

DEBORAH

Line of reef: Deborah [1.121, 2, 3.30]

Location:main shaft: at the corner of Adams Street and Abel Street [1.121]; west of Adams Road and south of Abel Street, with the engine house south of the shaft [2]

Little Italy shaft: 130 yards south of the main shaft [1.121]

Grid reference: BV565266

Depth of shaft: main shaft: 2017 feet [1.121, 2]

Little Italy shaft: 213 feet [1.121]

Yield: 51,935 / [1.121, 2]

53,553 / 132,817 [3]

Dividends: 193,075 pounds [2]

Period of operation:1860-1873, 1878-1879, 1932-1954 [1.121, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9]

1871-1872 (Vital South Garden Gully Company)[11]

Period of production: 1932-1950 [3, 6, 7]

Period of dividends:

Best return:

Best yield:

Best dividend: 27,450 pounds (1939)[6]

Years of class 1 production:

Years of class 2 production:1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1944

Years of class 3 production:

Notes: Ground originally held by the Little Italy Company. [1.121]

Reserved mining area.

Ground first worked in 1860 down to a depth of about 200 feet by 1873. No returns are available for this period, but the claims were the Vital Garden Gully Company (open cut and possibly the present south shaft), Vital Garden Gully Tribute companies No. 1 and No. 2, Desideratum Company (probably the present main shaft), Howe's Tribute Company (135 feet on the reef), Metropolitan Company (148 feet on the reef), and Mary Wainwright Tribute (200 feet on the reef). The main shaft was subsequently worked down to 435 feet between February 1922 and June 1924. [9]

Discovery of payable stone a vindication of a 1931 report recommending exploration of the Deborah line of reef. [10]

Photographs:Steel poppet head being erected over a smaller wooden one, with the corrugated iron engine house to the right. [4.70]

First motion steam winding engine (now at Central Deborah). [4.69, 5]

Poppet head, engine house and battery shed after the closure of the mine. [5]

Operating a rock drill at the 1,000 foot level. [5]

Artefacts:Steel poppet head with tubular legs 34 feet apart which still retains some wooden framing. The three compartment shaft is partly visible. 30 meters to the south of the shaft are well preserved concrete winding engine beds associated with machine made brick rubble. 7 metres east of the winding engine beds there is a concrete workshop floor which contains several concrete mounting pads. To the north of the workshop, and extending alongside the east side of the shaft is the concrete floor of the battery house, containing foundations for four battery boxes and pads and supports for concentrating tables and other machinery. What remains of the tailings dump are contained on the allotment on the opposite side of the road.

Significance:

Gold in payable quantities was first found on the Deborah line of reef at this site which, although worked at various times since 1860, is now representative of the workings of one of the larger companies during the 1930's mining revival period. The site is reserved for mining, it contains a relatively intact range of artefacts, is easily accessible, is visible from Chum Hill and from the North Deborah site, and has views both to the Deborah and Central Deborah sites and to Chum Hill.

References:

- 1.A. V. Palmer, "The gold mines of Bendigo." volume 2, Hawthorn, Craftsman, 1979.
- 2."Bendigo goldfield." Victoria, Mines Department. 1936.
- 3.Annual Report, including gold and mineral statistics, Department of Mines, Victoria.
- 4.J. Lerk, "Bendigo's mining history, 1851 - 1954." The Bendigo Trust, 1991.
- 5.A. Richardson, "Guide to some famous mines." in "Historic Guide to Bendigo." The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Bendigo branch, 1980.
- 6.Annual Report, including gold and mineral statistics and boring records, Department of Mines, Victoria.
- 7.Annual Report, including statistics relating to the mining industry, Department of Mines, Victoria.
- 8.Reports of the Mining Registrars and Surveyors, Sandhurst Division, Department of Mines, Victoria.
- 9.J. J. Caldwell, "The Deborah mine, Bendigo." Mining and Geological Journal, 1, no.3, July 1938, 24-29.
- 10.H. Gepp, W. Baragwanath, and F. L. Stillwell, Report to the Prime Minister, 21 January 1931.
- 11.The Bendigo Advertiser.