

# City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

## SOUTH FREDERICK THE GREAT MINE

### Other Names

**Location** Unreserved Crown Land along the southern boundary of Sebastian School, east of Three Chain Road, Frederick the Great/Carshalton Reef, Sebastian

**Map Reference** Raywood 1:25000 - BV488.447

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



### Description

**Mine site**  
Capped shaft still surrounded by its mullock paddock. At the base of the paddock on the northern side is a concrete winding engine foundation measuring 8 by 4 feet, and standing 2 feet high. The foundation has ¾-inch mounting bolts.

#### Battery site

70 metres to the west of the mine site are the concrete foundations of a 10-head battery. The foundations measure 16 by 11 feet, and stand 4 feet high. Part of the battery's loading ramp still survives, and on the eastern side of the battery foundations is a large concrete engine foundation. Near this engine foundation is a 3 foot square concrete pad, which still retains a circular impression. Presumably this was a stand for a gas producer cylinder. Located between the battery and the mine site is a rubbish dump which contains sections of an iron stack, and perhaps the remains of the gas producer cylinder.

**History** Period of activity: 1871 (South Frederick the Great); 1881-1889 (Amalgamated South Frederick the Great); 1897-1906 (South Frederick the Great); 1933-1937 (South Frederick the Great)

Line of reef: Sebastian/Carshalton

Maximum recorded annual production: unknown

Total production: 511ozs obtained from 1773 tons between 1934 and 1937

Deepest working level: 300 feet (Amalgamated South Frederick the Great)

Deepest shaft: 307 feet (Amalgamated South Frederick the Great)(below water level)

**Thematic Context** Mining

### Comparative Examples

The site is one of a number at the northern end of the Carshalton line of reef which were marginally productive and economically insignificant (e.g. North Frederick the Great, Young Frederick the Great, Barnes Freehold). There are several other earlier, as well preserved and perhaps more representative medium-level low-production mine sites elsewhere in the study area, namely: Old Tom Reef (1857-1900), Frühling Reef (1860-1931), Lancashire Reef (1865-1907) and King of Prussia (1871-1885). This site, however, is the only one within the study area which was established during the 1930's revival of mining in Victoria.

**Statement of Significance** The site is representative of one of the smaller-scale mines established in the 1930's revival of mining in Victoria (criterion A) and has the potential to illustrate the features of such a mine (criterion C). The site is also part of a network of mining sites, including the Frederick the Great sites.

**Level of Significance** Local

**Recommendation** The site should be protected by inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme and in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites. In particular, the site should be cleared of all domestic rubbish and derelict car bodies and parts, and further historical research should be undertaken to determine the sequence of activities on the site prior to 1930.

**Heritage Boundaries** The site is bounded on the west by Three Chains Road and extends 300 metres east from the road in a strip 100 metres wide and encompassing all the features on the ground at both the mine and battery sites.

- References**
1. "Mining intelligence. South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 7 August 1871, p3, col.1.
  2. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 March 1871, p3, col.3.
  3. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 5 September 1881, p3, col.5.
  4. "Mining meetings. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 3 March 1883, p6, col.3.
  5. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
  6. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 30 August 1884, p6, col.1.
  7. "The Sandhurst Prospecting Board. The Whipstick tour." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 January 1887, p3, cols.3/4.
  8. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 25 February 1888, p6, col.6.
  9. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 1 September 1888, p6, cols.1/2.
  10. "Mining intelligence. Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 1 March 1889, p4, col.1.
  11. "Our mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 25 December 1897, p5, col.3.
  12. "The work in the mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 January 1899, p3, col.3.
  13. H. S. Whitelaw, "Report on Sebastian gold-field." Monthly Progress Report, Geological Survey of Victoria, nos.6/7, 1899, 3-6, plan.
  14. "Our mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 1 January 1900, p3, col.6.
  15. Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria.
  16. Department of Mines, Victoria. Annual Report including gold and mineral statistics for the year.
  17. The Bendigo Advertiser [in Department of Mining and Industrial Development records].
  18. The Bendigo Advertiser, ??/1938, [in Department of Mining and Industrial Development records].
  19. Mining and Geological Journal, January 1938.

