

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The Crinoline c.1862 - 1878

Mining Relics

Crinoline Prospecting Company

Crinoline Quartz Mining & Crushing Company

Crinoline Gold Mining Company

The Crinoline was the largest mine on Morning Star Creek, and one of the first to be discovered as what became the Donnelly's Creek Goldfields. It produced good quantities of gold for a few years only and despite the efforts of some to revive the mine, it was deemed not viable.

The waterwheel remaining at Morning Star, measuring twenty feet in diameter, was formed by Thomspen & Co. in Castlemaine. It would have been transferred to the site by pack-horses in small pieces.

A small township developed to support the mine, known as Tullamore. Peak population at Tullamore between 1869 and 1880 was around 50 people. The township of Tullamore was set around Edmund Hayes' Tullamore Hotel, until about 1870. After the hotel closed, there were still a few private residences in the vicinity of the Morning Star Mine. Residents of the 1870's included the Pearce, Claxton, Schmetzer and Thompson families.

Below is a history of the machinery installed for this mining operation:-

December 1864	Water scarce; 8 stampers hung up in order to keep remainder operating
September 1865	Water wheel and 12 head battery; erecting auxiliary steam engine to allow crushing through the summer months
October 3, 1865	to convey South Crinoline stone through tunnel and down tramway to battery
October 17, 1865	12 head battery
December, 1865	18 horsepower steam engine and 16 head battery
March 27, 1866	30 foot by 4 foot 9 inch waterwheel, metal shrouds and centre, wooden buckets 12.5 inch by 30 inch horizontal steam engine Cornish boiler: 17 feet by 5 feet, 4 inches 4 X 4 head battery, 6.5 hundredweight stampers, 10 inch lift, front discharge copper plates and blankets amalgamating barrel driven from battery camshaft water taken from Donnelly's Creek.
March 1866	steam engine and waterwheel now coupled together for driving the battery
December 1866	repairing the machinery
June 1867	crushing Morning Star Company stone; repairing the tramway
Extant Machinery:	3 pass Cornish boiler Canal Basin Foundry horizontal single cylinder double acting steam winding engine 2 X 4 head Fulton and Shaw gravity stamp battery, 1866 4 head Fulton gravity stamp battery, 1864 spur gear pinion
Mine working	2 adits.
Special Features / Significance	Historical (social / technical) : early extant machinery from Fulton Foundry, South Melbourne.

Source: Some Historic Gold Mining Sites between Enoch's Point, Big River and Store Point, Donnelly's Creek, Victoria by P Milner, January 1989; and Ghost Towns of the Mountain Goldfields by Luke Steenhuis, published in 1999, republished in 2006.