

CATHERINE REEF UNITED CLAIM HOLDERS

Line of reef: New Chum [1.112, 2, 3.34-35]

Location: south shaft: approximately 120 yards north of the Williams United main shaft, near the junction of Temperance Street and Junction Street [2]

main shaft: 330 yards north west of the south shaft and 44 yards south of the railway line [2]

Grid reference: BV535328

Depth of shaft: south shaft: 1,000 feet [2, 3.34]

main shaft: 2316 feet [1.112, 2, 3.34]

Yield: 120,000 / (private parties) [1.112, 2, 3.35]

80,000 / (private parties prior to 1861)[12.32]

95,000 / (1861-1888 as a public company)[12.33]

230,143 / 745,062 (1861-1917)[13]

245,620 / (public company) [2, 3.35]

318,000 / [1.112]

Dividends: 136,579 pounds [2, 3.35, 4]

81,120 pounds (to 1888)[12.32]

Period of operation: ? - 1861, 1861-1920 [1.112, 2, 3.35, 8, 9]

Period of production: 1861-1917 [4, 5, 6, 7, 9]

Period of dividends: 1862-1864, 1897-1898, 1905-1916 [4, 9]

Best return: 10,726 / 17,107 (1906)[4]

Best yield:

Best dividend: 20,127 pounds (1906)[1]

Years of class 1 production:

Years of class 2 production: 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1883, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1916

Years of class 3 production:

Notes: 64 head battery connected to landing brace by an elevated tramway 1.112]

Photographs: Preparing for drilling on the face of the western spurs deep underground in the 1890's. [10.44]

Interior view of the battery house showing a row of 12 batteries, sloping plates and six circular concentrators for pyrites [11.36]

Artefacts: Two relatively long intact brick winding engine beds and a mullock heap on the south side of the railway line. 80 metres west south west of this site there is a partially exposed battery site consisting of a line of wooden stumps and bolts for at least seven battery boxes. Under one of these battery positions there is a massive granite block. A section of the brick battery engine bed is exposed at the north eastern corner of the battery site. To the east, exposed in the quarried face of the tailings dump there is a substantial stone and mortar foundation. Elsewhere on the site there is a very extensive and partially quarried tailings dump which exposes a relatively undisturbed face to the railway line and to the west. To the southeast of the battery site the line of the gully can still be traced out in which there was a tunnel into the main part of the workings.

Significance

This is the only site on the Bendigo field where the original company was in occupation throughout the period 1861-1920. Formed by the amalgamation of a number of small claims into one of the larger companies on the field, it approached mining in a highly organized fashion, it was innovative and progressive in its practices, and in the 1860s was regarded as second only to the Port Phillip Company at Clunes both for productive capacity and in importance as a technological leader. the site with its high sand dumps is clearly visible both from the railway and the nearby highway, is readily accessible, and contains a variety of partially buried foundations by which latter

phases of activity at the site may be interpreted. A great deal of documentary evidence for mining activity on the site also exists at the Bendigo office of the Department of Manufacturing & Industry Development.

References:

- 1.A. V. Palmer, "The gold mines of Bendigo." volume 2, Hawthorn, Craftsman, 1979.
- 2.A. Richardson, "Guide to some famous mines." in "Historic Guide to Bendigo." The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Bendigo branch, 1980.
- 3."Bendigo goldfield." Victoria, Mines Department. 1936.
4. Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria.
- 5."The goldfields of Victoria." Victoria, Department of Mines, 1898-1902.
6. Reports of the Mining Registrars and Surveyors, Eaglehawk Division, Department of Mines, Victoria.
7. Reports of the Mining Registrars and Surveyors, Sandhurst Division, Department of Mines, Victoria.
8. The Bendigo Advertiser.
9. Dickers Mining Record.
- 10.A. V. Palmer, "The gold mines of Bendigo." volume 1, Hawthorn, Craftsman, 1979.
- 11.J. Lerk, "Bendigo's mining history, 1851 - 1954." The Bendigo Trust, 1991.
- 12."Report on Bendigo." Bendigo School of Mines and Industries, 1888.
13. Yield index, Department of Mines, Bendigo.