

Surface Hill, Smythesdale

Smythesdale

Lot No. **Plan No.**

Municipal Rate No.

Architectural Style

Designer(s)

Contractor(s)

Legislative Registers	Nominated	Registered	Other Registers	Registered
Victorian Heritage Register No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	National Estate RNE - Database	<input type="text"/>
Heritage Inventory No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	H7622-0041	RNE Legal Status	<input type="text"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	National Trust (Vic.) File	<input type="text"/>
Precinct Heritage Overlay Nam	<input type="text"/>		Nat. Trust Classification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual Heritage Overlay No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>		

Statement of Significance

Victorian Heritage Register

Contextual History:History of Place:

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

01.1860: at Surfacing Hill, Mr. Lock was preparing for a similar experiment to that being undertaken by the Black Hill Puddling and Sluicing Co.

03.07.1875: Mr. Bowden and his party of 16 men had constructed fluming to give them an extra sluice head of water. Surface Hill was being mined at this time. The ground was 16 feet deep and a report how the dangerous pillars of earth left from the old workings had to be felled.

to 1880's: surfacing and sluicing of the hills was undertaken during the months of the year when rainfall provided sufficient water; sluicing was the main form of alluvial mining at this time and good rainfall had meant that it continued for nine months in the Smythesdale District during 1888.

1890's: Sluicing of the hills and along the creeks continued during the 1890's and when water was available parties were active at Black Hill, Scarsdale and at Watson's Hill and Fraser's Hill, Smythesdale.

Description

Victorian Heritage Register

Description:

This site covers an area of 73 ha. The main feature at this site is the large open-cut created by the sluicing activities together with the stacks of water worn quartz stones separated from the alluvial wash during the

Golden Plains Shire Heritage Database DRAFT

sluicing operations. Numerous water races remain from the sluicing and surfacing, which involved digging up the top layer of material at the site and washing it through a sluice. Of particular interest is the tunnel that was used to take water from one part of the open-cut to another. Some large blocks of conglomerate, called cement by the miners, which could not be broken up by sluicing still remain. There is only a remnants of the large quantity of gravel which was washed from the hill. The majority of the gravel having been removed and used for road making. Around the perimeter of the open-cut there are several deep shafts, both round and rectangular. There are also a few piles of stones from the chimney's house sites.

Of particular interest are the orchids, wild flowers and mosses that have colonised this site since mining finished and created an environment suited to plants that are normally found in the Otways.

History

Thematic Context

Recommendations