**Notes** The existing battery site is located close to an earlier one.

**Assessed by** David Bannear in February 1992 and reviewed by Peter Milner in June 1998

**Chronology** 07.08.1871 □ South Frederick the Great Company: We have put up a whip on the 150 foot shaft, and a blacksmith's shop, and completed putting in the ladders. Everything is in good working order. The east drive is in 50 feet in

sandstone, and the west chamber is opened out, and in about 15 feet in slate country. The reef in the Frederick the Great claim makes larger and better as it is worked south. [1]

28.03.1881 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company - since last report we have sunk shaft 50 feet, and driven west 34 feet, cutting stone about one foot thick, showing gold. We are now rising on same; it is about 2 feet 6 inches thick. Shall crush during the fortnight. [2]

05.09.1881 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The winze at the 50 foot level has been sunk 12 feet, total depth 64 feet; stone about 3 feet in thickness, with several spurs in the footwall. We have commenced opening out at the depth of 35 feet, and have driven north 15 feet. [3]

03.03.1883 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The half-yearly general meeting of this company was held ... on Wednesday last. ...

Directors' report - Immediately after the date of the last general meeting, the directors who were then elected visited the mine for the purpose of deciding upon the work which should be continued; and after full consideration it was determined to cut down the main shaft which is situated near our northern boundary, and on the line of Bruhn's Tribute Company. A contract was let accordingly for cutting down and timbering the shaft in 3 compartments to 133 feet, which was satisfactorily completed; and another contract, now in progress, let to continue sinking another 100 feet, at which depth, should no stone be cut in sinking, it is intended to open out east and west. During the past week some stone has been passed through in sinking, but no gold has been seen in it, although the ground has a very promising appearance, the board has decided to keep the shaft going down under the present contract, which is at the rate of 32 shillings 6 pence per foot for sinking and timbering. [4]

06.1884 □ The Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company are driving a level at 133 feet, where there is a quantity of stone, going south. [5.15-16]

30.08.1884 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The half-yearly general meeting was held on Thursday ...

Directors' report - During the last half year your directors, deferring to a strongly expressed wish of a section of our shareholders, have devoted most of their attention to prospecting the upper level at 133 feet, which has been driven in all about 150 feet, but they have come to the conclusion that a sufficient trial has been given to this portion of the ground for the present. In addition to the above work, the levels at 300 feet deep have been extended north and south about 120 feet, but in consequence of the quantity of water met with we were obliged to discontinue, and we are now fully impressed with the paramount advantage of continuing the sinking of the shaft, which, at 307 feet deep, is in a body of stone fully 15 feet thick, and in which gold has been frequently seen. The water, however, is beyond the power of the appliances at the service of the company on the surface, and consequently an expression of opinion by the shareholders is sought as to the propriety of erecting a moderately equipped winding engine, to a cost -say, of £700. Your directors are disposed to recommend this course as presenting the most advantages for the economical working of the mine. This expenditure might be shared by entering into a joint arrangement with Barnes Freehold Company, or in conjunction with the adjoining claim immediately south of your ground. ... [6]

19.01.1887 □ The South Frederick the Great, for which two applications for £100 were received, one from T. Darbyshire (a tributor) and the other from S. G.

Cole. It turned out the money was wanted to assist in sinking a winze from 30 feet on a 3 foot reef, 20 tons from which gave 7ozs of gold. The board was not strongly impressed with the idea that this was "prospecting". [7]

25.02.1888 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The half-yearly general meeting of this company was held yesterday ...

Directors' report - since operations were resumed in the mine in November last, the following work has been done. At first it was thought advisable to haul the water out of the main shaft and prove the reef in the bottom (310 feet), but it was found that our present appliances were not sufficient to cope with the flow of water, and your directors have the matter of erecting a small winding engine under consideration. Men were put on to drive on the stone at about 30 feet

from the surface, but it was found to dip very fast, and could not be worked from this point. The south shaft was then sunk to a depth of 102 feet, and a crosscut put in 40 feet, the last 8 feet being in quartz, with no sign of being through yet. Should the stone not prove payable, it is intended to open out above the water level in the main shaft and crosscut for the reef. An application is before the Warden for a lease of a large area of ground to the south of our present lease, which will be a valuable addition to our property should anything payable be cut. [8]

06.1888 □ At Sebastian, one or two claims, such as the Frederick the Great and South Frederick the Great Companies have somewhat improved prospects. [5.19]

01.09.1888 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The half-yearly meeting lapsed yesterday ...

