

| REGISTRATION PROPOSAL - HISTORIC AREA SUMMARY | |
|--|---|
| Name of Area | Wong Gong's Terrace Historic Area |
| Other or former name(s) [plus dates associated with those names] | N/A |
| Area Description | <p>The main features included are Wong Gong's store site, his irrigation reservoir, and several building terraces. A modern crib is also located on the site, together with a long drop toilet, but is not considered to have heritage value.</p> <p>The site of the store, the later miners' camp and an adjacent area of gold workings are recorded by the NZAA as site E41 (originally S123/81). The main storage reservoir on the terrace is recorded as site E41/32 (originally S123/82).</p> <p>The boundaries are defined as the northern and western edges of the terrace. The eastern boundary is the present Skippers Road. The southern boundary is extended beyond the edge of the terrace in order to incorporate the main storage dam in Wong Gong Creek and part (but not all) of the supply race.</p> <p>The proposed historic area is within Pt Run 27(a close to 44,000 acre/17,753 hectare property), held under lease by Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Ltd under title OTA2/1228. It has not been possible to check the older titles, as these files are missing from Archives New Zealand.</p> <p>Have you attached a map outlining the boundaries of the proposed area? Yes.</p> |
| Address 1 Suburb | Wong Gong's Terrace |
| Address 2 Town/ Locality | Skippers Road |
| Address 3 Region | Otago |
| Address 4 Description of location | Wong Gong's terrace is located in the Shotover Valley, immediately below the Skippers Road about 1.5 kilometres south of Skippers Bridge. The only road access is along Skippers Road. |
| Local authorities | Queenstown Lakes District Council |
| Local authority listing(s) | None |
| Summary of Significance | The proposed Wong Gong's Terrace Historic Area, adjacent to the Skippers Road in the Shotover Valley near Queenstown, provides an insight into the life of a gardener and storekeeper, who provided a meeting place for Chinese miners in an isolated goldfields community. It provides a representative, largely unmodified archaeological example of a Chinese store, market gardens and associated structures in an isolated area of the nineteenth century Otago goldfields. Storekeepers provided a vital support for the Chinese mining community, as a source of Chinese commodities as well as a place to meet. The site provides a spectacular view of the extensive sluicings nearby, emphasising |

the goldmining context of the Shotover Valley. Wong Gong's Terrace Historic Area provides an example of a vital and locally recognised Chinese presence in the Shotover Valley that is largely un-represented.

The Shotover was one of the richest fields in Otago, with a significant Chinese population, whose presence is largely invisible. Wong Gong's Terrace Historic Area recognises a man whose name was given to the land and to the nearby stream, and whose history is a significant story in this forbidding landscape. Wong Gong's story and his store's role as a meeting place, provides a way into recognising the Chinese community in this area as well as providing the only real physical evidence of his life in the Shotover. Given the lack of historical material the site provides a way of telling the story of an isolated Chinese life in a harsh environment.

COMPONENTS OF THE AREA

1

Name: Building and hut sites (former)

Address: Wong Gong's Terrace, Shotover Valley

Legal Description: Part Run 27

Owner(s): Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Ltd

Address of Owner(s): Bendall and Cant Ltd, 61 High Street, Auckland

NZHPT Registration No. (if applicable): N/A

New Zealand Archaeological Association No. (if applicable): Hut site S123/82

NZMS 260 grid references. Easting: Northing:

GPS Co-ordinate Taken From: Easting: Northing:

GPS Co-ordinates. Easting: Northing:

Brief Description:

The main building site on the terrace is located underneath the young sycamores behind the modern crib. It consists of a flat area measuring 10 metres by 20 metres, with a 4 metre extension at the southern end cut into the bank. The rear of the site is revetted. A pile of stones at the northern end may be the remains of a collapsed chimney.

On the western side of the store site there is a small collapsed corrugated iron hut with a small Orion cast-iron coal range. This hut originally measured approximately 1.4 metres by 6.2 metres. According to the site record form (S123/82) this hut was part of Lorden & Fletcher's mining camp in the 1930s.

Several other possible building sites were also recorded during the survey. On the south side of the vehicle track leading off the Skippers Road there are two terraces cut into the gentle slope. One is situated right beside the track, and measures 3 metres by 2 metres. The second is situated 5 metres further south, and measures 9 metres by 6 metres.

2

Name: The water supply and storage system

Address: Wong Gong's Terrace, Shotover Valley

Legal Description: Pt Run 27

Owner(s): Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Ltd

Address of Owner(s): Bendall and Cant Ltd, 61 High Street, Auckland

NZHPT Registration No. (if applicable): N/A

New Zealand Archaeological Association No. (if applicable): S123/82

NZMS 260 Grid references. Easting: Northing:

GPS Coordinate Taken From: Easting: Northing:

GPS Coordinates. Easting: Northing:

Brief Description:

Operating a market garden in such an arid area as the Shotover Valley, Wong Gong would have required an efficient irrigation system. Some elements of this system can still be identified. Water was collected from creeks running down the flank of the valley to the south of the garden terrace, and fed by water race into a dam built in Wong Gong Creek. This dam has now completely silted up to the top of the dam wall. From this dam, another water race led around to the north, where it branched. One branch fed a reservoir situated beside the store site, which was contained by a 40 metre long earth embankment. This has been breached in two places. An iron pipe runs through the base of the reservoir wall, from where water was presumably led to the gardens. The reservoir is slowly filling with talus washed down from the Skippers Road above.

The other branch of the race led to the north, again presumably to feed the gardens at the far end of the terrace. A portion of the race has been covered by the talus. At the northern end of the terrace there is a possible shallow reservoir. The site record form for the main reservoir on the terrace (S123/82) states that it could have been built in the 1870s, and was used between 1890 and 1900 by Wong Gong, and was last used in the 1930s by Lorden and Fletcher.

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 | <p>Name: Remains of plantings and garden site Address: Wong Gong's Terrace, Shotover Valley Legal Description: Part Run 27 Owner(s): Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Ltd Address of Owner(s): Bendall and Cant Ltd, 61 High Street, Auckland NZHPT Registration No. (if applicable): N/A</p> <p>New Zealand Archaeological Association No. (if applicable): S123/82 NZMS 260 grid references. Easting: Northing: GPS Co-ordinate Taken From: GPS Co-ordinates. Easting: Northing:</p> <p>Brief Description: Wong Gong's gardens would have been situated on the grassy flats of the main terrace. At the time of the survey this area was covered with medium length grass which obscured any fine ground detail which may still be present. At the northern end of the terrace there is a cut bank, which may mark a levelled garden area.</p> <p>While the vegetable garden areas lack any immediately visible features, there are a number of trees in the area which were deliberately planted. The bank at the rear of the main terrace is covered with sycamores, many of which are wilding. The original trees that provided the seed source are in many cases still identifiable. An old fence line leading from the reservoir by the store site to the north follows such a line of old trees. A single large sycamore is situated beside the two small terraces on the south side of the vehicle track, while two large silver birches are situated to the east of these terraces.</p> <p>Miscellaneous features A number of track features were also recorded on Wong Gong's terrace. On the south end of the terrace a narrow but clearly defined benched path leads down to Wong Gong Creek. This presently provides access to the water in the creek for visitors to the site.</p> <p>Running below the Skippers Road is the formation of an old pack track. It was followed from the silted-up main dam to the north for 80 metres until it was lost. From the site of the old store, running south to meet the present vehicle track, there appears to be an old path or track. This is defined as a clear line through the sycamores.</p> |
|---|---|

Mining the Shotover

The Shotover area had been part of Gilbert Rees' pastoral run, which he had taken up in the late 1850s. Thus he had only briefly been in occupation in what was later to be known as Queenstown when gold was discovered in the Wakatipu area. The government paid Rees £10,000 compensation for the loss of the run. Queenstown became the centre for exploration of the Wakatipu goldfield, and for European exploration further afield to places such as Milford Sound and St Martin's Bay.¹

The gold rush at the Shotover River began in November 1862 after Thomas Arthur and three others obtained 200oz of gold in eight days by washing the sand at what became known as Arthur's Point. After two months work they had recovered £4,000 worth of gold. The rush that followed was the largest that occurred in Otago. The area was remote and access difficult, making provisioning both troublesome and expensive.²

Before the end of 1863 many other gold-bearing creeks and gullies were discovered in the tributaries of the Shotover. The passage up the Shotover was difficult beyond Arthur's Point, owing to the almost continuous gorge for forty miles upstream. Despite the difficulties almost the whole of the river was prospected. One of the most important discoveries was that of Maori Point, about thirty miles above Queenstown, and close to the area where Wong Gong would later have his store. Named after its discoverers Dan Ellison and Hakaria Haeroa, Maori Point yielded rich returns. The chief of the areas opened up on the Shotover was Skippers.³ In February 1863 the Shotover was described in the *Otago Witness* as the richest river in the world.⁴

The Shotover had good deposits in the gravel of the terraces on the banks of the river, but the banks rose so steeply that it was difficult to work them without endangering life. The authorities issued warnings to deter those who remained on their claims after the summer had passed.⁵

The peak of the Wakatipu rush was in 1863. It ended with a bout of severe weather, followed by serious flooding which resulted in significant loss of life and mining equipment. The Shotover, its course blocked by avalanches of gravel, burst through the barriers, sending 10-20ft waves downstream. Those camping on the river beaches survived only by clambering up cliff faces. Snow followed flood, frost followed snow, and the result was enormous difficulties in packing supplies into the isolated fields leading to near starvation and some deaths from exposure.⁶ By 1865 alluvial miners had drifted to the West Coast goldfields, although quartz mining and dredging would continue for longer.

A small settlement developed at Maori Point. It was the only place on the Skippers Track where there was an area of open flat land. Its peak population was around 1863, and by 1864 the population was declining. One hotel (from an original 8 or so licensed premises) survived until 1900, serving those travelling the Skippers Road. A store and post office existed at Maori Point until around 1895, when a fire destroyed the buildings.⁷ Postal services moved to the hotel and continued until 1920.

The first Chinese arrived in the Wakatipu District in 1868, going first to Big Beach at Arthurs Point. The Chinese population grew to 735 by mid 1870, only slightly less than the population of European miners. By 1871 there were more Chinese than European miners in the area.⁸

¹ Salmon, pp.92-93.

² Vincent Pyke, *History of Early Gold Discoveries in Otago*, Otago Daily Times and Otago Witness Company, Dunedin, 1963, pp.85-86. [first published 1887]

³ Pyke, pp.88-89.

⁴ J.H.M. Salmon, *A History of Goldmining in New Zealand*, RE Owen, Government Printer, Wellington, 1963, p.87.

⁵ Salmon, p.87.

⁶ Salmon, pp.94-96.

⁷ A.J.De La Mare, *The Shotover River – 'The Richest River in the World' A History of Goldmining on the Shotover River*, Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown, 1993, pp.57-58.

⁸ Ng, v1, p.144.

Gold dredges operated at Maori Point in the first decade of the twentieth century. While mining declined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, there was a recovery in the form of large scale mining activities from 1934-1941.⁹

Chinese Gardens and Stores in Central Otago

A notable feature of the Otago Goldfields just before the arrival of the Chinese had been the large number of storekeepers – 872 in early 1866. As the European miners left the Otago goldfields for the West Coast, these storekeepers must have expected some economic benefit from the arrival of Chinese miners. At first their wishes were realised, and businesses sprang up in areas that there were significant Chinese populations, such as Nevis. As the Chinese in some places opened their own stores, serving both Chinese and European customers, European traders became more hostile to the Chinese.¹⁰

According to James Ng Chinese storekeepers have been largely forgotten. In Clyde the first Chinese store opened in 1868, and another long established business Sin Sing Lee store was started in 1872. Wong Gow had tea and general stores at Arrowtown and Cardrona in the 1870s. Wong Gong operated on the Skippers road in the 1880s. Most of the larger settlements had Chinese stores to support the Chinese mining population.¹¹

Chinese still frequented European shops if the prices were good. It was estimated that the Chinese increased the European trade in Lawrence by one third, and there was significant Chinese spending at for example Queenstown and Cromwell. The Chinese stores were small businesses. Ng notes that one small Chinese store was described as a single crowded room with a sacking door, and wall partitions made from packing cases. The main room of the Sun Kum Hop store in Lawrence measured only 14ft by 11ft. Most goldfield buildings were primitive however.¹²

Small solitary stores in the goldfields provided provisions and company. The Skippers Chinese store closed in 1878. The storekeeper was a man called Wong Dep Feat, and he died in 1901.¹³

Chinese orchards and gardens were also a notable feature in Central Otago. The gardens faced stiff European competition, and some public opposition. The antagonism was mitigated somewhat by the Chinese gardens having a reputation for lower prices and good service. In Central Otago Chinese gardeners usually formed a garden to supply their own needs, and then some expanded it to sell to the surrounding neighbourhood. According to James Ng local suppliers were to be found at Wetherstones, Macetown, Conroy's Gully, Bald Hill Flat and Round Hill. Other market gardens were associated with towns, including Waitahuna, Lawrence, Tapanui, Roxburgh, Cromwell, Queenstown and Riverton. Large market gardens were recorded at Beaumont, Butcher's Gully, Clyde, Ophir, Matakanui, Arrowtown and Palmerston. Chinese gardens were placed in goldfields where ever good opportunities existed.¹⁴

Chinese commercial crops in inland Otago included potatoes, corn, cabbage, peas, gooseberries and strawberries. According to James Ng Chinese miners grew Chinese vegetables such as Chinese cabbage for their own use. One of the last large scale Chinese market gardens in Central Otago was that of Charlie Lock Chong (Ah Lock, Lok Tseung) at Matakanui.¹⁵

Wong Gong

Wong Gong operated a store, garden and orchard at what became known as Wong Gong's Terrace, near Maori Point on the Skippers Road. Information regarding him and his business is sketchy, but the site

⁹ De La Mare, p.58.

¹⁰ Ng, v1, pp.157-58.

¹¹ Ng, v1, p.198.

¹² Ng, v1, p.159.

¹³ Ng, v1, p.175n.

¹⁴ Ng, v1, p.321.

¹⁵ Ng, v1, p.323.

provides an illustration of the isolation and transience of the Chinese goldfield community. Wong Gong (Wong Jay Noong) himself was of Taishan origin. He worked on other goldfields in Otago and was known to have kept a store at Butcher's Gully prior to his one at Skippers. He had apparently then invested in Bullendale, a mining area 10 kilometres north of Skippers, with heavy losses.¹⁶

Wong Gong's store, garden and orchard were close to Wong Gong Creek on Wong Gong's Terrace at Maori Point on the Skippers Road, overlooking the Chinese river workings.¹⁷ These businesses were mentioned in the 1883-84 *Wise's New Zealand Directory*. *Stone's Otago and Southland Directory* lists Wong Gong as a Chinese interpreter in Arrowtown in 1888. Wong Gong's garden was mentioned in the *New Zealand Presbyterian* in March 1888. Alexander Don mentions Wong Gong's store in 1891, noting the premises could accommodate nine men.

Around 1901, as the numbers of the Chinese in the Shotover area declined sharply, he left his store and went mining in the Shotover.¹⁸ In April 1901 Alexander Don mentioned that there were only 15 men living singly or in small groups scattered along the riverbank.¹⁹

Wong Gong died in 1909 and is buried in Queenstown Cemetery.²⁰

Little is known about the land use on Wong Gong's Terrace after this date, other than the site being used during the Depression mining period in the 1930s, and its current site for the crib and as a viewing point for tourists on their way to Skippers

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

Photographs held at the Hocken Library show Wong Gong's Terrace and what looks to be his house or store. They are undated but appear to show the same building identified in James Ng's *Windows on a Chinese Past*. The photographs show a small single gable cottage with a lean-to rear and chimney. The house with outbuildings is on a river terrace with walls marking the edges, and perhaps some internal divisions, although at a distance the detail is difficult to distinguish. There is evidence of tree planting around the house site and to its rear, but otherwise the terrace is bare (see appendices).

The site of Wong Gong's store and garden is situated on Wong Gong's Terrace, which is a small flat terrace below the Skippers Road on the true left of the Shotover Valley. The terrace measures approximately 250 metres by 70 metres at its maximum extent. A modern crib has been built near the site of the store. A vehicle track leads down to the terrace from the road, and drops off the edge to zig-zag down to the edge of the river, where there is a derelict crib.

The archaeological evidence of Wong Gong's store and garden consists of a number of elements that are all part of one overall system, but can be described individually. These elements are: the store/built structures; the water supply and storage system; the gardens and miscellaneous features.

Current Physical Condition:

See under individual components

¹⁶ Ng, v1, p.199.

¹⁷ Ng, v1, p.175n. See picture appended (source: Ng, v1, p.199.); see also p.220n.

¹⁸ Ng, v1, p.199.

¹⁹ Ng, v1, p.332.

²⁰ Ng, v1, p.175n.

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUES

Statements of Significance

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| <p>Statement of historical significance or value</p> | <p>Store keeping on the goldfields represent an important industry within that significant historical period. Storekeepers provided support for the large population of miners. Chinese stores provided a place to meet as well as provisions for Chinese miners. Wong Gong's store and associated garden and irrigation remains provides insight into the services provided for miners. The history of Chinese miners at Skippers is an important aspect of that area's history, one largely un-represented.</p> <p>The Shotover was one of the richest goldfields in New Zealand. Its isolation, harsh conditions and spectacular landscape made it also one of the most famous. Chinese miners represented at times the majority of the population, and yet their role in the area is largely unknown. Wong Gong's store and associated sites provide context for that Chinese history, and provide a starting point in the recognition of the Chinese presence in Skippers, and in Otago.</p> |
| <p>Statement of architectural; archaeological; scientific; technological; aesthetic significance or value</p> | <p>The archaeological remains of Wong Gong's gardens and store provide a representative example of a Chinese market garden in the goldfields. It has undergone very little modification since abandonment. The water reticulation system is largely intact, and easily studied. Its complexity with several interrelated storage dams, lends it significance.</p> <p>The setting is spectacular with views of the extensive sluicings on Pleasant Creek Terrace. This places the site in a landscape context emphasising both the steep, spectacular and inaccessible nature of the Shotover Valley, as well as the goldmining that brought people into this place and was the reason for Wong Gong to operate his store and garden.</p> <p>The remains of the 1930s hut built within the older site is a reminder of the small-scale goldmining during the Depression. Many old mining areas were re-opened, with miners often living in old huts that were rebuilt, or in this case in new huts built on the site of earlier occupations.</p> |
| <p>Statement of social; spiritual; traditional; cultural significance or value</p> | <p>Wong Gong's Terrace on the Shotover has a clear association with the early New Zealand Chinese miners in Central Otago. The store provided a meeting place and a source of Chinese commodities for Chinese miners in a particularly isolated area. This river terrace flat remains known as Wong Gong's Terrace, and a nearby stream is called Wong Gong's Creek, recalling his presence in the area.</p> |

OTHER LISTINGS FOR THE AREA

| Type | Details |
|----------------------------|---------|
| DoC Actively Managed Site | N/A |
| Historic reserve | N/A |
| Maori reserve | N/A |
| Heritage or other covenant | N/A |
| Other – give details | N/A |

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | De La Mare, AJ, <i>The Shotover River – "The Richest River in the World": A History of Goldmining on the Shotover River</i> , Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown, 1993 |
| 2 | Hamel, Jill, <i>The archaeology of Otago</i> , Department of Conservation, Wellington, 2001 |
| 3 | Ng, James, <i>Windows on a Chinese Past, volume 1</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1993 <i>Volume 2</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1995 <i>Volume 3</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1999 |
| 4 | Petchey, Peter, "The Skippers Road March 2001: Report for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust", Otago Southland Area Office, Dunedin, NZHPT |
| 5 | Ritchie, Neville, "Archaeology and History of the Chinese in Southern New Zealand During the Nineteenth Century: A Study of Acculturation, Adaptation, and Change", Ph.D, University of Otago, 1986 [Hocken Library] |
| 6 | Salmon, John, <i>A History of Gold-mining in New Zealand</i> , R.E. Owen, Government Printer, Wellington, 1963 |

URGENCY AND OTHER INFORMATION

This nomination is part of a group of registration proposals relating to Chinese sites in Otago. Chinese sites and buildings are significantly under-represented on the New Zealand Historic Places Trust register, and these proposals aim to redress the balance. The nominations represent a range of Chinese experiences – alluvial mining, dredging, and support networks such as stores, market gardens, Chinese settlements and memorials to the dead.

