

EASTERN PLAIN HERITAGE SURVEY

PREAMIMMA MINE RUINS/CHIMNEY

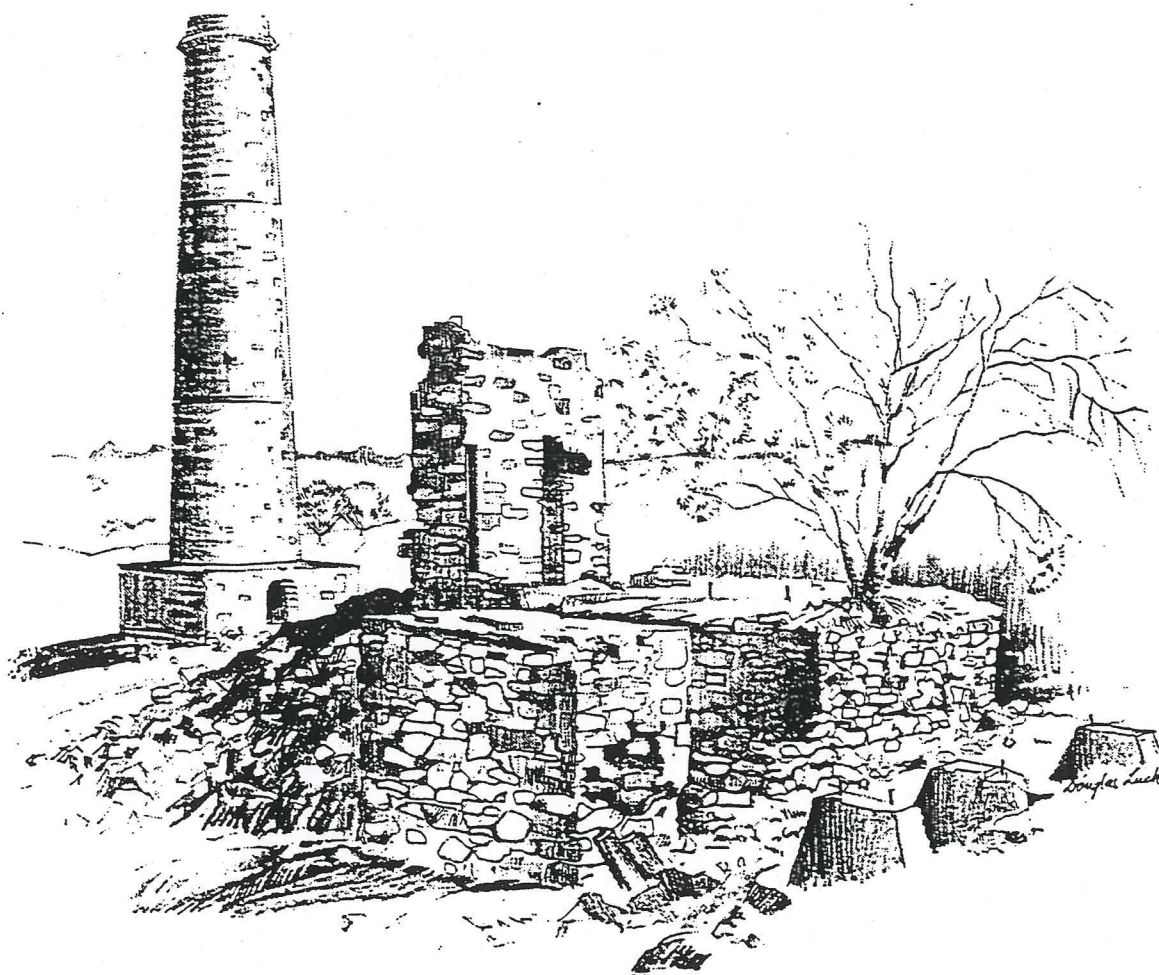
Item No. MB 008 (S)

LOCATION

Address	Near North of Rockleigh Downs Homestead
Owner(s)	R.J. & E.A. Frahn, RSD 30, Callington 5254
Certificate of Title	5195/998 - 5196/2
Section	13
Hundred	Monarto

State Heritage Status	Registered (SHR No. 10449)
Other Assessments	None known

Film No.	2 (September 1995)	Map No. 6727 - IV
Photographer	B. Harry	MONARTO



EASTERN PLAIN HERITAGE SURVEY

PREAMIMMA MINE RUINS/CHIMNEYItem No. MB 008 (S)

DESCRIPTION

A circular stone chimney, and the ruins of a former engine house on the ridgeline overlooking Preamimma Creek, are all that remain of the former Preamimma Mine. The round chimney is in good condition.

HISTORY

A number of mines were located in the Monarto district, but the Preamimma Mine was the earliest. It was opened in 1854 on Section 13, Hundred of Monarto. It produced small amounts of copper and gold, plus some other minerals, but when the lode was lost, the mine was abandoned.

It was reopened in about 1861 when Alfred Hallett, Manager of the Worthing Company's mine at Callington, began using ore from the mine as smelting flux. A 42 foot chimney was erected and a large boiler and steam engine installed. A shaft was sunk to a depth of 300 feet but the mine closed again after only a short period of operation.

Preamimma Mine was reopened yet again in 1899 by E.W. Sudholz, to mine arsenic for export to Germany. The arsenic recovered was of a high grade but the quantities were not great. The operation became redundant when a large arsenic mine was opened in Scandinavia.

In 1924 the mine was again reopened, but it was found that the 300 foot shaft had 150 feet of water in it. Pumping of the arsenic contaminated water was a major problem and the mine closed permanently, shortly thereafter.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

An example of the role of mining in the opening up of the Monarto district, and one of the few to survive with substantial stone structures still intact eg, the chimney.

RELEVANT CRITERIA

- a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution of the State's history.
- b) It has uncommon qualities that are of cultural significance.
- c) It demonstrates a high degree of technical accomplishment.

EASTERN PLAIN HERITAGE SURVEY

PREAMIMMA MINE RUINS/CHIMNEY

Item No. MB 008 (S)

References

"Monarto 1847 - 1986" (Murray Bridge, 1986, Published to commemorate the "Back to Monarto" 15/3/86 in conjunction with the S.A. Jubilee 150 celebrations). Page 16

Abbott, L "Range to River : Recollections of Rockleigh, Pallamana and Toora" (L. Abbott and M. Hein, Taillem Bend, c1989), page 9

Site Surveyor Bruce Harry and Paul Kloeden
Date(s) of Survey September 1995, January 1996