Director's report - During the past six months a large amount of prospecting has been done on the stone at 233 foot level. There is a quantity of stone of good appearance, but up to the present is not payable. Work has been suspended at this level, and the men put to open out above the water level at 300 feet, to crosscut for the stone which was cut in the shaft, and in which fair prospects were obtained. [9]

01.03.1889 □ Amalgamated South Frederick the Great Company: The half-yearly meeting was held yesterday ... There were no reports. [10]

25.12.1897 □ South Frederick the Great have done a deal of prospecting, but so far without success. [11]

02.01.1898 □ The South Frederick the Great are sinking and at ... have got into a large formation, which is ... mineralized, but shows no gold. [12]

1899 □ South Frederick the Great, Sebastian: With the object of striking the continuation of the rich shoot worked from Bruhn's shaft, the South Frederick the Great Company has sunk a shaft close to the mutual boundary of the leases; at about 450 feet a large body of mineralized stone was cut, but the gold contents were not payable. The company's shaft is very evidently not deep enough. [13]

01.01.1900 □ South Frederick the Great have had to abandon the deep ground owing to the heavy inflow of water, and they are now rising on a small stone above 365 feet. [14]

□ 1906 □ The South Bruhn's shaft is down 69 feet; four men were at work. [15.127]

□ 1934 □ South Frederick the Great: 148ozs obtained from 176 tons of stone. [16]

The South Frederick the Great mine complete underground survey. [16.14]

The South Frederick the Great mine. The mine is located between half and three-quarters of a mile south of the old Frederick the Great mine. The company which was only recently formed has sunk a shaft to 65 feet and met with a body of spurs between two west-dipping faults which are diverging, and from which yields up to 1 ounce per ton are being obtained. The probabilities are that this spur reef and faults are subsidiary to the old Frederick the Great fault and reef, which is not seen yet. An interesting feature of this gold occurrence is that, so far as the survey has gone, it appears to be in the Darriwil horizon. [16.14]

□ 1935 □ South Frederick the Great: 128ozs obtained from 409 tons of stone.

The company had now obtained 276ozs from 585 tons of stone. [16]

Sebastian.- South Frederick the Great sank the main shaft 172 feet.

Prospecting and development was carried out down to the 150-foot level. A five-head battery, in the course of erection, should be completed early in the coming year. [16.19]

□ 05.1936 □ New Mine at Sebastian - Photo showing staff outside building.

Caption belong contains: Great interest has been displayed in the Sebastian district in the erection of the new battery for the South Frederick the Great Company, which commenced milling last week. Old residents remember the old Frederick the Great mill of 60 stamps which had an output of 6000 tons per month. The present mill of 5 head of stamps is situated close to the site of the old battery. In the back row, third from the left is Mr. H. Leed (representing legal managers), then Messrs W. Hooper (mine manager), J. O. Charleton (chairman

of directors), H. Laity (battery manager) and L. Jorgenson (engineer) ...the high cost of carting and crushing in Bendigo, a new five-head battery, a suction gas engine and other necessary equipment was purchased and erection has just been completed by T J Jorgensen and Son. [17]

□ 1936 □ South Frederick the Great: 205ozs obtained from 984 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 481ozs from 1569 tons of stone. [16]

□ 1936 □ Outside the main Bendigo goldfield, promising mines are being opened up at Sebastian, Maldon, Costerfield etc. [16.23]

□ 1937 □ South Frederick the Great: 30ozs obtained from 204 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 511ozs from 1773 tons of stone. [16]

□ ... companies which have not survived include the ... South Frederick the Great. [16.11]

□ ?1938 □ Employees in mines - Number to be 703 . . .The numbers of men working underground and engaged on the surface are - New Chum Syncline 21; South New Moon 60; Carshalton (BML) 54; Napoleon 40; Nell Gwynne 35; Central Nell Gwynne 80; Deborah 50; North Deborah 11; South Frederick the Great 12; South Red White and Blue 16; Monument Hill 37; Central Napoleon 7; North Virginia 12; Hercules No 1 16; South Ironbark 16; Hercules 16; Ironbark 19; South Virginia 16; Virginia Extended 16; New Red White end Blue 74; North Red White and Blue 41; Central Red White and Blue 20; Little 180 16; North Nell Gwyne 18; Big Hill 6. [18]

□ 01.1938 □ Mines such as the Central Nell Gwynne, Deborah, South New Moon, and South Virginia have realized expectations, and are now producing with every probability of further success. A few mines, notably the B.M.L. group, comprising the Carshalton, Napoleon, and Nell Gwynne, after the expenditure of much capital, failed to prove remunerative, and these companies have now practically suspended operations. Other companies that have not survived include the New Prince of Wales, Virginia South Extended, and South Frederick the Great. [19]