The registered office of Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Ltd is:

Bendall and Cant Ltd.
61 High Street
AUCKLAND

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS

For Viewing By NZHPT Only

Your Name and contact details

Heather Bauchop : Heritage Researcher, Otago Southland Area Office, Dunedin
NZHPT

Archaeological assessment, maps and photographs provided by Peter Petchey, 36 District Road, Roseneath, Dunedin

Staff recommendation:

Office use only

That the area should be registered under the following criteria:
Section 23 (1): archaeological, cultural and historical

Appendices

Historic Images

1. Skippers Road (no date) Wong Gong's store is in the middle view on the far right of the picture below the road: (Hocken Library, University of Otago, 694-01876, Photograph Collection)
2. Skippers Road (no date) Wong Gong's store is in the middle view on the far left of the picture below the road. (Hocken Library, University of Otago, 694-01881, Photograph Collection)
3. Skippers Road (no date) Wong Gong's store is toward the mid-right of the picture below the road. (Hocken Library, University of Otago, Tily Collection 694-02375)
4. Top: View across Wong Gong's Terrace in 1975 (Eva Ng, in *Windows on a Chinese Past*, v1, Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, p.199.)
Bottom: Wong Gong and friends outside his store in 1901 (Kirkland Collection, in *Windows on a Chinese Past*, v1, Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, p.199.)
5. Wong Gong's Terrace looking south (Peter Petchey, 2002)

Maps and Plans

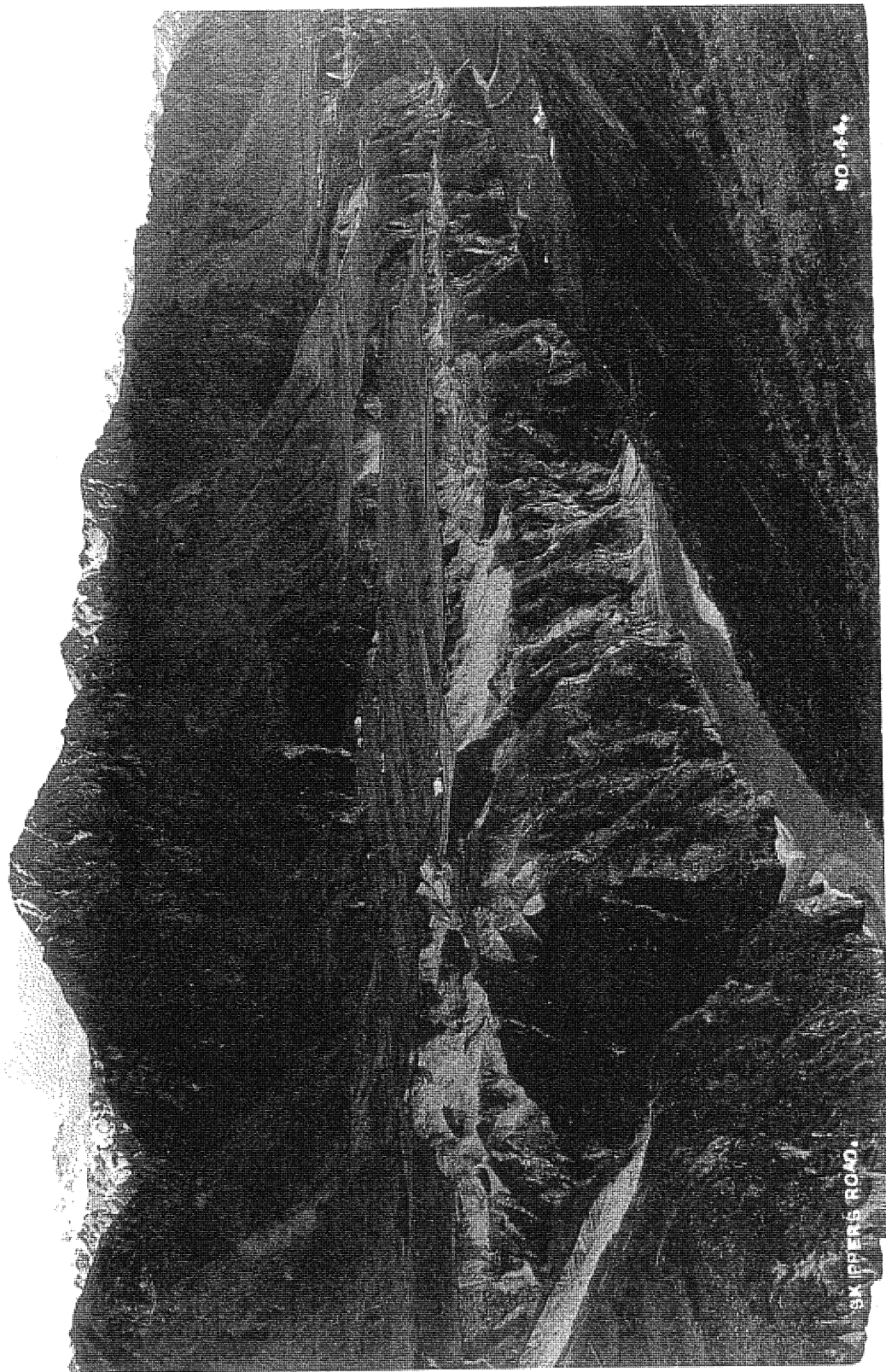
6. Cadastral Map showing location of Wong Gong's Terrace
7. Map showing features on Skippers Road: Skippers Saddle to Skippers Point (derived from Peter Petchey, Map 1A in "The Skippers Road" March 2001, Report for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust)
8. Plan of Wong Gong's Terrace and boundaries of proposed Historic Area, Skipper's Road, Shotover Valley Otago (Peter Petchey, 2002)
9. Plan of Site Features: Wong Gong's Terrace, Shotover Valley (Peter Petchey, 2002)

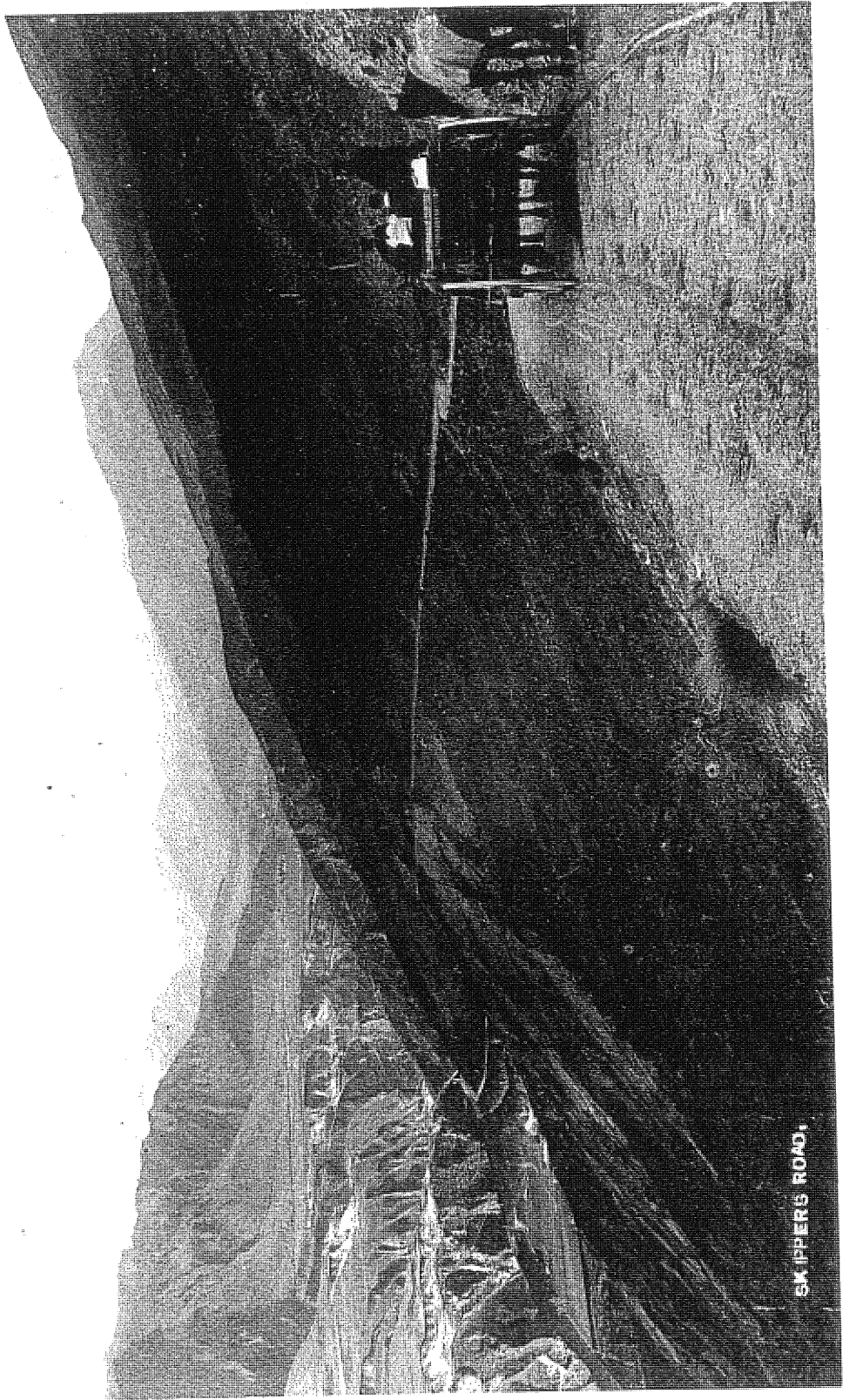
10. Archaeological Report with Photographs

- Peter Petchey "Wong Gong's Store & Garden Site, Shotover Valley: Description of Site, June 2003"
- I Looking across the Shotover River from Wong Gong Terrace to gold sluicings at Pleasant Creek Terrace (Peter Petchey, 2002)
 - II The reservoir wall at the back of Wong Gong's Terrace (Peter Petchey, 2002)
 - III The remains of a collapsed hut on the site of Wong Gong's store (Peter Petchey, 2002)
 - IV Wong Gong Terrace interpretive sign erected by a local community member (Peter Petchey, "The Skippers Road, March 2001: Report for the New Zealand Historic Places Trust)

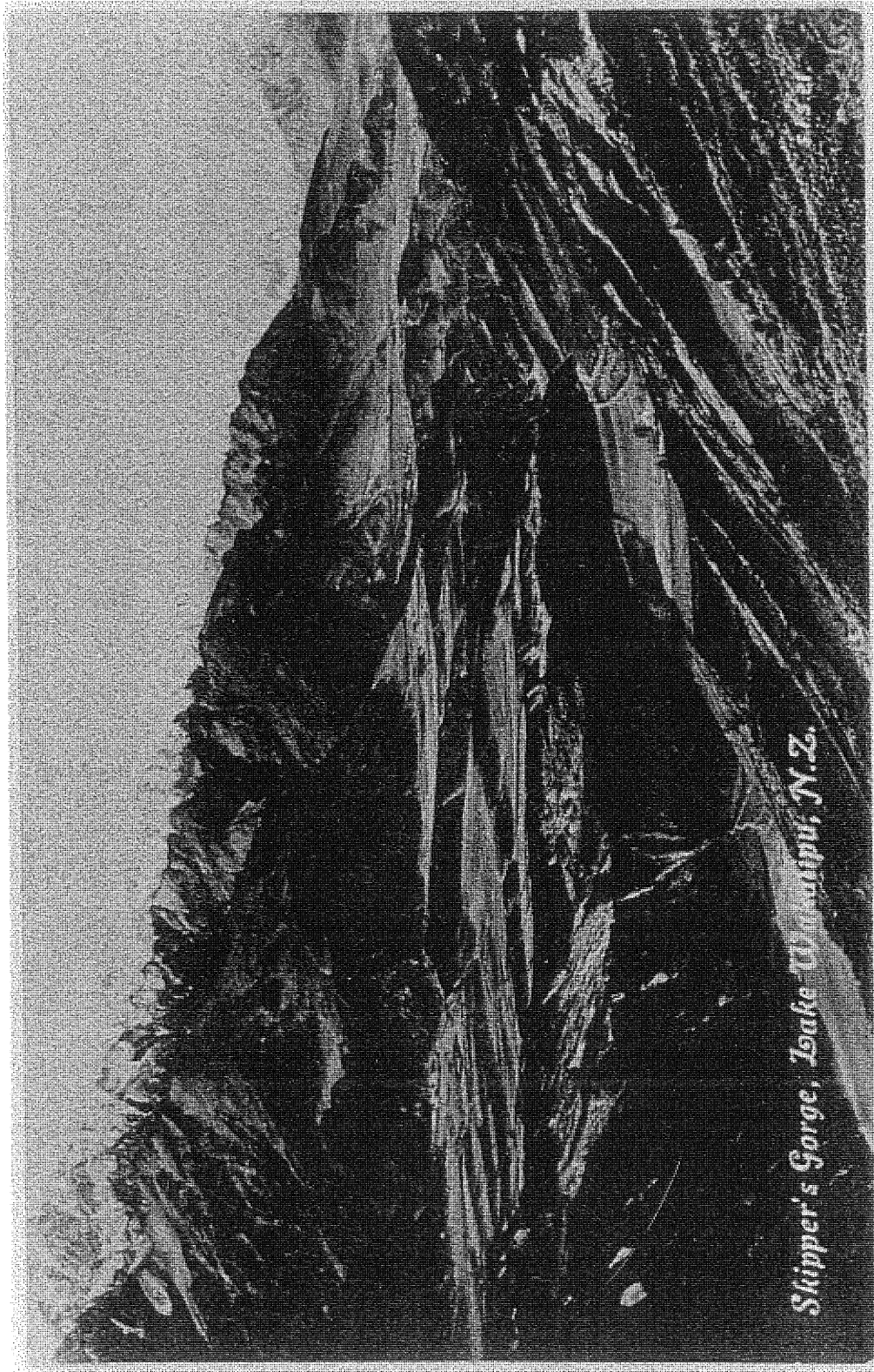
11. Certificate of Title

Certificate of Title OTA2/1228





SMIPPER'S ROAD.



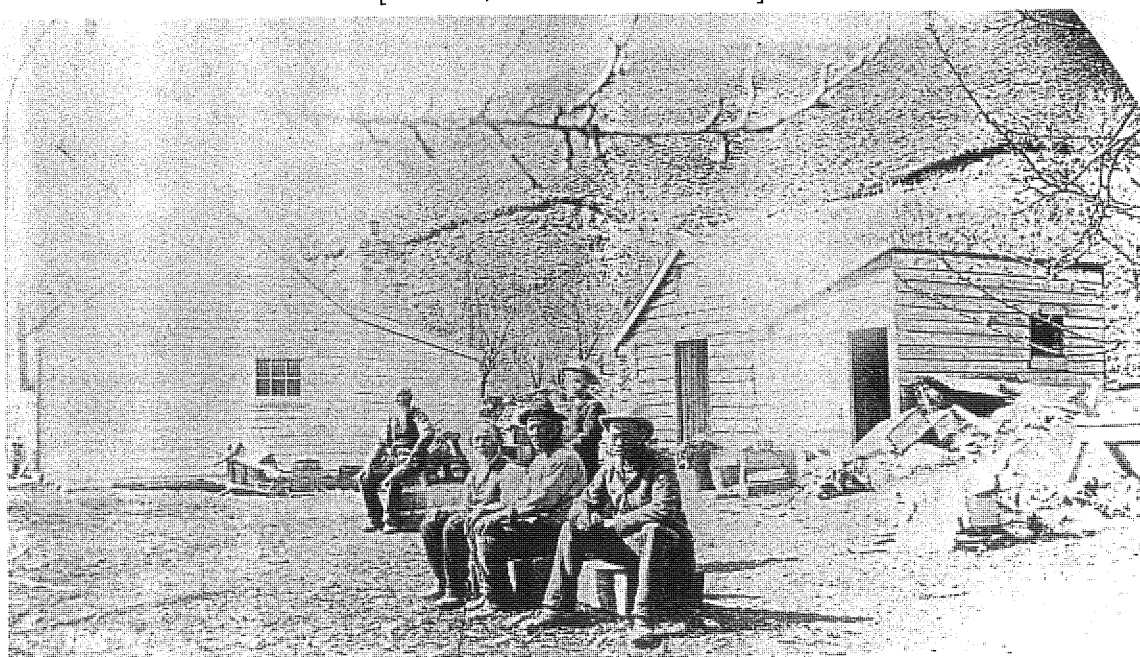
Skipper's Gorge, Lake Umbagog, N.Z.

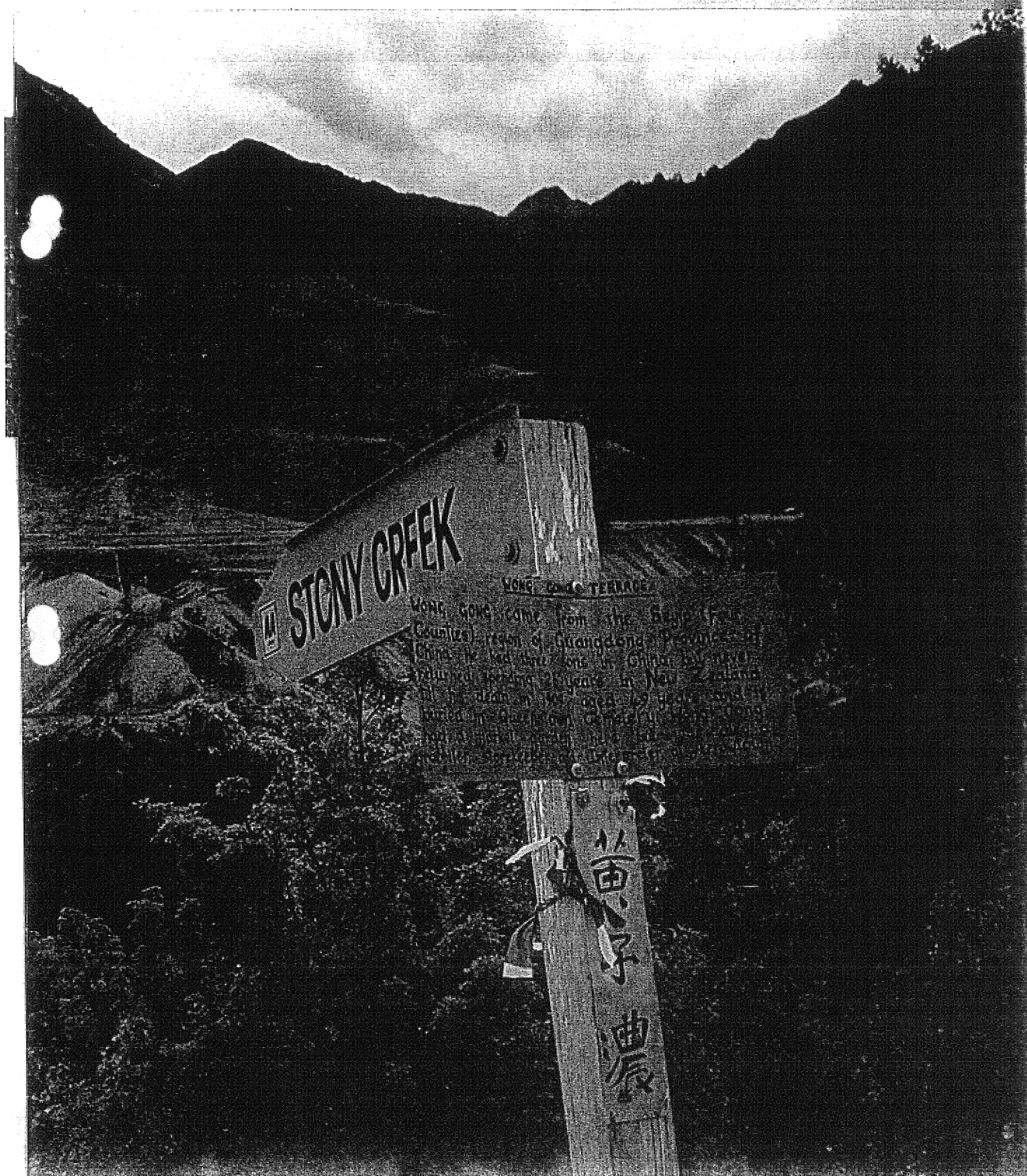


ABOVE: The view across Wong Gong's Terrace towards Blue Slip in 1975, when the remains of his store were still to be seen among the trees in the centre of the picture. The road to Skippers is on the right, and old gold workings are readily visible across the gorge of the Shotover River, on the left. [Eva Ng]

BELOW: Wong Gong (Wong Jay Noong) and friends outside his store in 1901. Wong Gong, nearest the camera, with Wong Farn sitting beside him, were both of Taishan origin. Though fruit-tree branches frame the photograph, the landscape itself was treeless, and all the weatherboarding must have been hauled in from a considerable distance. Wong Gong previously kept a store at Butcher's Gully, then invested in Bullendale, but lost heavily. He was aged about 54 when this photograph was taken. Soon after, as the numbers of Chinese in the area sharply declined, he left his store, went mining in the Shotover, and was found dead in his hut in 1909.

[A. Don, Kirkland Collection]

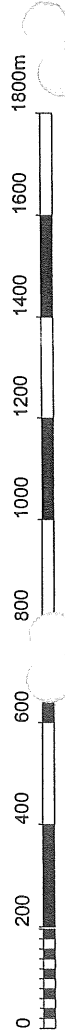
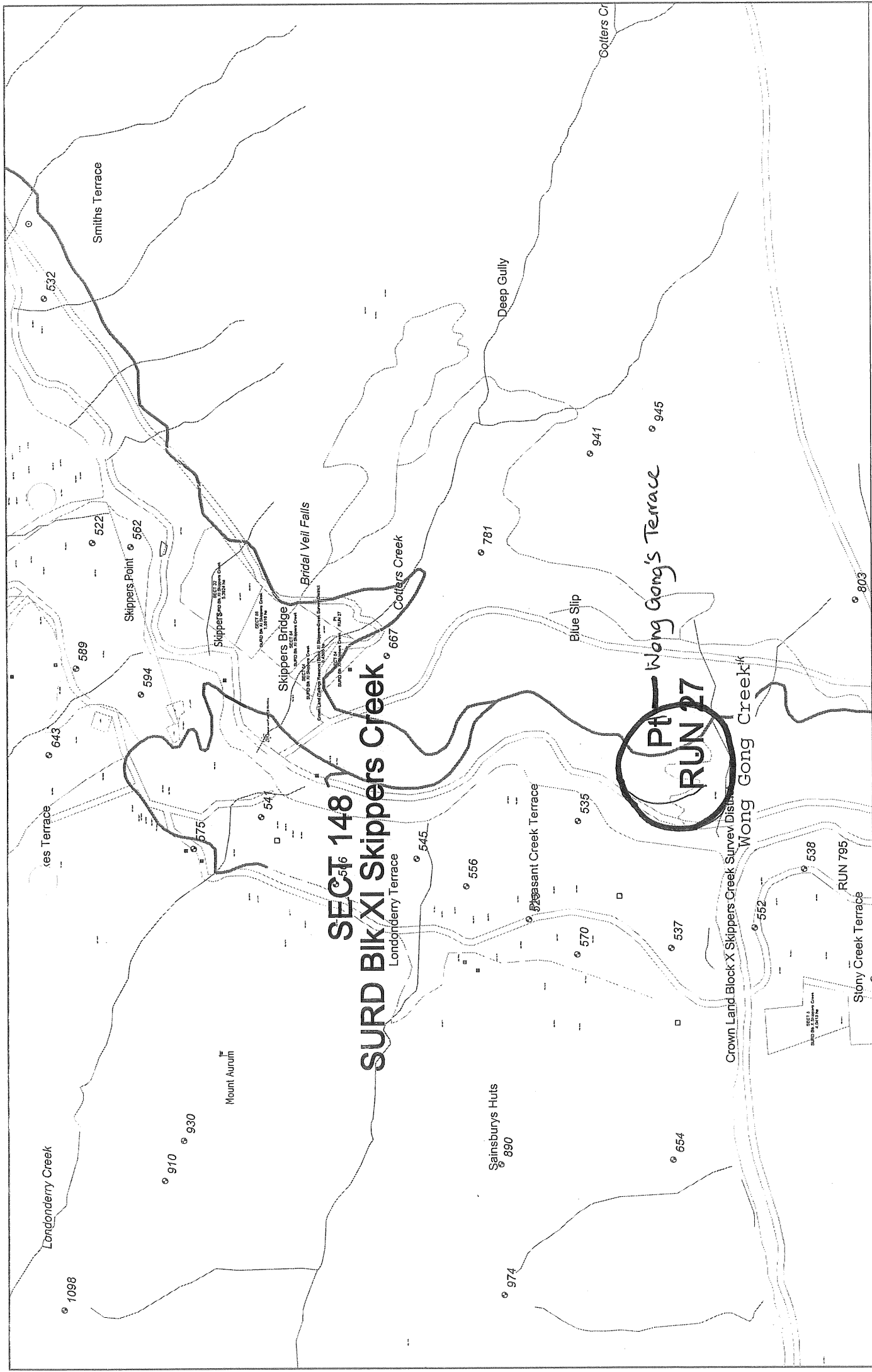


