES

- [1] Victoria Government Gazette March 22, 1872
- [2] The Evelyn Observer, September 18, 1903
- [3] Typed note of contents of Logan's diary.
- [4] Observer, op.cit., December 21, 1883
- [5] Ibid, September 19, 1884.
- [6] Ibid, October 31, 1884.
- [7] Ibid, November 11, 1884.
- [8] Ibid, March 20, 1885.
- [9] Logan's Diary, Held WHS.
- [10] Observer, op.cit., July 11, 1890.
- [11] Ibid, July 8, 1892. Descendants of Logan and his wife Jane Jardine Logan survived in Warrandyte and Warrandyte South from 3rd to 6th generations, in 1987. Typed note, op.cit.
- [12] Observer, op.cit., September 8, 1903.

These references are courtesy of Bruce Bence of the Warrandyte Historical Society

Creation Date

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Ben Logan

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Great Southern Mine and the Sailor's Reef Mine are of local historical significance as physical evidence of Warrandyte's gold-mining past of the period from 1872 to 1903, particularly the mid 1880s and the Great Southern Mine for its association with the early miner, Ben Logan.

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register

Reference

Zoning

Status

None Specified

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:

On VHR:

VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY