

Place name Morning Star Gold Battery Site**Survey Date:****Other name** Donnelly's Creek Goldfields, Morning Star Mine and Machinery Site, Mor**Id:**

775

Street Morning Star Creek**Last Update****Locality** Donnellys Creek**Postcode** 3833**Official Locality****Property No****Local Government Area** Wellington Shire**Property Info****Precinct:** Not in precinct**Easting** 456400**Northing** 5822300**Map** 8122: 564.223**Workshop number****Workshop votes****Field survey number****Community priority****Designer****Builder****Ownership** State Forest**Built Date****Change Date****Description** Description: Heritage Inventory Description: Features of the Morning Star Co. mine and machinery site are a waterwheel and race, mine workings, and hut sites.

Heritage Inventory Site Features: Waterwheel - Thompson 20ft diameter, 6ft wide, fabricated metal pitchback waterwheel, which was supplied with water from a race along the southern margin of the creek.

Mine workings - the mine associated with the waterwheel is on the northern side of the creek a short distance upstream. The shaft at creek level has been filled in and the lower adit has collapsed. There is a second adit higher up the slope and above this the reef has been stoped to the surface.

Huts - there is some evidence of building sites on both sides of the creek but the area is thickly infested with blackberries.; Access: Heritage Inventory Relocation: Morning Star Creek (report => mapsheet 8122 Matlock, s/be 8222 Maffra)

Heritage Inventory Access: Unrestricted; Condition: Heritage Inventory Condition: Good

Heritage Inventory Threats: Visitor Erosion

Condition**Integrity**

History Heritage Inventory History of Site: Reefs were worked on Morning Star Creek by 1864, the most successful being the Crinoline Reef. Further down the creek, the Morning Star Co. put some rich stone through their steam-powered 12-head battery, erected (according to Milner/Supple et al) in 1865 (I found no record in the Mining Surveyors' Reports). Mines along Morning Star Creek were re-tried between 1904-10, and it was probably during this period that the extant waterwheel was installed at the Morning Star mine site. The amount of actual mining carried out was minimal and little gold was produced. References: Milner (1989/1) Supple et al, M12 (also Bannear 1998)

Heritage Protections Register**Reference****Zoning****Status**

Historic Places Branch Database	7177		Listed
Planning Scheme	HO112		Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8222-0001		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H1265		Listed

National Estate**Research Required****Recommendations** Victorian Heritage Inventory listing means a permit is required from Heritage Victoria for any disturbance to place (including conservation works).

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Not seen in Stage 1 fieldwo **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site consists of a metal pitchback waterwheel. The waterwheel is a remnant of a ore a crushing battery which was installed during the period 1904-10 and was one of a number of mills put in to serve mines working along Morning Star Creek. The site is badly obscured by blackberry bushes.

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site is of historical, and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Morning Star Gold Battery Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. The waterwheel is the only recorded one of its type surviving in Victoria. 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, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The abandoned mining machinery at the Morning Star battery site is historically important for its evocation of the adventurousness, hardship, and isolation that was part of mining life in the high country areas of the State.

The Morning Star Gold Battery 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.

Extent of designation To the extent of:

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography

Bannear, D., (1995), Gippsland Goldfields - Site Gazetteer, Historic Mining Sites Assessment Project, pp. 14-15
Milner, (1989/1)
Supple et al, M12