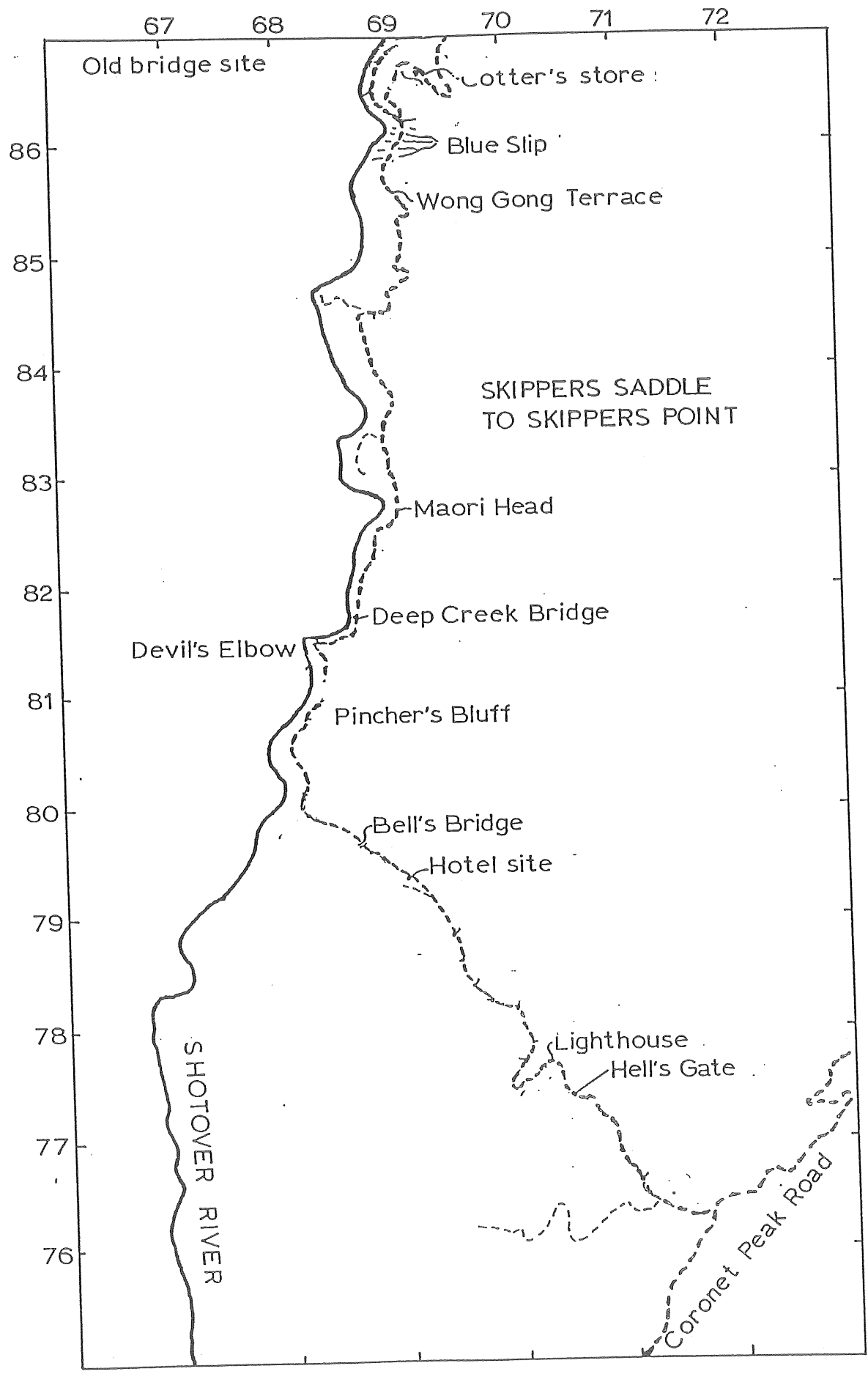


STONY CREEK

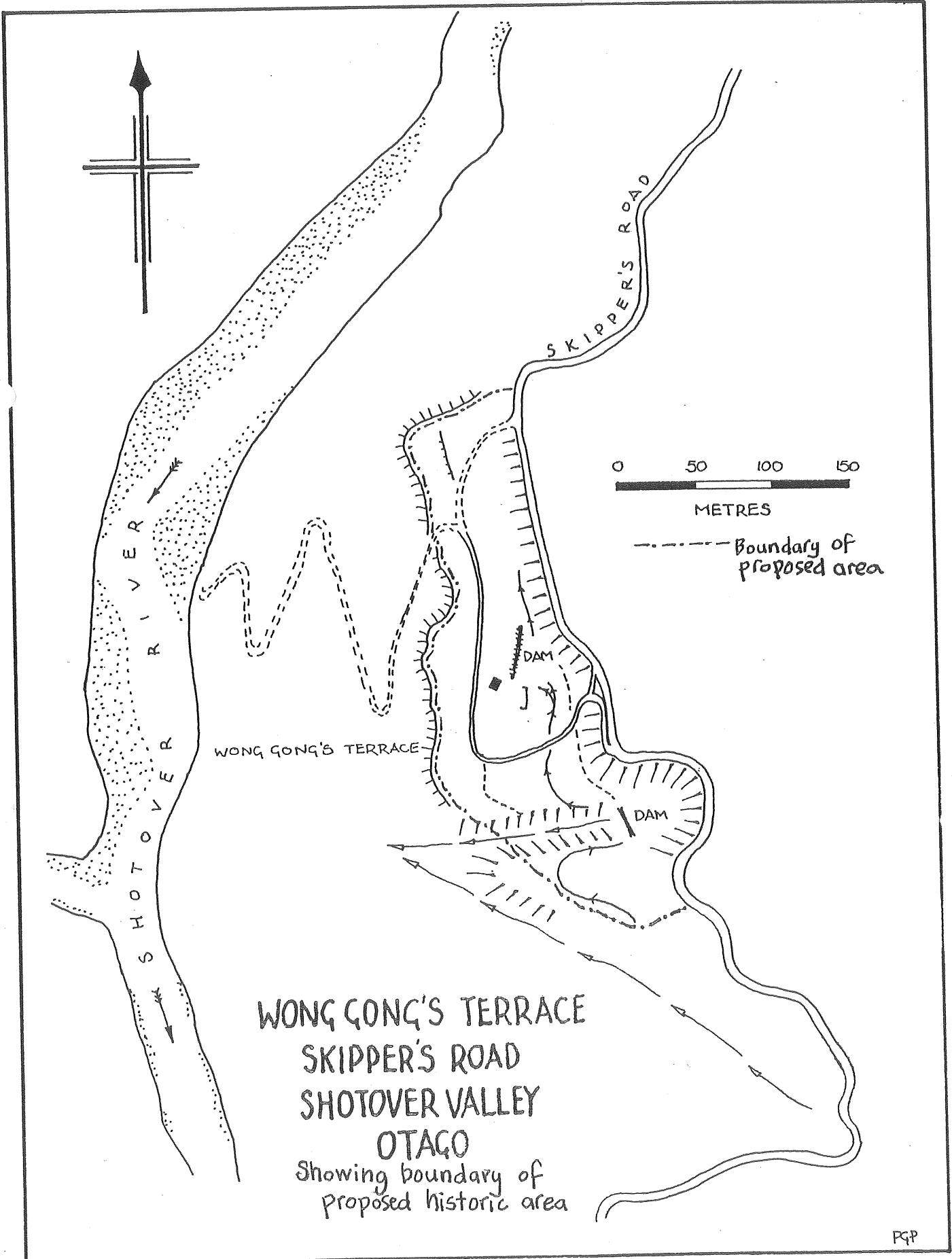
WONG TONG TEH...
 Wong Tong Teh came from the...
 (rest of the text is illegible due to low contrast and grain)

山
 子
 油
 泉



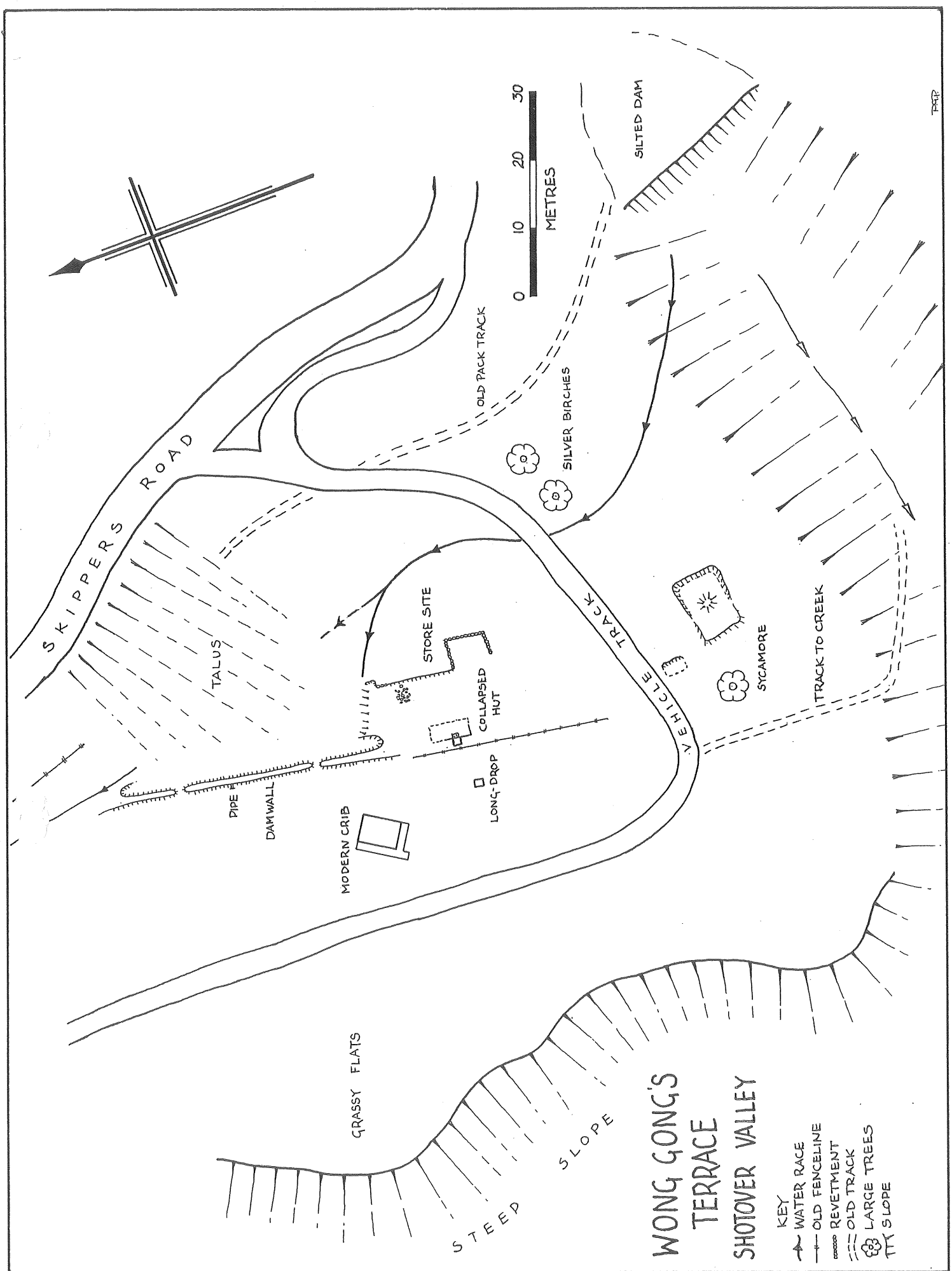


Skippers Road: Shotover Valley, Queenstown



WONG GONG'S TERRACE
 SKIPPER'S ROAD
 SHOTOVER VALLEY
 OTAGO
 Showing boundary of
 proposed historic area

7



Wong Gong's Store & Garden Site
Shotover Valley

Description of site
June 2003
P.G. Petchey

Introduction

Wong Gong's terrace is located in the Shotover Valley, immediately below the Skippers Road about 1.5 kilometres south of the Skippers Bridge. The only road access is along the Skippers Road, which turns off the Coronet Peak Road at the Skippers Saddle.

The overall site consists of the terrace on which Wong Gong's gardens were situated, the site of his store, and the evidence of his irrigation system. This consists of two dams and several water races.

The site was surveyed in April 2003 by P.G. Petchey and C. Jacomb (N.Z. Historic Places Trust), using a combination of tape and compass and GPS surveying. The GPS unit used was a Garmin 12XL hand-held receiver, and both tracks and waypoints were recorded. The main tracks were walked twice, in an attempt to reduce the error. The tape and compass survey was carried out on the area of the main archaeological features, which included Wong Gong's store site, his irrigation reservoir, and several building terraces. An aerial photograph (Air Logistics, Ref. No. 610955, flown Nov. 1998) was used for the preparation of the final plans, but this was flown at too high an altitude to provide any site detail.

A modern crib is situated on the flat, together with a small long-drop toilet.

The site is located on NZMS 260 E41 Queenstown, GR 2168939/5585621 (GPS location, taken at modern crib on main terrace).

The site of the store, the later miners' camp and an adjacent area of gold workings are recorded as site E41/31 (originally S123/81). The main storage reservoir on the terrace is recorded as archaeological site E41/32 (originally S123/82).

Site Description

The site of Wong Gong's store and garden is situated on Wong Gong's Terrace, which is a small flat terrace below the Skippers Road on the true left of the Shotover Valley. The terrace measures approximately 250 metres by 70 metres at its maximum extent. A modern crib has been built near the site of the store. A vehicle track leads down to the terrace from the road, and drops off the edge to zig-zag down to the edge of the river, where there is a derelict crib. This vehicle track is in good condition onto Wong Gong's terrace, but is no longer usable down to the river.

The archaeological evidence of Wong Gong's store and garden consists of a number of elements that are all part of one overall system, but can be described individually. These elements are: the store/built structures; the water supply and storage system; the gardens; and miscellaneous features.

The store & built structures

The main building site on the terrace is located underneath the young sycamores behind the modern crib. It consists of a flat area measuring 10 metres by 20 metres, with a 4 metre extension at the southern end cut into the bank. The rear of the site is revetted. A pile of stones at the northern end may be the remains of a collapsed chimney.

On the western side of the store site there is a small collapsed corrugated iron hut with a small Orion cast-iron coal range. This hut originally measured approximately 1.4 metres by 6.2 metres. According to the site record form (S123/82) this hut was part of Lorden & Fletcher's mining camp in the 1930s.

Several other possible building sites were also recorded during the survey. On the south side of the vehicle track leading off the Skippers road are two terraces cut into the gentle slope. One is situated right beside the track, and measures 3 metres by 2 metres. The second is situated 5 metres further south, and measures 9 metres by 6 metres. There is a slight mound in its centre.

The water supply & storage system

Operating a market garden in such an arid area as the Shotover Valley, Wong Gong would have required an efficient irrigation system. Some elements of this system can still be identified. Water was collected from creeks running down the flank of the valley to the south of the garden terrace, and fed by water race into a dam built in Wong Gong Creek. This dam has now completely silted up to the top of the dam wall. From this dam, another water race led around to the north, where it branched. One branch fed a reservoir situated beside the store site, which was contained by a 40 metre long earth embankment. This has been breached in two places. An iron pipe runs through the base of the reservoir wall, from where water was presumably led to the gardens. The reservoir is slowly filling with talus washed down from the Skippers road above.

The other branch of the water race led to the north, again presumably to feed the gardens at the far end of the terrace. A portion of the race has been covered by the talus which is also filling the reservoir. At the northern end of the terrace there is a possible shallow reservoir.

The site record form for the main reservoir on the terrace (S123/82) states that it could have been built in the 1870s, was used between 1890-1900 by Wong Gong, and was last used in the 1930s by Lorden and Fletcher.

The gardens

Wong Gong's gardens would have been situated on the grassy flats of the main terrace. At the time of the survey, this area was covered with medium

length grass, which obscured any fine ground detail which may still be present. At the northern end of the terrace there is a cut bank, which may mark a levelled garden area.

While the vegetable garden areas lack any immediately visible features (although inspection with very low grass in the right light might yield results), there are a number of trees in the area which were certainly deliberately planted. The bank at the rear of the main terrace is covered with sycamores, many of which are wilding. The original trees that provided the seed source are in many cases still identifiable, even if they are now only a dead stump. An old fenceline leading from the reservoir by the store site to the north follows such a line of old trees. A single large old sycamore is situated beside the two small terraces on the south side of the vehicle track, while two large silver birches are situated to the east of these terraces.

Miscellaneous features

A number of track features were also recorded on Wong Gong's terrace. On the south end of the terrace a narrow but clearly defined benched path leads down to Wong Gong Creek. This presently provides access to the water in the creek for visitors to the site.

Running below the present Skippers Road is the formation of an old pack track. It was followed from the silted-up main dam to the north for 80 metres until it was lost, covered either by the talus washed down from the present road, or by the construction of the present road.

From the site of the old store, running south to meet the present vehicle track, there appears to be an old path or track. This is defined only as a clear line through the sycamores.

Significance

The archaeological remains of Wong Gong's gardens and store are significant for a number of reasons. As a representative example of a Chinese market garden in the Otago goldfields it is valuable, as it has undergone very little modification since abandonment. The modern crib has caused very little site disturbance. The water reticulation system is largely intact, and easily studied. Its complexity, with several interlinked storage dams, lends it interest.

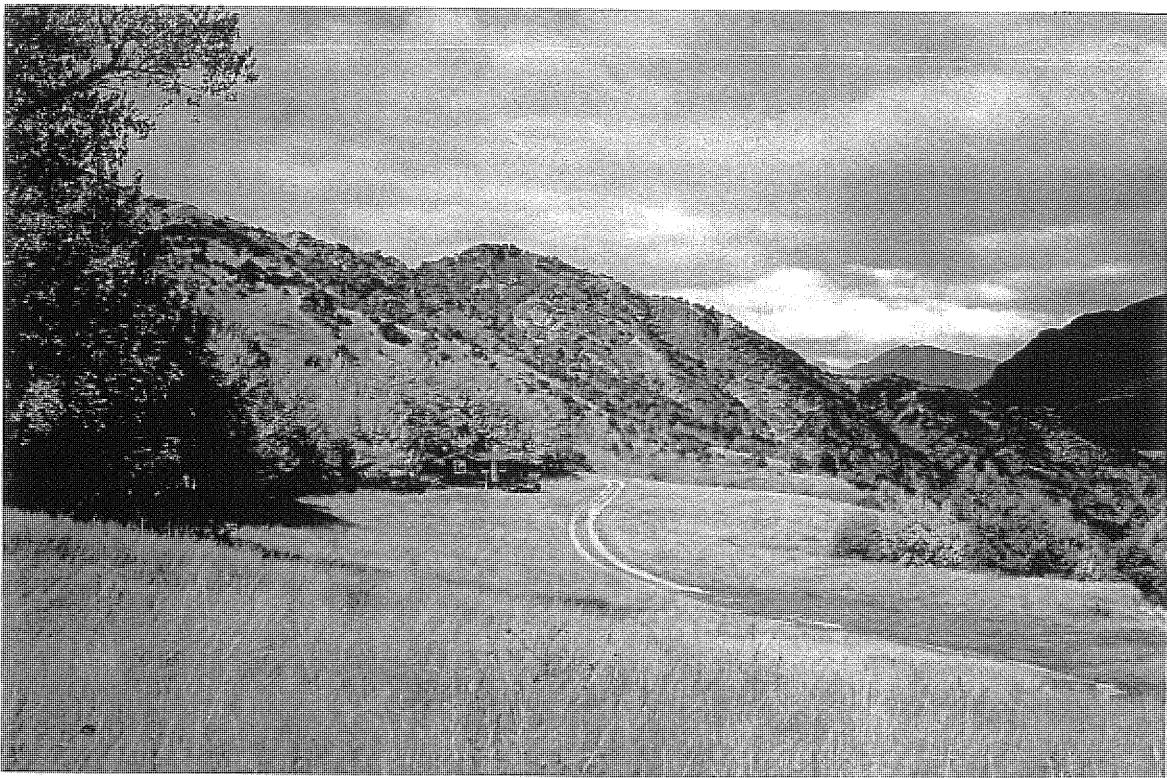
The setting of the site is also spectacular, with views of the extensive sluicings on Pleasant Creek Terrace, and a view looking straight up Stony Creek. This places the site in a landscape context emphasising both the steep, spectacular and inaccessible nature of the Shotover Valley, as well as the goldmining that brought people into this place and was the reason for Wong Gong to operate his store and garden.

The remains of the 1930s hut built within the older site is a reminder of the 1930s revival of small-scale gold mining during the Depression. Many old mining areas were re-opened, with the miners often living in old huts that

were hastily rebuilt, or as in this case new huts built on the site of earlier occupation.

Proposed Registered Area Boundary

The proposed registered area boundary is in the main part simply defined. The western and northern boundaries are the edge of the terrace, while the eastern boundary is the present Skippers Road. The southern boundary is extended beyond the edge of the terrace in order to incorporate the main storage dam in Wong Gong Creek and part (but not all) of the supply race. This boundary encloses a compact and easily defined area, which includes the main archaeological features of Wong Gong's operation.



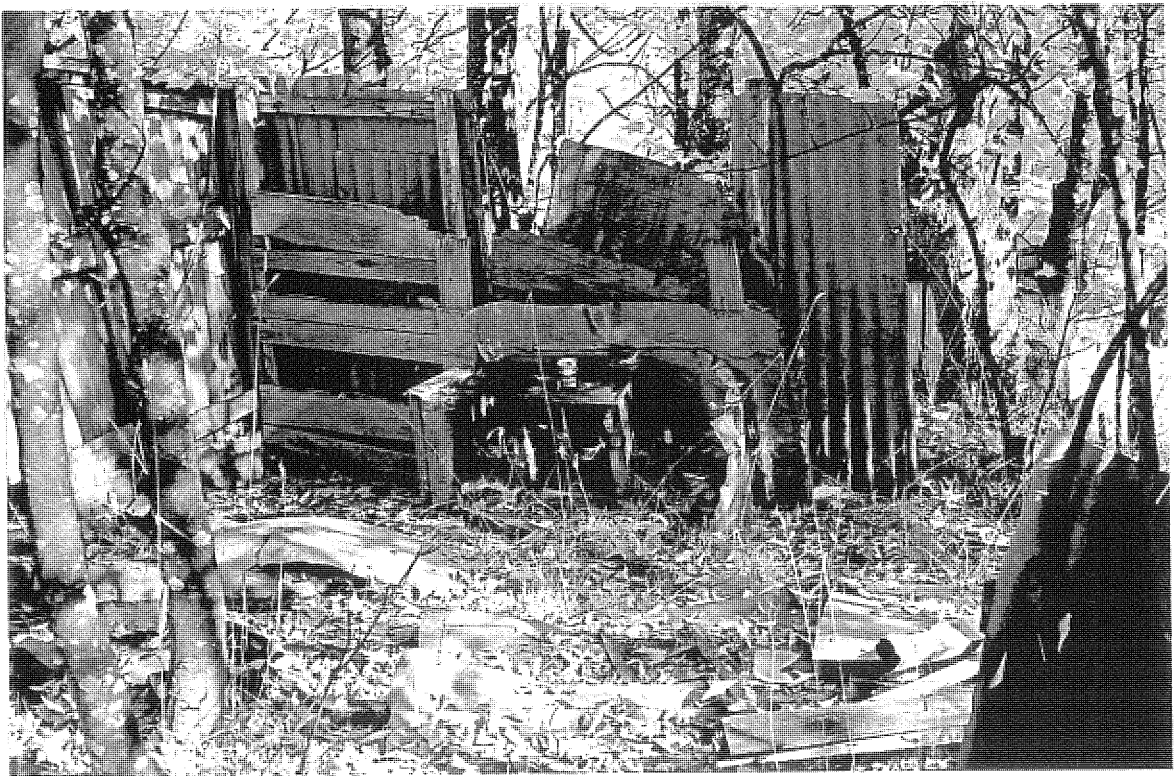
I Wong Gong's Terrace, looking south. The modern crib can be seen beside the vehicle track. The reservoir and store site are in the sycamore to the left of and behind the crib.



