

Victorian Heritage Database place details - 21/9/2021

BERRY NO.1 DEEP LEAD GOLD MINE



Location:

1541 DAYLESFORD-CLUNES ROAD LAWRENCE, Hepburn Shire

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1740

Listing Authority: VHR

Extent of Registration:

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1740 in the category described as a Heritage place, Archaeological place:

Berry No. 1 Deep Lead Gold Mine, Daylesford-Clunes Road, Smeaton, Hepburn Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the land marked L-1 including above-ground structures (Cornish engine house, bob-pit and machinery foundations), mullock heap, pebble dump, and all archaeological features and artefacts on diagram number 608331 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council. The land includes all of CA 62 and 63, Section A, Parish of Smeaton, County of Talbot, together with a right of carriage way over the road derived from Volume 7261, Folio 1452187.

Dated 13 August 1998.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

Statement of Significance:

The State's richest deep alluvial gold lead system, known as the Berry Lead System, run north from Creswick, slightly to the west of Smeaton. Mining of lead system took place from early 1870s. The Berry No. 1 mine was floated in 1881 and by the end of 1884, the company's main shaft had been sunk 494 feet. Confronted with large flows of water, the company erected some of the most extensive pumping machinery in the State, including a 70-inch cylinder Cornish engine. The engine was locally manufactured at John Hichman's Union Foundry Ballarat and was capable of lifting 60,000 gallons of water per hour. The engine was housed in a brick engine house. The Berry No.1 mine was not one of the field's major gold producers. In fact it was spectacularly unprofitable: in twenty years its record was 50,000 ounces of gold, dividends of less than £5,000, and operating costs of £278,764.

The Berry No.1 Deep Lead Gold Mine is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Berry No.1 Deep Lead Gold Mine is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic example of an important form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, deep lead mining, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The engine house at the Berry No.1 mine is a crucial reminder of the move by the mining industry from the use of imported Cornish pumping engines to locally produced engines.

The Berry No.1 Deep Lead Gold Mine is scientifically important for its illustration of Cornish pumping technology and building design. The site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

Heritage Study	
Year Construction Started	1881
Architect / Designer	
Architectural Style	
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological place
Municipality	["HEPBURN SHIRE"]
Other names	
History	