II Looking across the Shotover from Wong Gong Terrace to the gold sluicings on Pleasant Creek Terrace.



III The reservoir wall at the back of Wong Gong's Terrace.



IV The remains of a collapsed hut on the site of Wong Gong's store.



COMPUTER INTEREST REGISTER UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952



R. W. Muir
Registrar-General
of Land

Historical Search Copy

Identifier OTA2/1228
Land Registration District Otago
Date Registered 09 May 1961 02:45 pm

Part-Cancelled

Prior References

OT337/51

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Type | Lease under s83 Land Act 1948 | Term | Thirty-three years commencing on the first day of January 1958 and renewed for 33 years commencing on 1.1.1991 |
| Area | 22344.7329 hectares more or less | | |

Legal Description Run 26, Part Run 27, Part Run 34, Block I Town of Macetown, Section 1, Section 2 and Section 3 Block II Town of Macetown, Section 1, Section 6, Section 7, Section 9 and Section 10 Block III Town of Macetown, Block IV Town of Macetown, Section 4, Section 5, Section 6, Section 7, Section 10, Section 13 and Section 14 Block V Town of Macetown, Block VI, Block VIII, Block IX, Block X, Block XI, Block XII and Block XIII Town of Macetown and and all unsectionized areas in the Town of Macetown

Original Proprietors
Brian Ronald Dagg

Interests

- 489403 Surrender of the within lease as to the land hatched black on the diagram hereon (133.5489ha) - 13.12.1977 at 1.38 pm
- 763313 Memorandum renewing the term of the within lease for a further period of 33 years commencing on 1.7.1991 and fixing (for the first 11 years) the annual rent at \$5,100.00 calculated on a rental value of \$340,000.00 - 14.9.1990 at 9.13 am
- 786312 Certificate of Alteration amending the effective date of the within lease to 1.1.1991 - 22.8.1991 at 9.32 am
- 811339.6 Mortgage to Wrightson Farmers Finance Limited - 5.8.1992 at 9.39 am
- 833519 Transfer creating the following easements in gross - 8.7.1993 at 9.49 am

| Type | Servient Tenement | Easement Area | Grantee | Statutory Restriction |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Convey water | Run 26 - herein | F Transfer 833519 | Arrow Irrigation Company Limited | |
| Convey water | Run 26 - herein | G Transfer 833519 | Arrow Irrigation Company Limited | |
| Convey water | Run 26 - herein | H Transfer 833519 | Arrow Irrigation Company Limited | |
| Convey water | Run 26 - herein | I Transfer 833519 | Arrow Irrigation Company Limited | |

15C/615 Deed of Easement - 19.10.1994 at 9.22 am

| Type | Servient Tenement | Easement Area | Dominant Tenement |
|------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|

Identifier**OTA2/1228**

Right of way Part Run 27 - herein A Deed 15C/615 Section 25 Block XVII
 Shotover Survey
 District - CT
 OT13C/641

5006167.1 Discharge of Mortgage 811339.6 - 26.7.2000 at 10:39 am

5010518.1 Variation of Lease - 13.10.2000 at 11:01 am

5010518.2 Transfer to Coronet Peak Station Limited - 13.10.2000 at 11:01 am

5010518.3 Mortgage to Rabobank New Zealand Limited - 13.10.2000 at 11:01 am

5010314.2 Deed of Easement affecting fee simple estate of Her Majesty the Queen under Section 60 Land Act 1948 embodied in Register 5677 creating the following easements - Produced 10.10.2000 at 15.06 am and Entered 13.10.2000 at 11:02 am

| Type | Servient Tenement | Easement Area | Dominant Tenement | Statutory Restriction |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Convey water | Part Run 27 - herein | Marked A DP 27636 | Part Section 3-4 Block XI Shotover Survey District - CT OT19C/188 | N/A |

5029595.1 Departmental Dealing to correct duplicate status to register only - 15.3.2001 at 3:30 pm

Subject to a right to drain sewage in gross over part marked E on DP 302821 in favour of Queenstown Lakes District Council created by Transfer 5113554.1 - 23.11.2001 at 9:17 am

5475367.1 Exploration Permit to HPD New Zealand Limited for a term of 5 years commencing on 22 January 2003 - 3.2.2003 at 9:00 am

5686268.1 Discharge of Mortgage 5010518.3 - 8.8.2003 at 9:00 am

5686268.2 Transfer to Coronet Peak Station Queenstown Limited - 8.8.2003 at 9:00 am

Issued as a Receipt of for in Exchange for... Former Reference registered in Vol. 337 fol. 51

PART CANCELLED PART TAKEN BY GAZETTE NOTICE

Registered in the Land Register... Entered in the Register Book, Vol. 177, fol. 19



Pastoral Lease of Pastoral Land under the Land Act, 1915

This Deed, made the first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, between His Majesty THE KING (who, with His heirs and successors is hereinafter referred to as 'the Lessor'), of the one part, and RONALD DAGG and WILLIAM HARRY DAGG, both of ironworkers in the Dominion of New Zealand, of the other part, WITNESSETH that in consideration of the rent hereinafter reserved, and the covenants, conditions, and agreements herein contained or implied and on the part of the Lessee to be paid, observed, and performed, the Lessor doth hereby demise and assign unto the Lessee, that piece or parcel of land containing an

Run 26, Part Run 27 and Districts and Block 1, Sections 1 to 5 inclusive, Block 12, Sections 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10, Block 11, all Block 14, Sections 4 to 7 inclusive, Block 15, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 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986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

For Diagram See Other Sheet

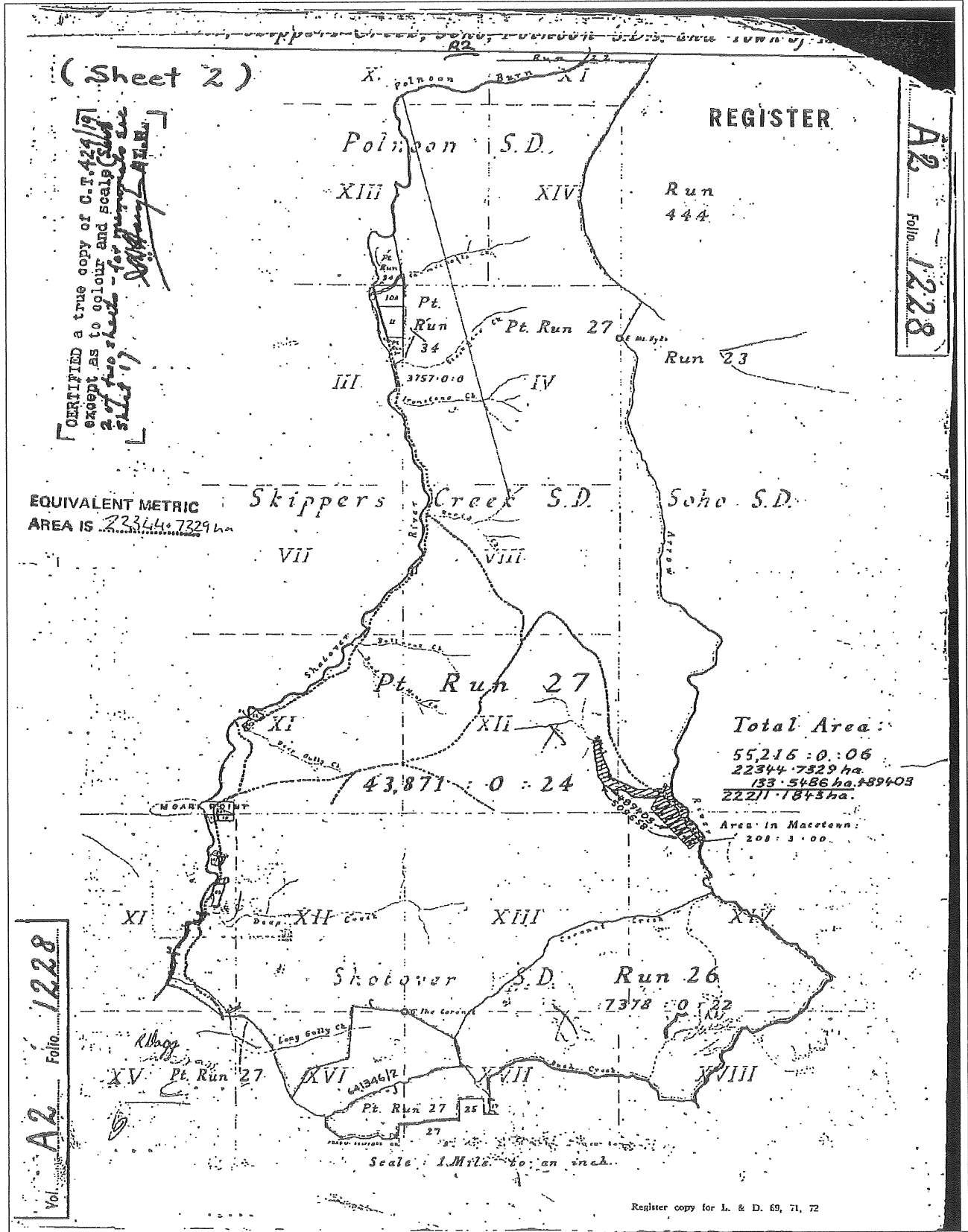
AND the Lessee doth hereby covenant with the Lessor as follows, that is to say:-

- 1. THAT the Lessee will fully and punctually pay the rent hereinafter reserved as the times and in the manner hereinafter stated in this deed; and also will pay and discharge all rates, taxes, assessments, and outgoings whatsoever that any are or hereafter may be assessed, levied, or payable in respect of the said land or any part or parts thereof during the said term.
2. THAT the Lessee will within one year after the date of this lease make up his residence on the said land, and thereafter throughout the term of the lease will reside continuously on the said land.
3. THAT the Lessee will hold and use the said land bona fide for his own use and benefit and will not transfer, assign, charge, mortgage, or part with possession of the said land or any part thereof without the previous approval of the Land Settlement Board: Provided that such approval will not be necessary in the case of a mortgage to the Crown or to a Department of State.
4. THAT the Lessee will at all times farm the said land diligently and in a husbandlike manner according to the rules of good husbandry and will not in any way commit waste.
5. THAT the Lessee will throughout the term of his lease to the satisfaction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Land District of Otago (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commissioner') cut and trim all live fences and hedges, clear and keep clear the said land of all noxious weeds, and will comply strictly with the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act, 1908-1950.
6. THAT the Lessee will keep the said land free from wild animals, rabbits, and other vermin, and generally comply with the provisions of the Rabbits Act, 1908-1955.
7. THAT the Lessee will clean and clear from weeds and keep open all creeks, drains, ditches, and watercourses upon the said land, including any drains or ditches which may be constructed by the Commissioner after the commencement of the term of the lease; and will not at any time without the prior consent of the Commissioner alter the channel of any such creek or watercourse or stop or divert the water flowing therein.
8. THAT the Lessee will at all times during the said term repair and maintain and keep in good substantial repair, order, and condition all improvements belonging to the Crown (including those specified in the Schedule hereto which are being purchased by the Lessee) now or hereafter erected on the said land, and will not, without the prior written consent of the Commissioner, pull down or remove them or any part of them.
9. THAT the Lessee will insure all buildings belonging to the Crown (including those specified in the Schedule hereto which are being purchased by the Lessee) now or hereafter erected on the said land to their full insurable value in the name of the Commissioner in some insurance office approved by the Commissioner and will pay all premiums falling due under every such insurance policy and deposit with the Commissioner every such policy and, not later than the forenoon of the day on which any such premium becomes payable, the receipt for that premium.
10. THAT the Lessee will not throughout the term of the lease without the prior consent of the Commissioner, which consent may be given on such terms and conditions (including the payment of royalty) as the Commissioner thinks fit, fell, sell, or remove any timber, tree, or bush growing, standing, or lying on the said land, and that he will throughout the term of the lease prevent the destruction of any such timber, tree, or bush unless the Commissioner otherwise approves: Provided that the consent of the Commissioner as aforesaid shall not be necessary where any such timber or tree is required for any agricultural, pastoral, household, roadmaking, or building purposes on the said land nor where the timber or tree has been planted by the Lessee.
11. THAT the Lessee shall not, except for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act, 1908, burn any tussock, scrub, fern, or grass on the said land, nor permit any tussock, scrub, fern, or grass on the said land to be burnt, unless in either case he shall have obtained the prior consent in writing of the Commissioner, which consent may be given subject to such terms and conditions as the Commissioner may deem necessary.
12. THAT officers and employees of the Department of Internal Affairs shall at all times have a right of ingress, egress, and regress over the land comprised in this lease for the purpose of determining whether such land or any adjoining land is infested with deer, wild goats, wild pigs, opossums, or other animals which the said Department is charged with the duty of exterminating or controlling, or for the purpose of destroying any such animals: Provided that such officers and employees in the performance of the said duties shall at all times avoid undue disturbance of the Lessee's stock.
13. THAT the Lessee shall exercise due care in stocking the said land and shall not overstock.

AND it is hereby agreed and declared by and between the Lessor and the Lessee:-

- (a) THAT the Lessee shall have the exclusive right of pasturage over the said land, but shall have no right to the soil.
(b) THAT the Lessee shall have no right, title, or claim whatsoever to any minerals (within the meaning of the Land Act, 1915) on or under the surface of the soil of the said land, and all such minerals are reserved to His Majesty together with a free right of way over the said land in favour of the Commissioner or of any person authorized by him and of all persons lawfully engaged in the working, extraction, or removal of any mineral on or under the surface of the said land or any adjacent land of the Crown, subject to the payment to the Lessee of compensation for all damage done to improvements on the said land belonging to the Lessee in the working, extraction, or removal of any such minerals: Provided that there shall be no right of way over, or right to work, extract, or remove any mineral from, any part of the said land which is for the time being under crop or used or situated within the limits of a yard, garden, orchard, vineyard, nursery, or plantation, or within 100 feet of any building, dwelling-house: Provided also that the Lessee may, with the prior consent in writing of the Commissioner, which consent may be given subject to such conditions as the Commissioner thinks fit, use any such minerals for any agricultural, pastoral, household, roadmaking, or building purposes on the said land, but not otherwise.
(c) THAT upon the expiration of a term of the term hereby granted and thereafter at the expiration of each succeeding term to be granted to the Lessee the outgoing Lessee shall have a right to obtain, in accordance with the provisions of section 64 (3) of the Land Act, 1915, a new lease of the land hereby leased at a rent to be determined in the manner prescribed by Part VIII of the said Act for a term of thirty-three years computed from the expiration of the term hereby granted and subject to the same covenants and provisions as this lease, including this present provision for the renewal thereof and all provisions ancillary or in relation thereto.

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OTA2/1228

- (6) THAT the Lessee shall have no right of acquiring the fee-simple of the said land.
- (7) THAT the Lessee may, with the prior consent in writing of the Commissioner given subject to such conditions as the Commissioner may deem necessary,
 - (i) Cultivate any portion of the said land for the purpose of growing winter food for the stock depastured thereon;
 - (ii) Crop such areas of the said land as is sufficient for the use of himself and family and his employees;
 - (iii) Plough and sow in grass any portion of the said land;
 - (iv) Clear any portion of the said land by felling and burning bush or scrub and sow the land so cleared in grass;
 - (v) Surface sow in grass any portion of the said land;
- Provided that the Lessee shall, on the termination of the lease, leave the whole of the area that has been ploughed or cultivated properly laid down in good permanent clover and grasses to the satisfaction of the Commissioner.
- (8) THAT the Lessee shall covenants the use of the said land shall not be used for the purpose of carrying on any business and the Lessee shall not be allowed to erect any building on the said land for the purpose of carrying on any business, without the prior consent of the Commissioner, except as may be otherwise provided in writing of the Commissioner.
- (9) THAT if the Lessee shall leave New Zealand or abandon the said land or if he cannot be found or if he shall be found to be unable to comply with the covenants and conditions herein expressed as implied to the satisfaction of the Land Settlement Board or the Commissioner, or the case of the Lessee shall not be paid for not less than two months in the payment of rent, water levy, or other payments due to the Lessor, then the Land Settlement Board may, subject to the provisions of the Land Act, 1948, declare this lease to be forfeit, and that without discharging or releasing the Lessee from liability for rent due or accruing due or for any prior breach of any of the covenants or conditions of the lease.
- (10) THAT these presents are intended to take effect as a pastoral lease under the Land Act, 1948, and the provisions of the Land Act and of the regulations made thereunder applicable to such leases shall be binding in all respects upon the parties hereto in the same manner as if such provisions had been specifically mentioned therein.

For (2) and (1) see below

SCHEDULE

IMPROVEMENTS BELONGING TO THE CROWN AND IN POSSESSION OF THE LESSEE

Nil

In witness whereof the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Land District of ... and these presents have also been executed by the said Lessee.

Signed by the said Commissioner, on behalf of the Lessor, in the presence of—

Witness: _____
Occupation: _____
Address: _____

Signed by the above named as Lessee, in the presence of—

Witness: _____
Occupation: _____
Address: _____

Signed by the above named as Lessee, in the presence of—

Witness: _____
Occupation: _____
Address: _____

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Lessee.

Lessee.

(2) THAT the Lessee shall be bound not to have failed to use due care in stocking, or to have overstocked so long as the number of sheep kept on the said land does not exceed 7705 inclusive of 2970 breeding ewes (being an increase of ten per cent on the carrying capacity on which is based the rent herebefore reserved) but the Commissioner may by notice in writing require the Lessee to depasture thereon any greater number should he deem it advisable or expedient so to do. Any permission so granted shall be subject to revocation or amendment by the Commissioner at any time and particularly in the event of a transfer. Any variation consented to by the Commissioner shall not affect the rent payable hereunder.

(1) THAT the residents of Heavtown shall be allowed to graze two head of cattle or two horses free of charge on that part of Run 27, known as the Commonage area.

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Lessee.

Lessee.

222756 Mortgage to William Henry ...
at 10.20.20

DISCHARGED
6 JUN 1969
A.L.R.

353488 Mortgage to The Perpetual Trustees Discharged Agency Company Limited - 10.4.1970 at 1.38 pm
A.L.R.

CERTIFIED a true copy of G.T. 424/19 except as to colour and scale (Sheet 1 of two sheets - for plan see sheet 2)
A.L.R.

394118 Agreement under the Soil Conservation and Control Act 1941 - 30.10.1972 at 9.50 am
A.L.R.

307703 Transmission of Mortgage 232956 to Leslie Gordon Wright and Clarence Henry Somerville Stevens as Executors entered 15.11.1966 at 4.09 pm.
A.L.R.

456380/2 Mortgage to Norwich Union Life Insurance Co. - 31.3.1976 at 11.49 am
A.L.R.

C.T. A2/1228

470180 Gazette-Notice declaring that a portion of road adjoining the within land to be under the control and management of the Lake County Council from and after the 4th November 1976 - 7.12.1976 at 11.45 am

Juliano
A.L.R.

Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of Aotea Minerals Limited for a term of 2 years from 27.3.1979 See Volume 5D Folio 93

Juliano
A.L.R.

489403 Surrender of the within Lease as to the land hatched black on the diagram hereon (133.5486ha) with the consent of the agreement holders in Soil Conservation Agreement 354118 and the mortgagee in Mortgage 45390/2 entered 13.12.1977 at 1.38 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of Ryan Mining Limited for a term of 21 years commencing on 14th October 1980 - 16.10.1980 at 10.35 am See Volume 5D/148

Juliano
A.L.R.

497988 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the bed of the Shotover River adjoining part Run 27 Block XI Shotover District herein in favour of George Edward Thompson for a term from 1st April 1978 to 9 September 1988 See Vol. 5D Folio 79

Juliano
A.L.R.

548107/4 Transfer of balance to John William Dagg and Brian Ronald Dagg both of Queenstown Farmers as tenants in common in equal shares - 23.1.1981 at 1.47 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

548107/5 Mortgage of balance to the Trustees Executors and Agency Company of New Zealand Limited - 23.1.1981 at 1.47 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

501428/2 Transfer of 1/2 of his 1/2 share William Harry Dagg to The Trustees Executors and Agency Company of New Zealand Limited, the said William Harry Dagg abovenamed and Ian Davis Scott of Alexandra Company Manager - 11.8.1978 at 1.55 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

553446 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the adjoining river bed in favour of Aotea Minerals Limited for a term of two years commencing on 30 April 1981 - 1.5.1981 at 2.46 pm See Volume 5D Folio 181

Juliano
A.L.R.

501428/3 Mortgage of their 1/4 share The Trustees Executors and Agency Company of New Zealand Limited, William Harry Dagg and Ian David Scott to William Harry Dagg - 11.8.1978 at 1.55 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

562777 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the Shotover River and Crown Land adjoining part Run 27 in favour of Ryan Mining Limited for a term of 21 years commencing on 28th September 1981 - 1.10.1981 at 10.40 am See Volume 5D Folio 195

Juliano
A.L.R.

501428/4 Transfer of 1/2 of his 1/2 share Ronald Dagg to The Trustees Executors and Agency Company of New Zealand Limited the said Ronald Dagg abovenamed and Ian David Scott abovenamed - 11.8.1978 at 1.55 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

562982 Mortgage to The Rural Banking and Finance Corporation of New Zealand - 5.10.1981 at 4.17 pm

Rumoin
A.L.R.

501428/5 Mortgage of their 1/4 share The Trustees Executors and Agency Company of New Zealand Limited, Ronald Dagg and Ian David Scott to Ronald Dagg - 11.8.1978 at 1.55 pm

Juliano
A.L.R.

565767 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of CRA Exploration Pty Limited for a term of 5 years commencing on 12.11.1981 entered 16.11.1981 at 2.4 pm See Volume 5B Folio 204

A.L.R.

OVER.....

G.T. A2/228

578019 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the bed of the Shotover River and Crown Land adjoining the within land in favour of Laurence Robert Arthur Brownlie for a term of 10 years commencing on 21st June 1982 - 23.6.1982 at 11.24 am See Volume 5D Folio 235

A.L.R.

579483 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part (390ha) of the within land in favour of CRA Exploration PTY Limited for a term of 3 years commencing on 16.7.1982 - 19.7.1982 at 11.36 am See Volume 5D Folio 240

A.L.R.

586705 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part (3.6 ha) of Blocks XI and XII Shotover Survey District in favour of Ernest Douglas Scheib and Jerry Gordon-Hohneck for a term of 10 years commencing on 24.11.1982 - 26.11.1982 at 2.11 pm See Volume 9D Folio 7

A.L.R.

594394 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of CRA Exploration Pty Limited for a term of 3 years from 5.5.1985 - 10.5.1985 at 10.24 am See Volume 9D Folio 30

A.L.R.

Resumed roads adjoining part Run 27 are now known as: Section 2 Block XIV Shotover S.D. (5941 m²) Section 10 Block XIII Town of Macetown (7396m²) Section 11 Block XI Town of Macetown (7850 m²) - 21.5.1984 at 10.46 am See Re-appellation 615005/1

A.L.R.

Resumed roads adjoining part Run 27 are now known as: Section 16 Block VIII Town of Macetown (9076 m²) Section 7 Block VI " (9831 m²) Section 18 Block V " (9387 m²) Section 7 Block I " (2493 m²) - 21.5.1984 at 10.46 am See Re-appellation 615005/2

A.L.R.

REGISTER

621386 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part Run 26 hereon in favour of Aotea Minerals Ltd for a term of 7 years commencing on 5.9.1984 - 7.9.1984 at 10.14 am. See Volume 9D Folio 96

A.L.R.

622508 Mining Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of Aotea Minerals Limited for a term of 7 years from 25 September 1984 - 27.9.1984 at 10.31am See Volume 9D/100

A.L.R.

631104 Renewal of Prospecting Licence 5D/204 held by CRA Exploration Pty Limited for a further period of 3 years to 11.11.1987 entered 6.3.1985 at 10.17 am.

A.L.R.

Part of the Crown Land adjoining the within land is now known as Section 19 Block XVI (195ha) Section 20 Block XVI (65ha) and Section 32 Block XVII (290ha) Shotover S.D. - 22.8.1985 at 1.56 pm See Re Appellation 641346/2

A.L.R.

642702 Variation of Mortgage 5/8107/6 - 17.9.1985 at 10 am

A.L.R.

660920 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land (bed of the Polagoon Burns) in favour of Agrens Mining Limited for a term of three years commencing on 30th July 1986 8.8.1986 at 9.10 am See Volumes 9D Folio 17

A.L.R.

709738 Prospecting Licence under the Mining Act 1971 affecting part of the within land in favour of Prime-West Corporation Limited for the term of three years commencing on 1st day of August 1988 - 19.8.1988 at 1.18 am See Volume 9D Folio 258

A.L.R.

C.T. A2/1228

703642/4 Mortgage to The Trustees
Executors and Administrators of
New Zealand F. Deed - 1988 at
10.12 am

DISCHARGED

5 AUG 1988

A.L.R.

763313 Memorandum renewing the term
of the within lease for a further period
of 33 years commencing on 1.7.1991
and fixing (for the first 11 years)
the annual rent at \$5,100.00 calculated
on a rental value of \$340,000.00 -
14.9.1990 at 9.13am

A.L.R.

785312 Certificate of Alteration
amending the effective date of
the within lease to 1.1.1991 -
22.8.1991 at 9.32 am

A.L.R.

801511 Surrender of Mining Licence 562777
as to part shown as "Part Reserved" on SC
Plan 23670 (1.27ha) - 26.3.1992 at 1.41pm

A.L.R.

811339/2 Transfer to Brian Ronald Dagg
abovenamed - 5.8.1992 at 9.39am

A.L.R.

811339/6 Mortgage to Wrightson Farmers
Finance Limited - 5.8.1992 at 9.39am

A.L.R.

833519 Transfer being a grant of a right
(in gross) to convey water over part
herein shown marked F,C,R,I on diagram
annexed thereto together with incidental
rights in favour of Arrow Irrigation
Company Limited - 8.7.1993 at 9.49am

A.L.R.

Subject to a right of way with incidental
rights over part of the within land shown
marked 'A' on the diagram annexed to Deed of
Easement embodied in the Register as CT
15C/615 appurtenant to Section 25 Block XVII
Shotover Survey District (CT 13C/641) and
created by the said Deed on 19.10.1994 at
9.22am

A.L.R.

REGISTRATION PROPOSAL - HISTORIC AREA

SUMMARY

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of Area | Sew Hoy's Big Beach Claim Historic Area |
| Other or former name(s) | N/A |
| Area Description | <p>The proposed Historic Area is within a parcel described as legal river and appears to be Crown Land with no certificate of title. It is an area of shingle river beach that was extensively worked and dredged during the goldmining era in Otago.</p> <p>The boundary of the proposed Historic Area follows the edge of Shotover River on the northern boundary (as shown on the attached map) and the cadastral boundary of part section 63 Blk XIX Shotover Survey District, and Pt section 122 Blk XIX Shotover Survey District on the south.</p> <p>Have you attached a map outlining the boundaries of the proposed area? Yes.</p> |
| Address 1 Suburb | |
| Address 2 Town/ Locality | Big Beach (near Arthurs Point on the Shotover River) |
| Address 3 Region | Otago |
| Address 4 Description of location | The proposed Historic Area is off Arthurs Point Road about four kilometres from Queenstown, below Watties Track (also known as Sugarloaf Road), a partially formed road. |
| Territorial Authorities | Queenstown Lakes District Council Otago Regional Council |
| Local authority listing(s) | None |
| Summary of Significance | Sew Hoy's dredging operation at Big Beach provided the impetus for the gold dredging boom of the late 1880s and confirmed Sew Hoy's status as a leading player in the goldmining industry in Otago. The success of his mining companies, and the development of a new type of dredge used first at Big Beach, provided the foundation for Sew Hoy's later notable operation at Nokomai. Sew Hoy's Big Beach operation proved that early New Zealand Chinese businessmen had the capacity for managing large-scale mining operations, and could successfully enter the European commercial world. The site provides recognition of the pioneer role that Sew Hoy played in the development of gold-dredging in nineteenth century New Zealand, and his status as an early New Zealand Chinese pioneer of high standing in the New Zealand Chinese and European communities. |

COMPONENTS OF THE AREA

1

Name: Shingle Beach

Address: Big Beach

Legal Description: Legal River

Owner(s): Crown Land

Address of Owner(s):

NZHPT Registration No. (if applicable): N/A

New Zealand Archaeological Association No. (if applicable): None

NZMS 260 grid references. Easting: Northing:

GPS Co-ordinate Taken From:

GPS Co-ordinates. Easting: Northing:

Brief History:

On the shingle beach is the evidence of past dredging, although this is probably not associated with Choie Sew Hoy's workings in the area, as the river bed was extensively re-worked in the years following his initial efforts. There are the remains of a dredge associated with one of the later mining companies standing in the middle of the beach. While not associated with Sew Hoy the large structure gives an indication of the scale of operations on the Shotover River.

The area was extensively mined in the 1860s and 1870s. In the 1880s it was re-worked again using dredges which would have largely obliterated the evidence of the earlier workings. Dredging again into the twentieth century also re-worked the evidence of earlier dredging.

Further archaeological work may clarify the physical traces of the dredging in the area and associated features.

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 | Name: Dredge Remains Address: Big Beach Legal Description: Legal River Owner(s): Crown Land Address of Owner(s): NZHPT Registration No. (if applicable): New Zealand Archaeological Association No. (if applicable): NZMS 260 Grid references. Easting: Northing: GPS Coordinate Taken From: GPS Coordinates. Easting: Northing: Brief Description: There are the remains of a dredge associated with one of the later mining companies standing in the middle of the beach. While not associated with Sew Hoy the large structure gives an indication of the scale of operations on the Shotover River. |
|---|--|

HISTORY OF THE AREA

Choie Sew Hoy (1836-1838?-1901)¹

Sew Hoy was a Dunedin merchant and importer, Otago gold dredger, gold sluicer and public benefactor, largely ignored in European histories. He was born in Sha Kong, 20km north of Guangzhou in the Upper Panyu District. His father Choie Bing Some was a farmer. He married Young Soy May and they had a daughter and two sons. As a young man Sew Hoy joined other Cantonese gold seekers, going first to California, and then to Victoria, where he started a business. Ng suggests that he came to New Zealand in 1868, and set himself up as a merchant in Dunedin. He had become prominent by 1871, and encouraged Panyu Cantonese migration to Otago in the early 1870s.² Sew Hoy was naturalised in 1873. When he was about 50 he formed a defacto relationship with Eliza Prescott and lived with her. They had two children.³

Sew Hoy advised, outfitted, provisioned and otherwise helped Chinese gold seekers. He also supplied Chinese stores in the goldfields, although he did not open branches of his own store inland. He was one of several Chinese merchants who had stores around the Stafford Street area in Dunedin.⁴ Sew Hoy held a high position in the Cheong Shing Tong, the society which organised the mass exhumation of Chinese remains to return them to China. The society's funds were held at his shop.⁵

¹ See appended biography, James Ng 'Sew Hoy, Charles 1836-1838? - 1901.' *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* updated 16 December 2003 URL: <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz>.

² Ng, v3, p.269.

³ Ng, v3, p.271.

⁴ One of Sew Hoy's Stafford Street buildings (built around 1901) in Dunedin is registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. It received a Category B rating in 1988 (reclassified to Category I - Registration Number 4729).

⁵ Ng, v3, p.270.

Sew Hoy and his son Choie Kum Poy (1867-d.1942) used the credit ticket system to bring out kinsfolk and friends of the family to work their gold-dredges and gold-slucing claims. In exchange for the fare the emigrant agreed to work out the debt on arrival. Choie Kum Poy brought out his last six workers in 1923.⁶

Sew Hoy was responsible for two major mining revivals, one in Otago and the other at Nokomai in northern Southland. He was involved in a wide range of goldmining projects. With Kum Yoke and Sew Kee he had a mining interest at Main Gully Mt Ida in 1877. He had a major water race from Lauder Creek to Blacks township in 1879. He had a four acre Quartz claim at Macetown in 1883. He had 175 hectares of river claims at Maori Point in 1887. He had the Skippers quartz mine with Begbie in 1889-91. In partnership with R. Glenn and P. Beer he was involved in the Golden Stream Water Race Company which supplied part of the Kyeburn Diggings in 1890. He initiated the Big Beach dredging operation with a new type of gold dredge at Arthurs Point (1889-97) which set off the first Otago gold dredging boom. His claims and explorations at Cardrona sparked off dredging claims there in 1890. Rumours of his potential involvement in dredging the Clutha below Cromwell were enough to fuel a second gold dredging boom. Many of the dredges were modelled on the Sew Hoy dredge.⁷

According to James Ng, Sew Hoy was the principal person involved in introducing a “new type of steam dredge which had a single central bucket chain extending to the bow, thereby enabling the dredge to create a basin in which it floated. This made possible the working of river flats, and the bucket chain could be lowered or raised to dredge river beds and banks as well.” The dredge opened up ground for a new system of mining, prompting the creation of a large dredging fleet, and sparking an economic revival in Otago at the turn of the century.⁸ Sew Hoy was perceived in his time to be the chief promoter of the Sew Hoy dredge which was the direct prototype of the versatile New Zealand gold dredge. The New Zealand gold dredge was virtually the sole type in the Otago-Southland fleet of 171 gold dredges in 1902, with 92 further dredges on the West Coast. This type of dredge was the leading design in the development of gold and tin dredging in other countries.⁹

On his death in 1901 Sew Hoy was buried in the Anglican sector of the Dunedin Southern Cemetery, but was disinterred by the Cheong Shing Tong the following year to be taken back to China as part of a mass exhumation.¹⁰ Sew Hoy was admired by the Chinese community for his public spirit, and was honoured with a special rimu coffin as a mark of this respect. Unfortunately the ship returning the remains to China, the *Ventnor*, struck a rock and sank off Hokianga, and only ten coffins floated ashore. No other Chinese remains were found.¹¹ He was, according to James Ng, one of only four Otago Chinese who were accorded newspaper obituaries or tributes up to the turn of the century.

Few of the leaders of Chinese goldseekers sought to stay permanently in New Zealand. Sew Hoy and his son Choie Kum Poy stayed, and reinvested their money. James Ng could think of no other nineteenth century Chinese who gained much wealth from goldmining, and only one other (Chew Chong in Taranaki) who gained as much wealth or standing in New Zealand.¹²

Choie Sew Hoy's Big Beach Dredging Operation

Big Beach was an extensive river flat of about 100 hectares which by 1871 had been worked by around 150 Chinese miners, including the: South Beach Goldmining Company (40 Chinese), Ham Tie and party, Sun Sing Tong Company, and Ah Chun and party. The area had already been worked twice

⁶ Ng, v1, p.97.

⁷ Ng, v1, pp.315-16.

⁸ Ng, v1, p.169n.

⁹ Ng, v1, pp.335- 36n.

¹⁰ Ng, v3, p.271.

¹¹ Ng, v1, p.62n. and p.66. There were 499 bodies aboard the *Ventnor*. The other Chinese accorded tributes were Fung Ming Cho (Lawrence), John Alloo and Sam Chiew Lain (Lawrence) p.197.

¹² Ng, v1, p.206.

over before the Chinese arrived and the last European claimholders did well from leasing or selling to the Chinese. There was some European anti-Chinese feeling about the Chinese miners taking over this ground. The large claims were part of the extended claim system, which permitted amalgamation and required big parties to work them – up to 40 or 50 men.¹³

Various types of dredging technology had been used on the goldfields largely unsuccessfully since the mid 1860s. Early spoon and pneumatic dredges had proved costly and largely ineffective. By the late 1880s miners and engineers had “not been convinced of the superiority of any one type of dredge.” Many had been tested, some abandoned and others used for varying periods. For the most part there was little public interest in investing in the gold dredging industry, and the industry was largely considered to be a failure. This was to change in 1889.¹⁴

Sew Hoy’s reputation rests primarily on his role in gold-dredging in the 1880s when mining returns were falling. In 1887 Sew Hoy applied for claims amounting to 57ha at Big Beach. Sew Hoy decided to design his own dredge to work the flat. He ordered a steel steam driven dredge with a single central ladder chain of buckets and gold saving apparatus using mercury to be built by Dunedin firm Kincaid and McQueen. The dredge could work its way through riverbanks, beach or flat carrying its pond with it. It created a new deep mining system for river beaches and flats.¹⁵

In 1888 members of the Dunedin business community formed a number of small companies to dredge the Clutha and the Shotover. One company made up of Sew Hoy together with well known businessmen including Maurice, Edward and A. Joel. They formed the Shotover Big Beach Mining Company. In July 1889, after considerable difficulties, the dredge was winning a reasonable return. It was one of the most successful goldmining ventures in New Zealand, and stimulated the gold dredging boom in Otago.¹⁶ The boom, however, did not bring good returns to everybody, with many of the hastily formed companies going quickly into liquidation.

Sew Hoy was the main shareholder in the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company. There were nineteen other shareholders, including his eldest son. At the time the dredge was launched in 1889 there were nine dredges of other types working in Otago and Southland, with another six either working or under construction on the West Coast.¹⁷ The dredge at Big Beach uncovered as much as £40 worth of gold for one day’s dredging. Dredging boomed, and dredging claims opened up new mining areas. Sew Hoy had sparked off the first gold dredging boom in Otago. According to Ng, Sew Hoy’s bucket dredge became the direct prototype for the “New Zealand gold-dredge”, a model at the forefront of gold dredge design.¹⁸

Sew Hoy restructured his company and formed the public Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Company in late 1889 to take over from the private Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company. The inflated sale price of £72,000 was based on unrealistic earning projections, a common tactic to encourage investment. Sew Hoy was a director in the Company and James Gore, the chairman. The 175 shareholders included many Dunedin businessmen and society leaders.¹⁹ A subsidiary office was established at Arthurs Point, near a Chinese garden. The staff included some 10 Chinese workers, besides European labourers, supervisors, dredge masters and a chief engineer. The workforce totalled 38 men in 1891. The Chinese and Europeans were reported to have worked well together.

¹³ Ng, v1, p.145.

¹⁴ T.J. Hearn and R.P. Hargreaves, *The Speculators’ Dream: Gold Dredging in Southern New Zealand*, Allied Press, Dunedin 1985, p.11.

¹⁵ Ng, v3, p.273.

¹⁶ Hearn and Hargreaves, p.12.

¹⁷ Ng, v3, p.274.

¹⁸ Ng, v3, p.275.

¹⁹ Ng, v3, p.277.

By 1891 the first dredging boom had run its course.²⁰ The harsh conditions, the high capital requirements, unrealistic expectations and inexperience brought many new companies to their knees. Further technical problems needed to be solved before dredging would again boom in the late 1890s.²¹ In 1893 the Company installed a hydraulic sluicing and elevating plant to sluice unworked parts of its Star claims at the exit of the gorge at Arthurs Point, where the ground was too rocky to dredge.

Meanwhile the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Company carried on working. The company added three bigger dredges to Big Beach, built by Anderson Brothers in Christchurch. The company lasted seven years, a relatively long life in dredging terms. In 1895 the Company suffered its first financial deficit as the ground at Big Beach became more and more difficult to work. By 1896 Big Beach was almost worked out, and the two remaining dredges were shifted with difficulty through the gorge to the next beach, Tucker Beach. There Sew Hoy had acquired 16 hectares of dredging claims, and also at Talisman Beach further downstream. The company was finally wound up, proving not to be profitable for its shareholders, returning only 7s per share. Those who benefited financially were those original shareholders of the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company, who got free shares and quickly sold them, especially Sew Hoy.²² The company led gold production in New Zealand until 1897.²³

Various companies attempted to dredge the lower Shotover without much success. The Golden Terrace Extended Company shifted a dredge onto Big Beach in the mid 1920s, but the company was liquidated in 1939, and the remains of the dredge are apparently those that can be seen on Big Beach.²⁴ There was a mining application for 77 hectares of part of the river bed at Big Beach in the 1980s (Appn 32/1785).²⁵

Sew Hoy's Later Mining Venture: The Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Operations

Sew Hoy and his two sons Kum Yok and Kum Poy had been looking for other mining opportunities as early as 1893. They chose hydraulic sluicing and elevating. They went to Nokomai. The field had been long deserted when they took up claims of 60 acres of high flats situated in Paddys Alley in the upper valley of the Nokomai River. They hired up to 40 men and installed a hydraulic sluicing and elevator plant. Their mining engineer was L. Beal who had advised the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company. They proposed to bring water by first one and then two new long water races, to be constructed by Chinese workmen through rugged terrain using inverted siphons instead of flumes. The workforce included Chinese workers and water race tenders, and Europeans supervisors and others.²⁶

By 1897 the Sew Hoy's Nokomai Hydraulic Gold Mining Company had a claim of 128 acres, and had constructed six and a quarter miles of water races to make a total of 20 miles that the company had rights to. The whole enterprise cost £15,200 pounds and employed 12 Chinese and 8 Europeans, as well as the 40 men employed to cut another water race.²⁷

In 1898 the company completed the installation of two hydraulic sluicing and elevating plants and completed the first two water races of 26 and 21 miles (42 and 34 kilometres respectively). They were constructing their third and fourth water races and were employing some 20 men on sluicing and

²⁰ Hearn and Hargreaves, pp.14-15.

²¹ Ng, v3, p.276.

²² Ng, v3, pp.278-79.

²³ Ng, v3, p.278.

²⁴ A.J. De La Mare, *The Shotover River – 'the Richest River in the World' A History of Gold Mining on the Shotover River*, Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown, 1993, pp.75-76.

²⁵ Noted on SO 21619 (1983). It has not known whether any mining was undertaken at that time.

²⁶ Ng, v3, p.280.

²⁷ Hamel, "Survey of Historic and Archaeological Sites on Nokomai Station and in the upper Nevis Valley", July 1989, p.4.

another 20 men on races. The *Otago Witness* commented "It is not saying too much that at the time no private individuals other than [Sew Hoy and Kum Poy] could have been found in New Zealand adventurous enough to invest a sum of £15,000 in this undertaking..."²⁸

Father and son floated the Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company in 1898, issuing 2,400 shares at £10 each. Sew Hoy and Kum Poy became the biggest shareholders, each holding 850 shares, and they respectively became a director and the secretary of the company. The share list again included well known Otago people. Several had been shareholders in both the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company and the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Company. In 1898 the sluicing returns of the Company were 100oz to 200oz of gold a month.

Choie Kum Poy took over his father's mantle in Otago. He adopted Sew Hoy as his English surname by 1902. Sir James Fletcher (1886-1974), a mining associate in the 1930s, described him as "a remarkable man whose word was his bond and even in adversity he never accepted defeat." Fletcher's association with him began when the Nokomai Sluicing Company changed into the Nokomai Gold-mining Company in 1932, in order to use the new dragline excavator on new claims at Nokomai. The older company had not done well, due to poor auriferous ground, and it was hoped the new excavator would reverse the decline. The excavator failed when it struck a very hard layer, and the company closed down in 1943, after a flood and Kum Poy's death the previous year²⁹ "leaving a record in the mining archives of remarkable achievement."³⁰

According to James Ng, Sew Hoy

decisively proved that the early New Zealand-Chinese had the capacity for large-scale mining projects, and that a Chinese could successfully enter the European commercial world. His pioneer role in the development of gold-dredging was recognised in his time.

Sew Hoy's venture was recognised as being of regional significance. Ng argues that Sew Hoy was one of

Otago-Southland's most enterprising, innovative and important goldminers. Because he was prominent in both gold-dredging and sluicing, and because he led two mining revivals, I consider him to have been the most important figure in the higher technical and capital input phase of Otago-Southland goldmining last century.³¹

The Sew Hoy's at Nokomai had an unusual permanency and stability. While other alluvial mining companies came and went, the Sew Hoy's were either headed or close to the head of the list of successful alluvial miners for 50 years. Only major companies at Round Hill (in Southland) and Gabriels Gully (in Otago) had anything like a similar record.³²

James Ng considers that "despite the prejudice and discrimination, the early New Zealand-Chinese produced two pioneers of remarkable standing in their adopted community: Sew Hoy in gold-dredging and Chew Chong in butter manufacture."³³

²⁸ *Otago Witness* cited by Ng, v3, p281.

²⁹ Ng, v3, pp.287-88.

³⁰ Hamel, 1989, p.6.

³¹ Fletcher cited by Ng, v3, pp.282-283.

³² Hamel, 1989, p.4.

³³ Ng, v1, p.8.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The proposed Historic Area is an extensive river flat, surrounded by cliffs, on the southern side of the Shotover River. On the flat are the evidence of past dredging, although this is probably not associated with Sew Hoy's workings in the area, as the river bed was extensively re-worked in the years following his initial efforts. There are the remains of a dredge associated with one of the later mining companies standing in the middle of the beach. While not associated with Sew Hoy the large structure gives an indication of the scale of operations on the Shotover River.

The area was extensively mined in the 1860s and 1870s. In the 1880s it was re-worked again using dredges which would have largely obliterated the evidence of the earlier workings. Dredging again into the twentieth century also re-worked the evidence of earlier dredging.

Current Physical Condition:

Gold dredging finished in the area in the 1930s. Since then the river bed has been largely undisturbed for mining purposes.

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUES

Statements of Significance

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Statement of historical significance or value</p> | <p>The historical significance of Big Beach arises from its association with Sew Hoy's mining operations which kicked off the dredging boom in Otago in the 1880s. Sew Hoy was a prominent member of the Chinese community in Otago and an important and oft-discussed player in the mining industry in Otago and Southland into the twentieth century. He was the principle person involved in introducing a new type of steam dredge which made possible the working of river flats, opening up a new system of mining and prompting the creation of a large dredging fleet. The development of dredging sparked an economic revival in Otago at the turn of the century. His dredge was, according to historian James Ng, a prototype of the New Zealand dredge which was a leading design in the development of gold dredges both in New Zealand and overseas.</p> |
| <p>Statement of architectural; archaeological; scientific; technological; aesthetic significance or value</p> | <p>Big Beach was the site of the first use of the Sew Hoy's newly-developed innovative bucket dredge which was a prototype of the New Zealand Gold Dredge, an important element in the design history of gold dredging in New Zealand. Sew Hoy's new technology opened up new mining areas and provided the impetus for the dredging boom in the late 1880s. Dunedin engineering firms and local coal mines in Central Otago which supplied the fuel also boomed as a direct result of the dredging developments at Big Beach.</p> <p>Big Beach has strong aesthetic value. It is a significant landscape feature on the Shotover River, and a notable viewscape in the Queenstown region. For the most part the upper Shotover River is characterised by narrow, steep sided gorges. At Big Beach the river valley opens out onto this substantial shingle river beach. The beach is visible from a number of points on Malaghans and Littles Roads, both busy tourist routes with lookouts overlooking the proposed Area. In addition the Shotover River Jet passes the beach on its river tours. The dredge remains emphasise the past history of mining on a scale not as evident elsewhere on the Shotover. These aesthetic aspects, and the beach's high visibility add to the Area's ability to aid in the interpretation of history of dredging, and of Sew Hoy's operations.</p> |
| <p>Statement of social; spiritual; traditional; cultural significance or value</p> | <p>The proposed Big Beach Historic Area has cultural significance because of its association with Sew Hoy. Sew Hoy was a leading member of the early New Zealand Chinese community in Otago, and a prominent member of the wider business community. His company's success at Big Beach cemented his importance and provided a spring board for later successes in his venture at Nokomai. Sew Hoy's Big Beach mining operations represent his significant contribution to the economic development of goldmining in Otago, and confirmed his status as a pioneer both for his fostering of the early New Zealand Chinese community, and his success as a businessman in the wider community.</p> |

| OTHER LISTINGS FOR THE AREA | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Type | Details |
| DoC Actively Managed Site | N/A |
| Historic reserve | N/A[Gazette notice date and pg no.] |
| Maori reserve | N/A[Gazette notice date and pg no.] |
| Heritage or other covenant | N/A |
| Other – give details | N/A |

| SOURCES OF INFORMATION | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 | De La Mare, A.J., <i>The Shotover River – ‘the Richest River in the World’ A History of Gold Mining on the Shotover River</i> , Lakes District Museum, Arrowtown, 1993 |
| 2 | Hamel, Jill, <i>The archaeology of Otago</i> , Department of Conservation, Wellington, 2001 |
| 3 | “Gold mining in the Nokomai Valley: A second report”, May 1991 |
| 4 | “Broken crocks and bottles at Nokomai”, September 1990 |
| 5 | “Survey of Historic and Archaeological Sites on Nokomai Station and in the upper Nevis Valley”, July 1989 |
| 6 | Hearn, T.J. and R.P. Hargreaves, <i>The Speculators’ Dream: Gold Dredging in Southern New Zealand</i> , Allied Press, Dunedin, 1985 |
| 7 | Ng, James, <i>Windows on a Chinese Past, Volume 1</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1993 |
| 8 | <i>Volume 2</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1995 |
| 9 | <i>Volume 3</i> , Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin, 1999 |
| 10 | Ritchie, Neville, “Archaeology and History of the Chinese in Southern New Zealand During the Nineteenth Century: A Study of Acculturation, Adaptation, and Change”, PhD, University of Otago, 1986 [Hocken Library] |
| 11 | Salmon, John, <i>A History of Gold-mining in New Zealand</i> , RE Owen, Government Printer, Wellington, 1963 |
| 12 | SO 6693 C.Sew Hoy Special Claim, Mining, 1888, LINZ (attached) |

| URGENCY AND OTHER INFORMATION |
|---|
| <p>This nomination is part of a group of registration proposals relating to Chinese sites in Otago. Chinese sites and buildings are significantly under-represented on the NZHPT Register, and these proposals aim to redress the balance. The nominations represent a range of Chinese experiences – alluvial mining, dredging, and support networks such as stores, market gardens, Chinese settlements and memorials to the dead.</p> <p>The Shotover River is noted as having spiritual values and uses for Kai Tahu in the Otago Regional Council <i>Proposed Regional Plan: Water</i> (updated August 2003), Schedule 1D. The values associated include Kaitiakitanga, Mauri, Waahi Taoka. The access/customary uses include Mahika kai, Kohanga, trails, and as a source of cultural material. There are no NZAA recorded sites within the boundary of the proposed Historic Area.</p> |

NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS

For Viewing By NZHPT Only

**Your Name and
contact details**

Heather Bauchop
Heritage Researcher
Otago Southland Area Office
Dunedin

Staff recommendation:

Office use only

That the area should be registered under the following criteria:

Section 23 (1): cultural, historical

Appendices

Historic Images

- Choie Sew Hoy's dredging claim at Big Beach, L.W.Wilson, 1895, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (in *Windows on a Chinese Past*, v1, Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin 1993, p.317.)
- Sew Hoy Dredge of Shotover Big Beach Mining Company, Dominion Museum Collection, (in *Windows on a Chinese Past*, v1, Otago Heritage Books, Dunedin 1993, p.316)
- Shotover River Goldmining Dredges – Sew Hoy's Dredge (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0333
- Shotover River Goldmining Dredges – Sew Hoy's Dredge (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0335
- Arthurs Point, Big Beach, Shotover, Hocken Library, Photographic Collection, 85.1038
- Sew Hoy's Fourth Dredge at Big Beach, Lower Shotover, Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0338
- Choie Sew Hoy as a young man (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0344
- Choie Sew Hoy [Bill] (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0345
- Kum Poy Sew Hoy, son of Choie Sew Hoy (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 86.0346
- Kum Yok Sew Hoy and son Kum Poy (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection, 81.453
- Sew Hoy's Stafford Street business in Dunedin (undated), Hocken Library Photograph Collection (building still stands)
- Biography of Choie Sew Hoy

Photographs (Nigel Chang 2001)

- Figure 1: View East across Big Beach
- Figure 2: View of dredge remains
- Figures 3 and 4: Eastern and Southern elevations of the dredge remains
- Figure 5: Tail race north from the dredge
- Figure 6: Looking south toward eastern edge of the beach

Maps and Plans

- Topographical view of Big Beach and position of dredge remains
- Cadastral Map of Big Beach
- Boundary of proposed Historic Area
- SO 6693 C.Sew Hoy's Special Claim Big Beach, Mining Survey, September 1887. Land Information New Zealand



CHOIE SEW HOY'S dredging claim at Big Beach on the Shotover River, painted by L. W. Wilson in 1895. The view is upstream, and beyond the gorge in the middle of the picture are Arthurs Point and Morning Star Beach. Downstream, out of the picture to the left, are Tucker and Talisman beaches. All these beaches were dredged by the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Co., but the richest and most extensive deposits were at Big Beach itself. [Dunedin Public Art Gallery]

enterprise. The first Cromwell Gold Dredging Co., founded in 1884, was one-seventh Chinese-owned.¹¹³ The company built a state-of-the-art dredge in 1885 which worked the lower Kawarau River, but it failed because it was a current-wheeler, bucket-and-ladder type, relying on the river current to drive its dredging buckets. The dredge worked well in the middle of the river where the swift flow had swept the river-bed nearly clean of gold, but it worked poorly at the river sides and beaches where the gold lay.¹¹⁴ The company went into liquidation in 1887. Ironically, its relinquished river claims gave spectacular gold returns to later steam-driven bucket-and-ladder dredges of the Electric and other gold-dredging companies, thereby precipitating the second Otago gold-dredging boom from 1896. I am not aware of any other direct involvement of Chinese in gold-dredging, although Don's collection of photographs includes one group of Chinese standing by a small unidentified dredge.

Mention has been made of how quickly the Chinese took up sluicing. In addition to Choie Sew Hoy and Choie Kum Poy, a small number of other Chinese progressed to using the hydraulic elevator, seven known groups in Otago and Southland -- at Waipori, Upper Nevis, Naseby and Orepuki. The total might well have been higher as our information was gathered very

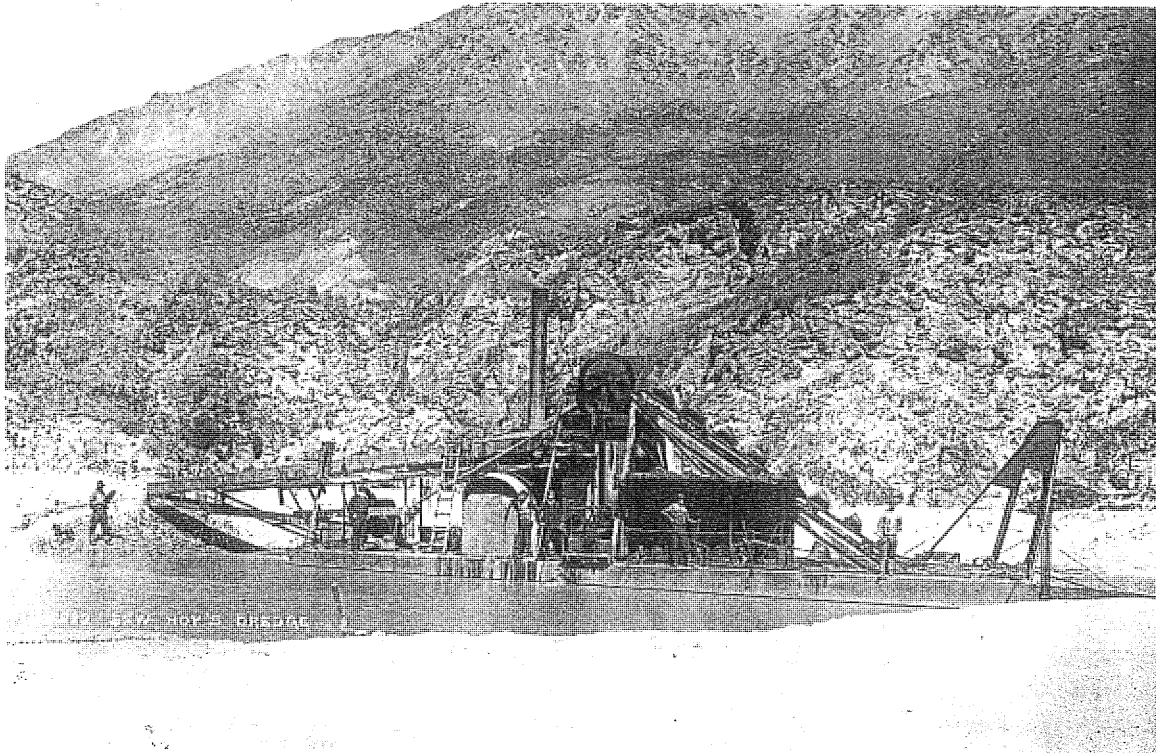
Big Beach.

Chapter 2E Last of the Gold

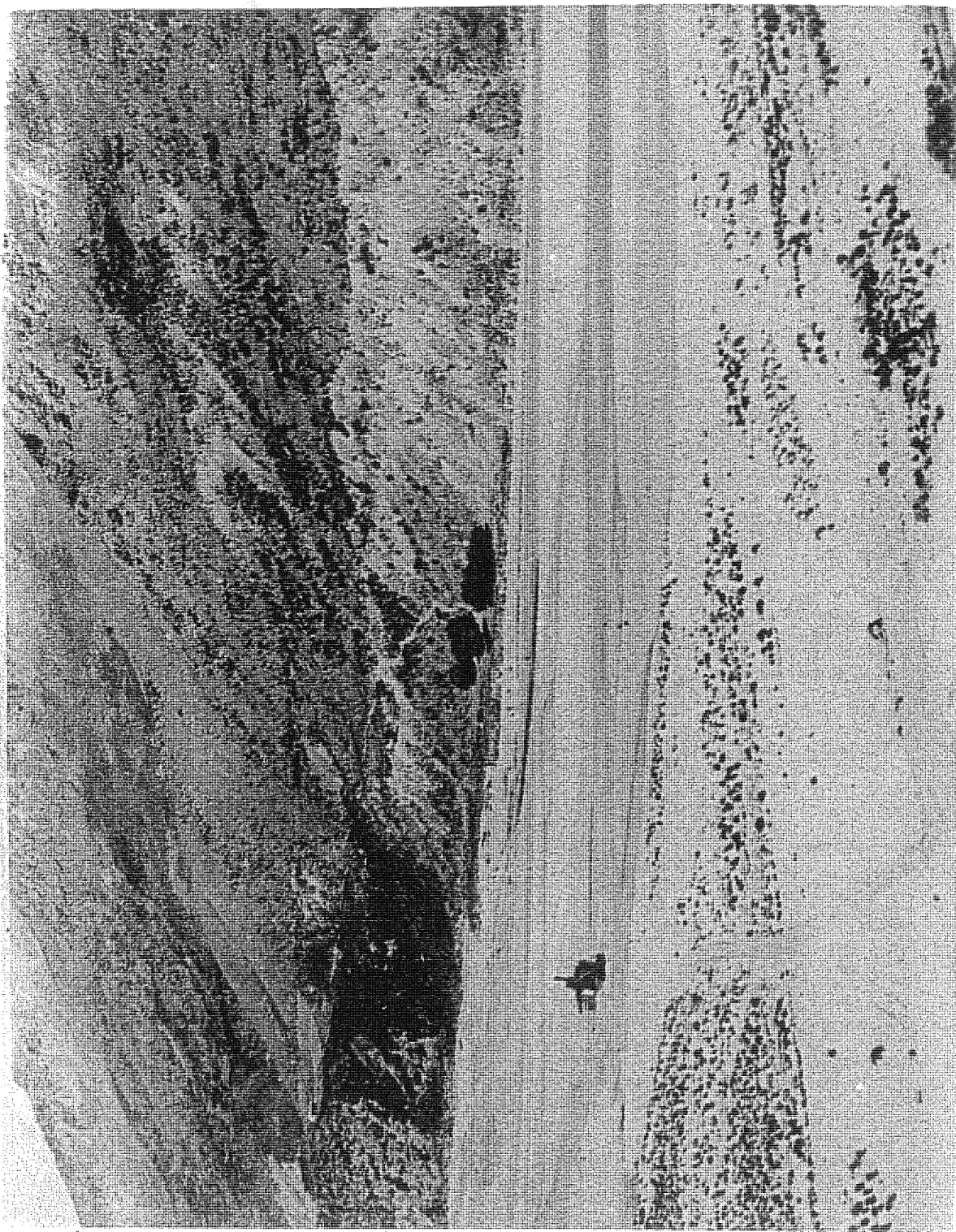
Golden Stream Water Race Company in partnership with R. Glenn and P. Beer, supplying part of the Kyeburn Diggings (1890).¹⁰⁶ He initiated the Big Beach dredging operation with a new type of gold-dredge at Arthurs Point (1889-97) which set off the first Otago gold-dredging boom (1889-91) and set the seal on the province's mining and economic revival.¹⁰⁷ His claims and explorations at Cardrona sparked off a scramble for dredging claims there (1890).¹⁰⁸ As a measure of his standing, it was rumoured in 1894 that he would dredge the Molyneux River below Cromwell, and in 1897 and again in 1899 that he would dredge the Kawarau River at his claim near the old Morven Ferry.¹⁰⁹ These rumours were enough to add fuel to the second gold-dredging boom then gathering force. In 1902, Otago and Southland had a fleet of 171 dredges with 30 more being built, nearly all patterned on the 'Sew Hoy dredge'.

Furthermore, Sew Hoy and his second son, Choie Kum Poy—their careers are discussed more fully later—were leading exponents of gold-slucing by hydraulic elevating. Sew Hoy became familiar with this method when a hydraulic sluicing and elevating operation was added to dredging by the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Co. at the periphery of its Big Beach claim.¹¹⁰ This knowledge father and son then applied to the audacious sluicing venture which became known as the (Sew Hoy) Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Co. (1894-1926). For many years this company was the premier sluicing operation in New Zealand.¹¹¹ Moreover, this Sew Hoy project led to a mining revival at Nokomai and associated goldfields in the Waikaia goldfields district of northern Southland.¹¹² From 1926, long after Sew Hoy's death, restructurings of the Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Co. kept it alive under different names, with Kum Poy continuing to hold a principal interest until his death in 1942. When the venture closed in 1943, it had lasted an extraordinary length of time at Nokomai, and was, appropriately, the last Chinese goldmining venture in New Zealand. Appropriately, too, it was the last significant mine in the Waikaia goldfields district.

I was also surprised to read of Chinese involvement in an earlier but ill-fated dredging



BUILT IN 1888, the specially designed 'Sew Hoy dredge' of the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Co. was the first dredge capable of working river beaches and flats as well as the river-bed. The amount of new ground thus made available to mining was estimated in 1890 to be about 13,000 acres (5260ha) in Otago alone. The 'Sew Hoy dredge' was to form the basic design of the famous 'New Zealand gold-dredge.' [Dominion Museum]

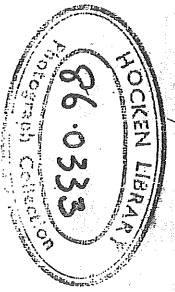


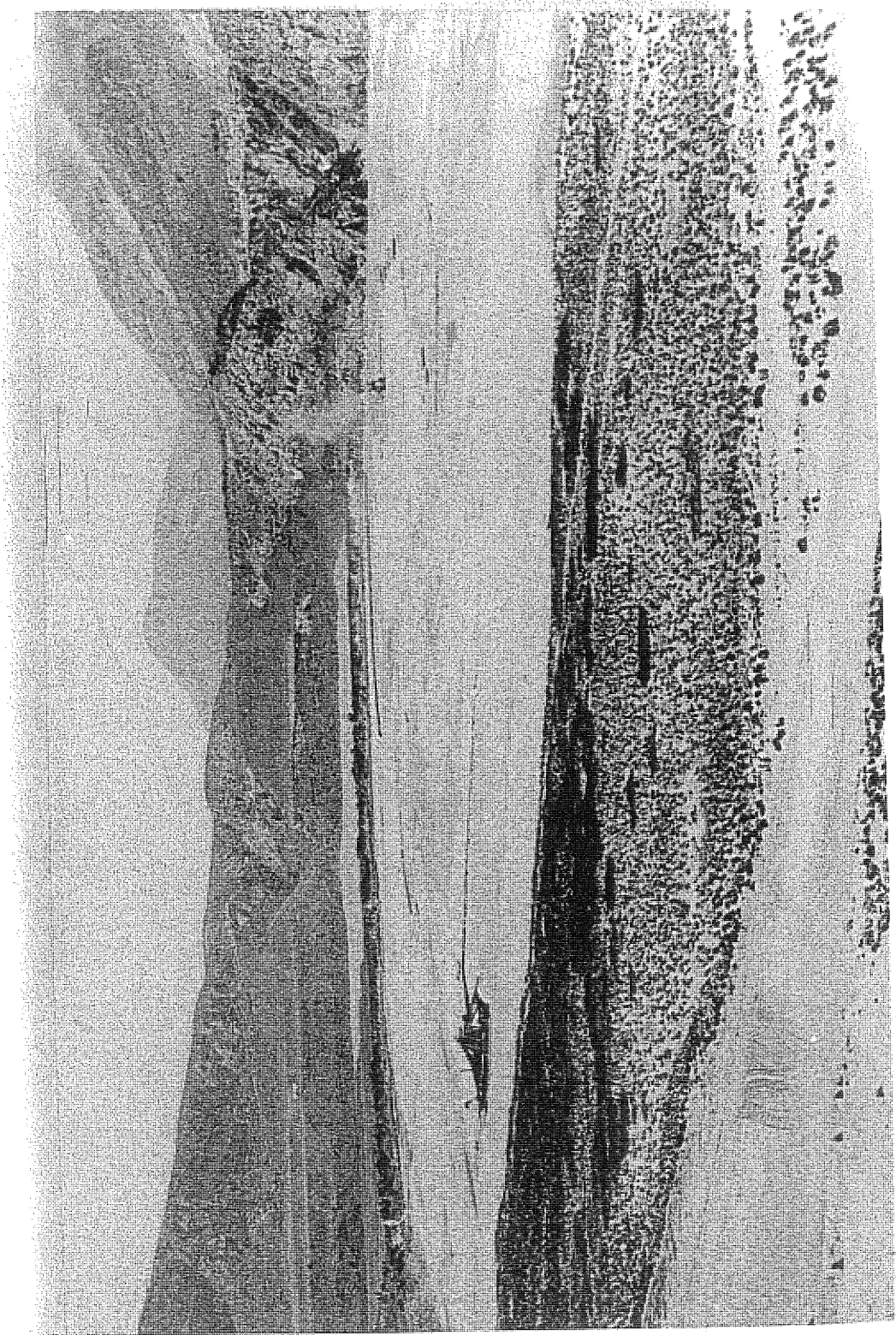
SHOTOVER RIVER Goldrunny - Bridges - Sew Hoy's Bridge

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op. pr. lens [Mrs. Howard] via Dr. J. Ng
Sun Apr 1986



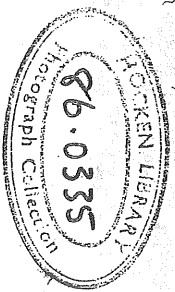


SHOTOVER. RIVER Goldmining - Dredgers - Saw Hoy's bridge
Big Beach (Saw Hoy's Big Beach now (1988) Thompson's Beach)

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op from ph land. (ex Mrs Almond) via Dr J. Ng
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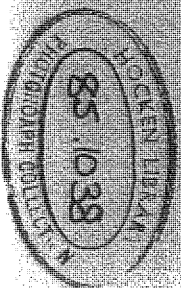
ARTHUR'S POINT
Big Beach, Sharrow

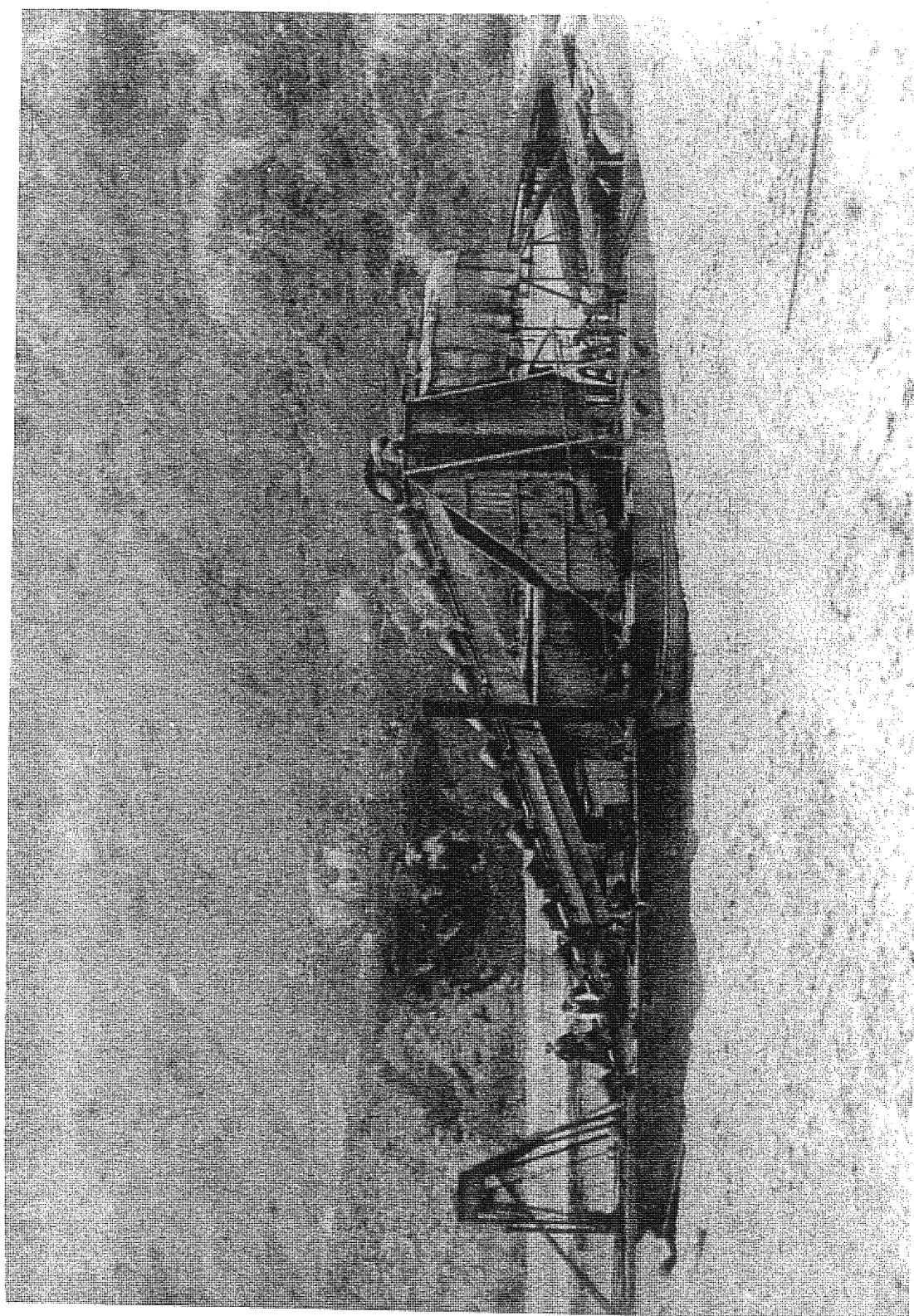
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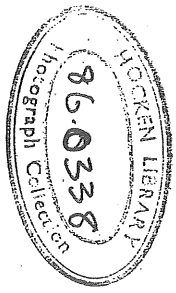


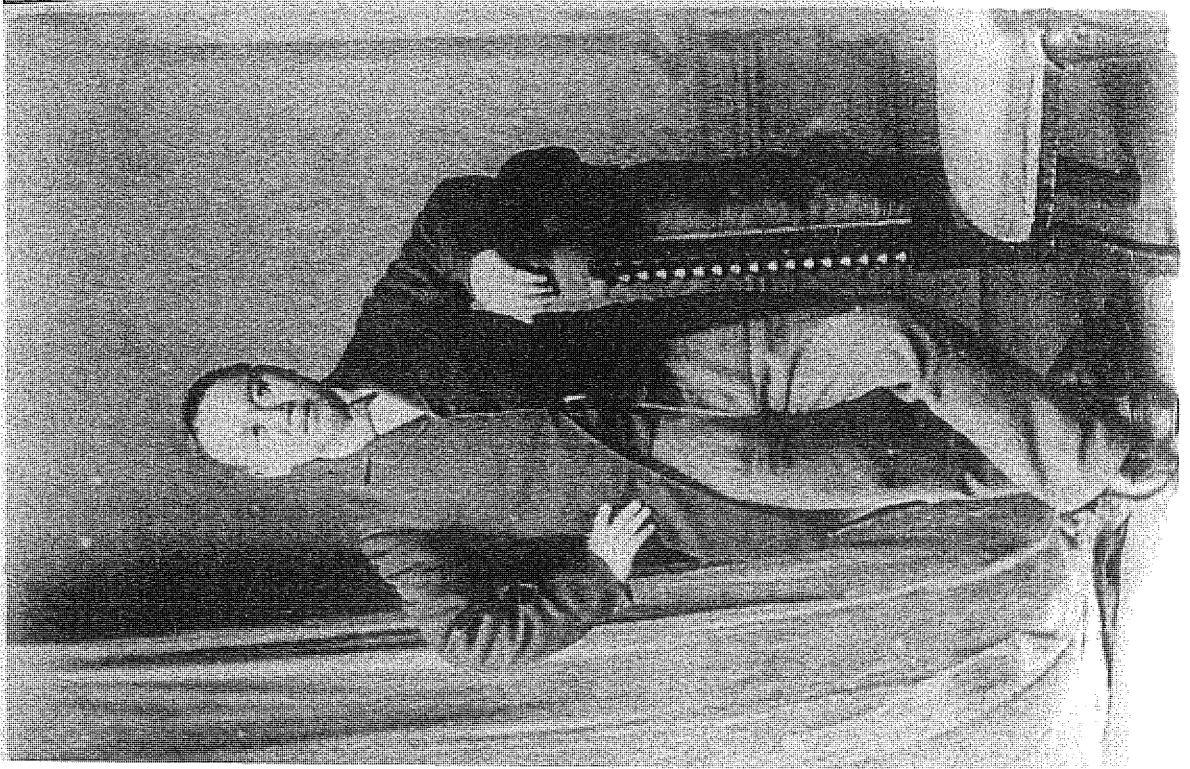
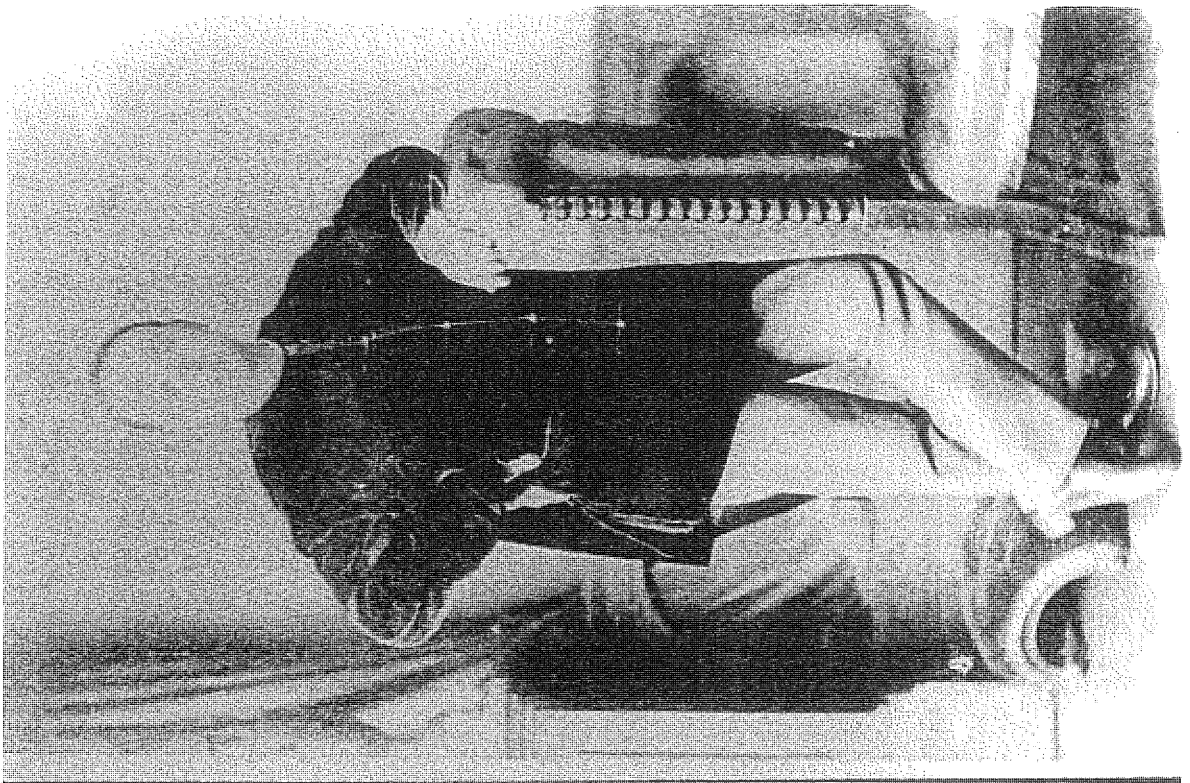
PORTRAITS: SEW 1404 - Goldmining - 415 Bridge
Big Beach - houses Shofner

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op ph card (over hunt) via Dr J. Ng
Dunedin Jul 1986





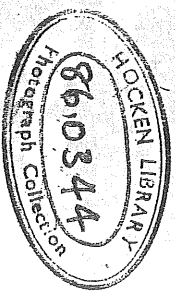
PORTRAIT: SEW HOY, Choie

As a young man

plate 3161/18

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opposite A. Sew Hoy
Dunedin July 1988





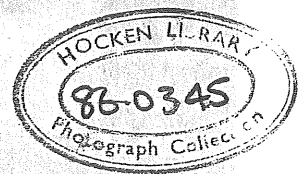
PORTRAIT: SEW HOY, [Bill] Choie

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cp ph lent A. Sew Hoy
Dun Jul 1986



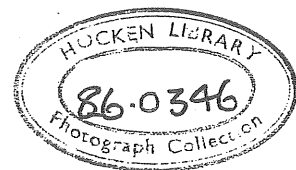


PORTRAITS: SEW HOY, Kum Poy
father of Arthur, son of Chaié

cf E 3163/23

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cp ph lent. A. Sew Hoy
Dec Jul 1986





d 1901 aged 70
KUM YOK SEW HOY & Son Kum Poy. d. ~~1942~~,
(charter)

of Big Beach on the shore of Dunedin.

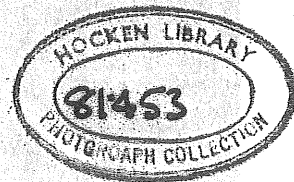
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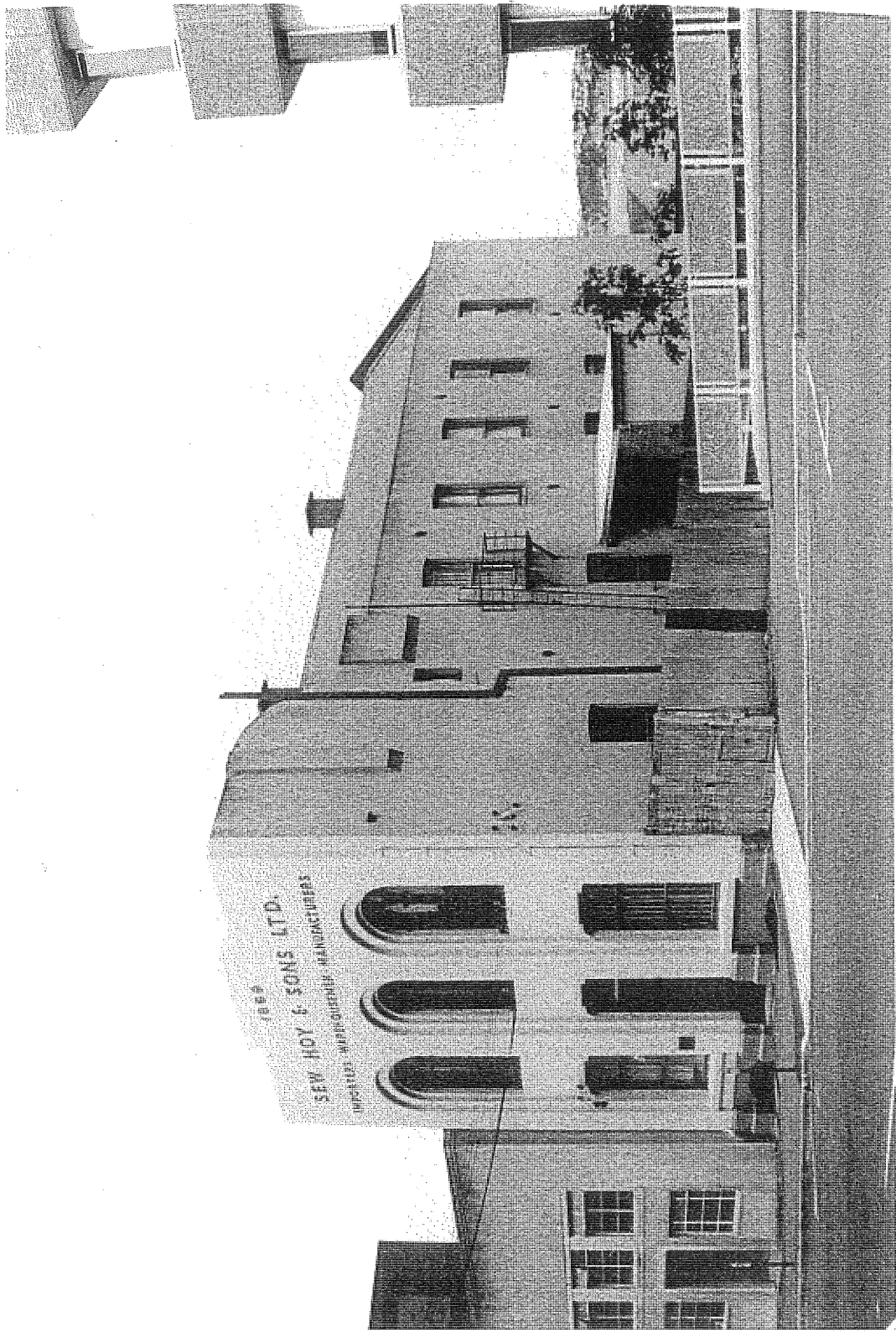
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PORTRAIT : Sew Hay
Dunedin Stafford Street Business

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Sew Hoy, Charles 1836-1838? - 1901
Merchant, Chinese leader, gold-dredger

Charles Sew Hoy was known to Chinese as Choie Sew Hoy, Choie being his clan name. He signed himself Sew Hoy in English, and this became his English surname. He was born probably between 1836 and 1838. His father, Choie Bing Some, was a farmer of Sha Kong (She Gang) village, north of Canton (Guangzhou) in the upper district of Panyu county, Guangdong province, China; his mother's name is not known.

Sew Hoy went with other Cantonese gold-seekers to California, then to Victoria, and on to Otago, New Zealand, in about 1868 - two years after the arrival of the first Chinese mining parties. He opened a store in Dunedin in 1869 and developed into a successful merchant importing Chinese goods. Like other Chinese merchants in the city he became a social focus for the Chinese miners: providing advice, help and credit; outfitting and provisioning newcomers; and supplying Chinese stores in the goldfields. Sew Hoy was also twice reported to be exporting Jew's ear fungus (*Auricularia polytricha*) to China, despite his distance from the North Island forests where it grew.

Unlike most of his fellow Chinese, who saw themselves only as sojourners, Sew Hoy was naturalised in 1873. He did not, however, bring his wife to New Zealand, although a few Chinese wives began arriving in Dunedin from 1873. Virtually nothing is known of her except that her name was Young Soy May, and that her two sons, Kum Yok and Kum Poy, came to New Zealand. There was at least one other child, a daughter, who remained in China. At some point Sew Hoy and Eliza Ann (sometimes known as Eliza Lilly) Prescott began living together in a modest villa in Dunedin and had two children: Violet and Henry. It was presumably as a result of Eliza's influence that the children attended Anglican schools, since Sew Hoy probably never became a Christian. Eliza died on 15 February 1909, aged 40.

Sew Hoy became a prominent leader of Otago's Chinese miners, most of whom also came from the upper Panyu district; as one man put it: 'If Sew Hoy tell you a stone roll uphill, you believe him.' He commanded respect from Chinese and European alike, not least because he opposed opium smoking, and because his word was his bond. To Europeans he was well known for his 'interest in public affairs.... As everyone knows, his name invariably figured on subscription lists'. Being bilingual, he was able to mix in European society, and joined St John Kilwinning Lodge of the Freemasons. By the early 1880s he was the best-known Chinese in Dunedin.

Sew Hoy's reputation spread, particularly because of his goldmining investments. He had 11 known mining interests, most notably in gold dredging. In 1887 he acquired 140 acres at Big Beach, a gold-bearing flat of about 250 acres on the Shotover River. Its surface ground had been worked over but Chinese miners had told Sew Hoy of the potential of its waterlogged deeper layers. In 1888 he decided to dredge Big Beach, although gold dredging was in its infancy and dredge design was still being pioneered. Previous dredging attempts had only limited success because the machinery used was faulty in design.

Sew Hoy formed the Shotover Big Beach Gold Mining Company in 1888. He held 146 of the 300 shares; Kum Yok was another shareholder, and the remainder were Europeans. After watching the Dunedin harbour dredge at work Sew Hoy ordered one of a similar type. In 1889 the 'Sew Hoy dredge' was working successfully on ground even 'quite away from the river'; it was designed for working the river flat as well as the bed. Its remarkable returns - as much as £40 for one day's dredging - created a 'dredging fever' which resulted in Otago's first gold-dredging boom from 1889 to 1891. Sew Hoy was regarded as the chief figure of the Shotover company, which not only opened up river flats to dredging but also firmly established dredging as a commercially feasible and profitable branch of goldmining.

The company was reorganised in 1889 as the Sew Hoy Big Beach Gold Mining Company. It built three more dredges and was the principal New Zealand gold-dredging company until 1897. It chose voluntary liquidation in 1897 after Big Beach was worked out. By this time, however, numerous companies were following Sew Hoy's lead, especially after the Electric Gold Dredging Company struck sensational returns on the Kawarau River. Dredging in fact led Otago's mining (and provincial) revival and ultimately won about one-third of its total gold production. The Sew Hoy dredge became the direct prototype of the New Zealand gold dredge, which itself became the leading gold-dredging design in the world.

From 1894, however, Sew Hoy and Kum Poy were concentrating on extensive hydraulic sluicing and elevating at Paddy's Alley, Nokomai, in north-west Southland. Here too they were perceptive and innovative and used a workforce of both Chinese and Europeans. Nokomai had been almost deserted when they arrived, but by 1895 news of Sew Hoy's initiatives led to a rush of new mining applications, 'dazzling'

promises and a sustained mining revival in northern Southland. By 1898 Sew Hoy and his son had spent £15,000 and needed another £6,000. Consequently, in 1898 they floated the Nokomai Hydraulic Sluicing Company with themselves as the major shareholders; for many years the company was the top registered sluicing concern in New Zealand.

Sew Hoy proved decisively that nineteenth century New Zealand Chinese had the capacity and ability to undertake advanced mining projects, and could successfully enter the European world. Yet he did not abandon his Chinese traditions. The Cheong Shing Tong - the benevolent society of Panyu and Hua migrants which operated from his store - helped the poor and elderly. In 1883 the society was responsible for exhuming 230 Chinese dead and conveying them to Guangdong. Sew Hoy died on 22 July 1901 at Dunedin, where he was buried. His body was disinterred in 1902 during another mass exhumation and placed on board the *Ventnor*, bound for China. Unfortunately the ship sank off Hokianga, and his remains, along with most of the other 498 bodies, were lost. It is still remembered, however, that he wished to be buried in the Cheong Shing Tong's cemetery in upper Panyu, with the bodies of otherwise friendless former associates buried around him.

JAMES NG

McLintock, A. H. 'Sew Hoy, Charles'. In *An encyclopaedia of New Zealand*. Ed. A. H. McIntock. Wellington, 1966

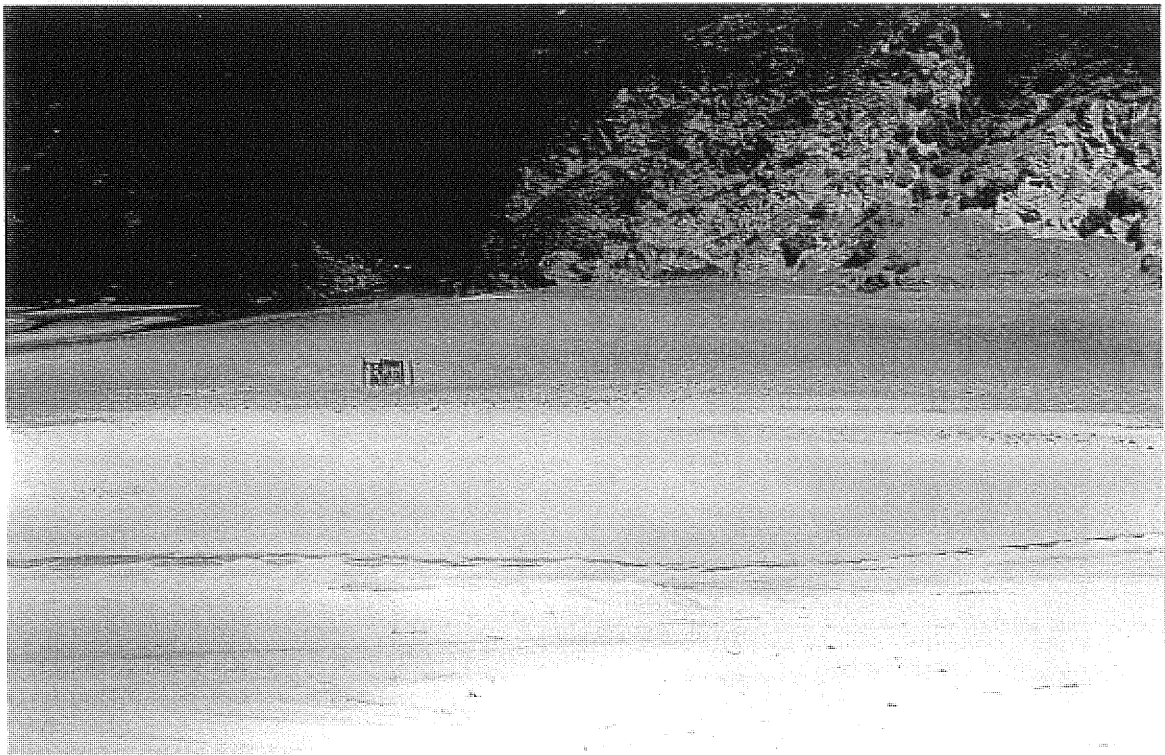
HOW TO CITE THIS BIOGRAPHY:

Ng, James. 'Sew Hoy, Charles 1836-1838? - 1901' *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, updated 16 December 2003
URL: <http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/>

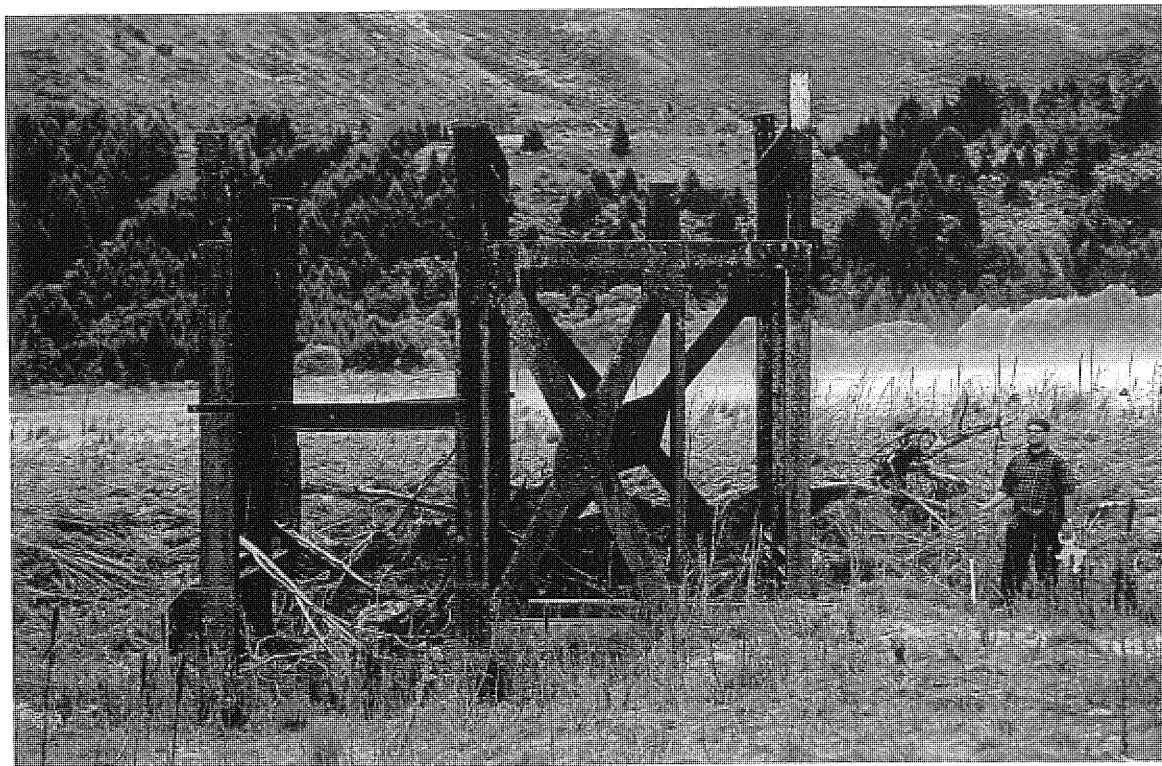
The original version of this biography was published in the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* Volume Two (1870-1900), 1993
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(13) Figure 1: Looking east across Big Beach. The dredge remains are the small dot near the centre of the picture.

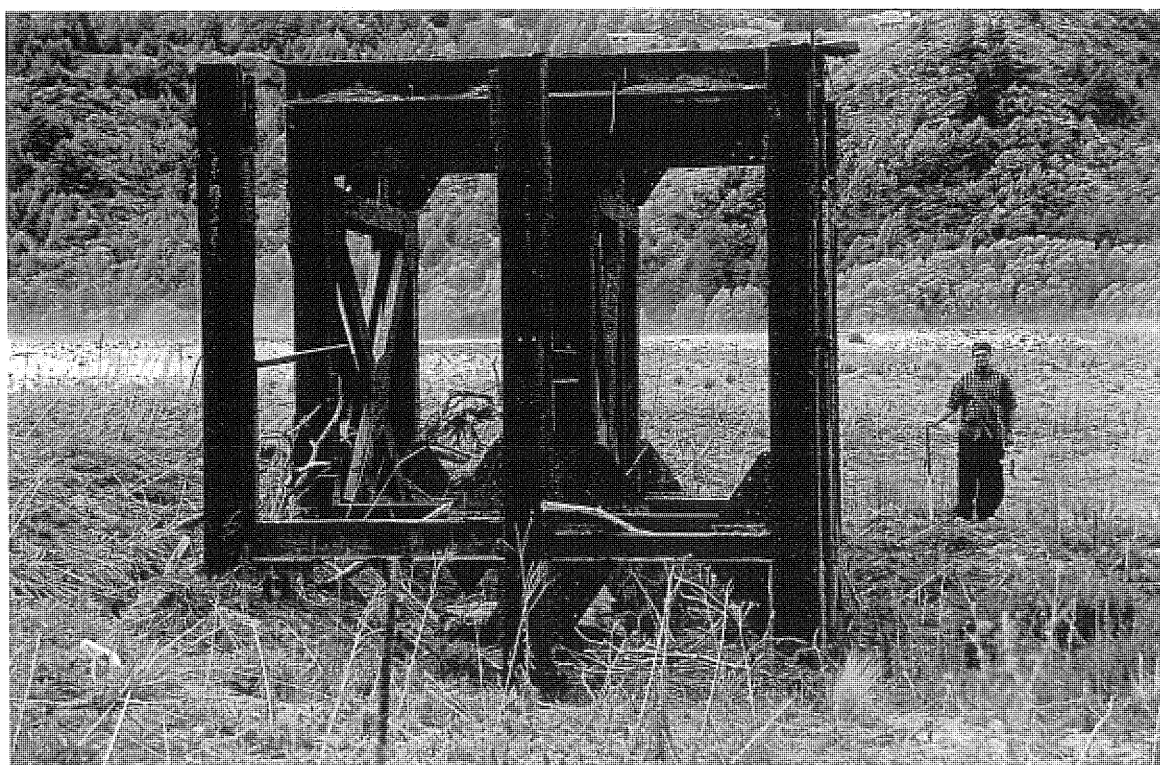


(14) Figure 2: A closer view of the dredge remains with the Shotover river gorge in the background.



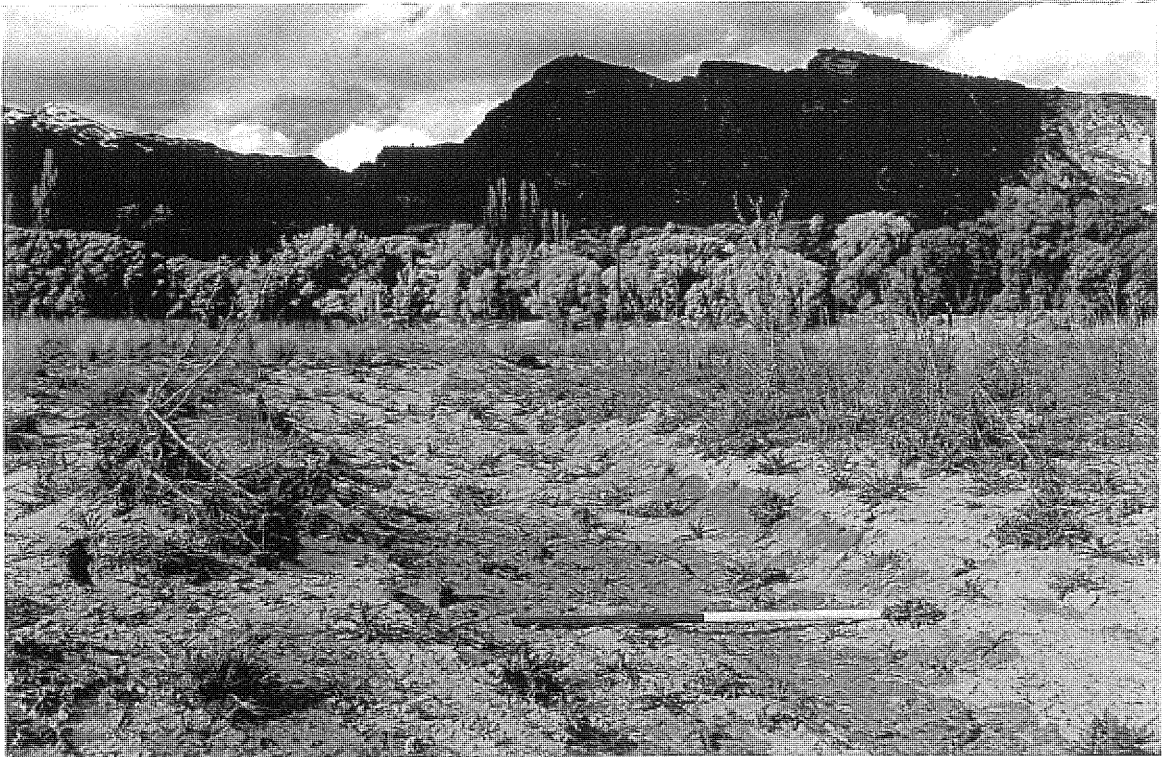
(15)

Figure 3: The eastern elevation of the dredge remain. The scale is in 50 cm divisions.

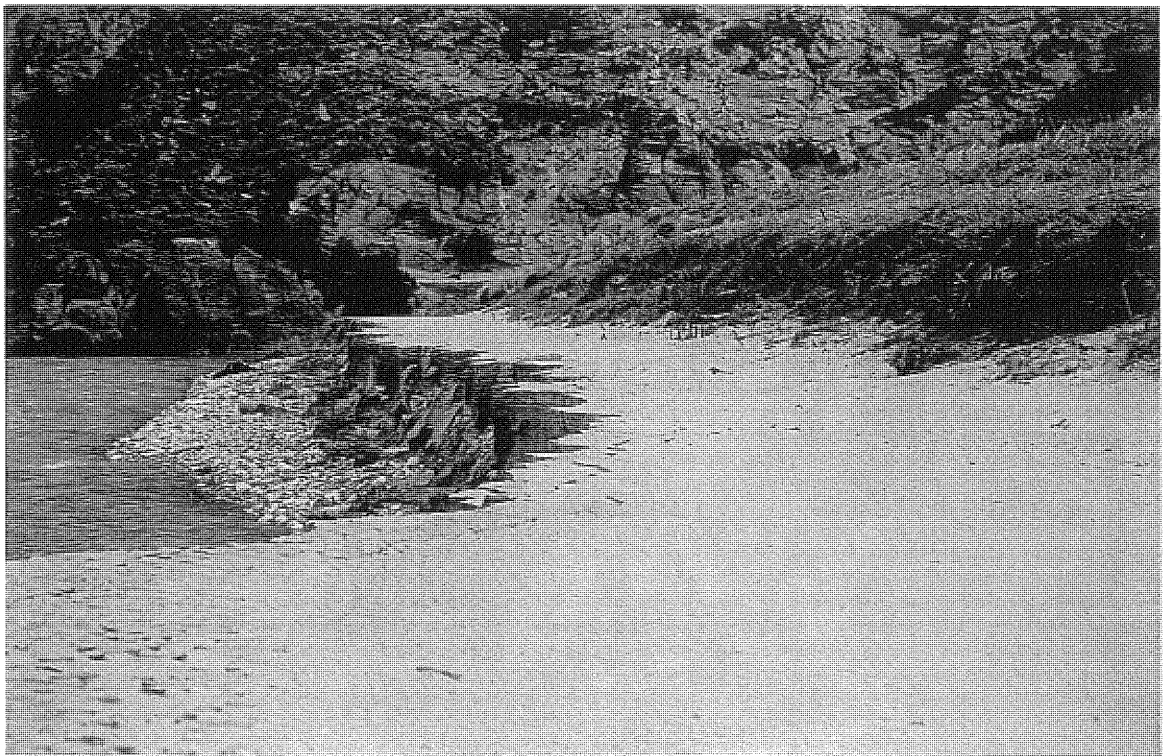


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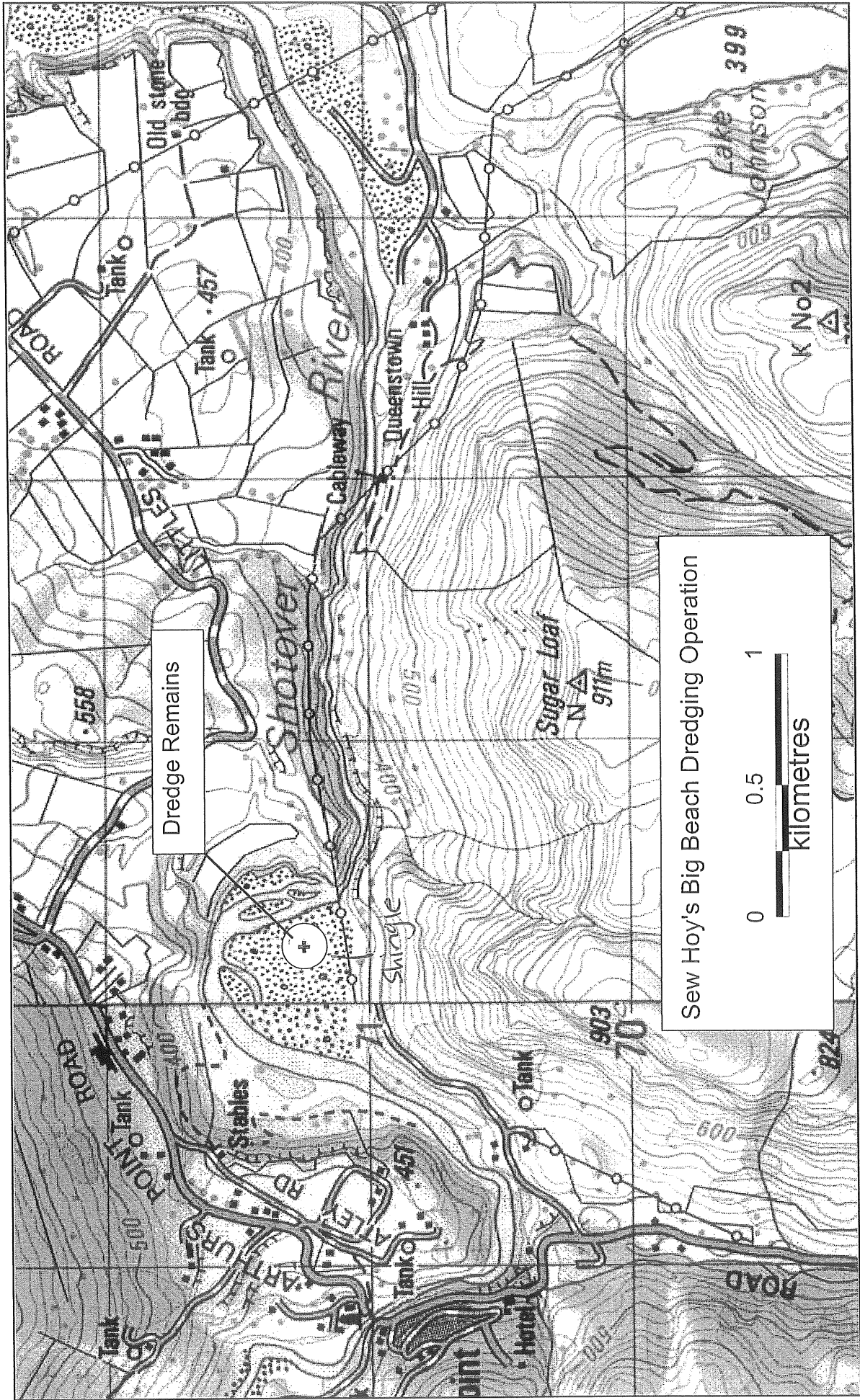
Figure 4: The southern elevation of the dredge remains. Note that the impression of the dredge pond surrounding the dredge is still evident. The scale is in 50 cm divisions.



(17) Figure 5: Tail race leading north from the dredge to the river bank. The scale is in 50 cm divisions.



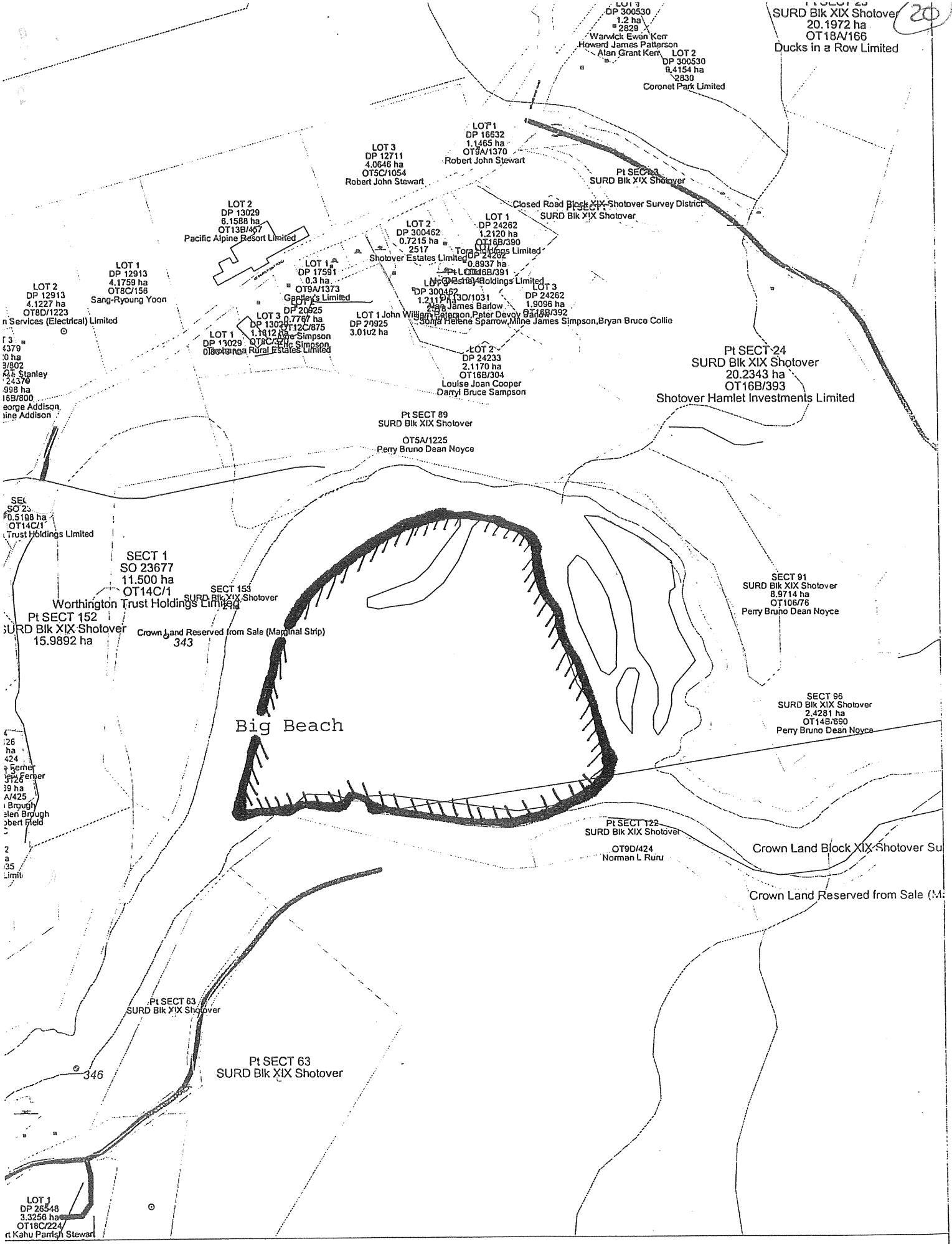
(18) Figure 6: Looking south along the eastern edge of the beach.



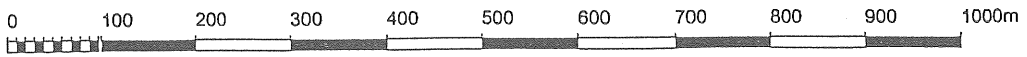
Dredge Remains

Sew Hoy's Big Beach Dredging Operation

0 0.5 1
kilometres

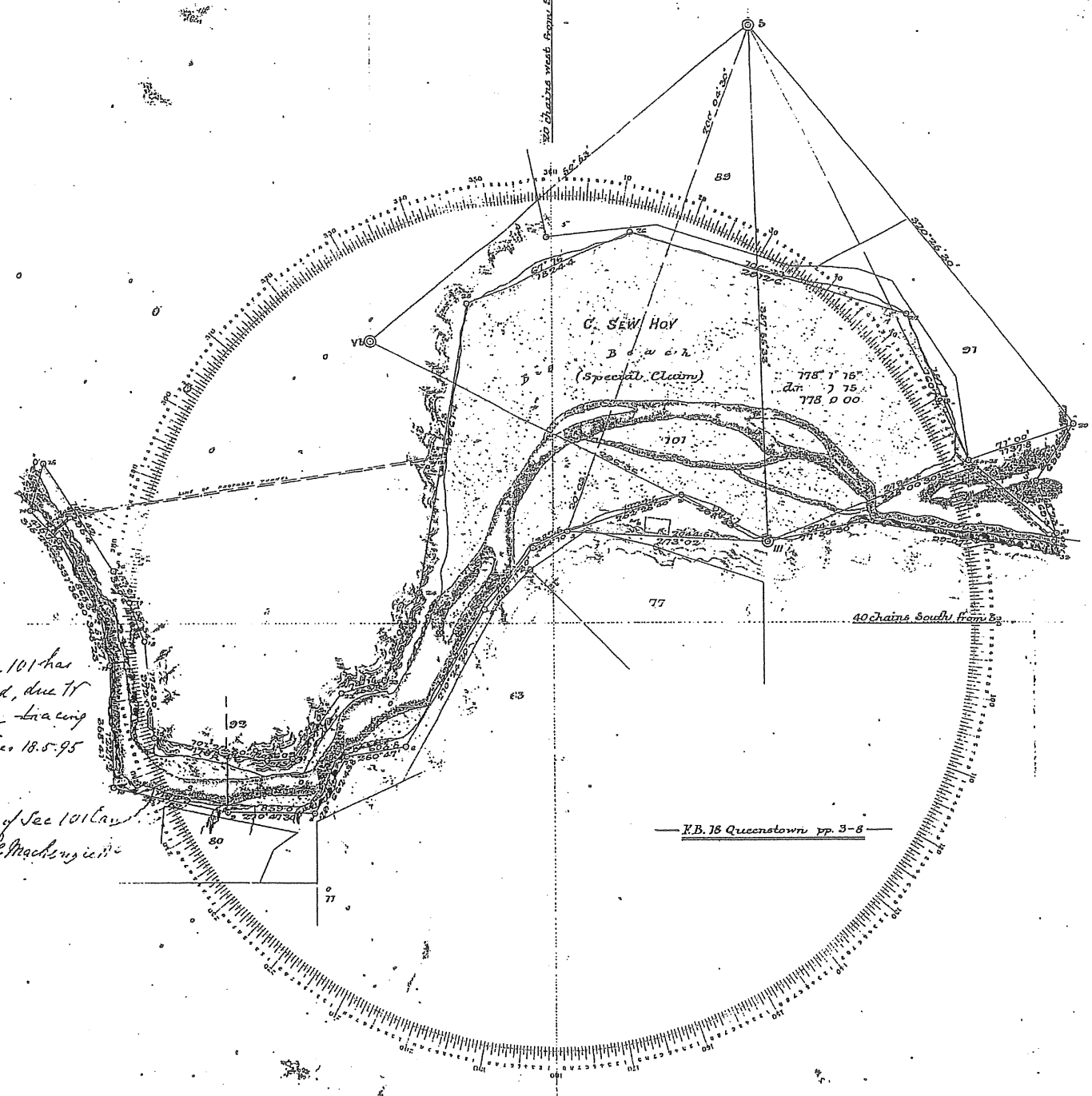


QuickMap
Custom Software Ltd



Scale 1:8000 Big Beach: Topographical and Cadastral map derived from LINZ data.

Proposed Boundary.



16.1.17 of Sec 101 has been cancelled, due to peg 9. See tracing of Mackenzie 18.5.95 No. 416.
Another portion of Sec 101 has been tracing of Mackenzie

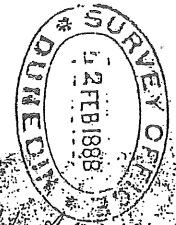
(Chains - pp 350-4)
19/11/87
in possession of
19/11/87
19/11/87

Field Sketch of Section 101

MINING 6693

Block XIX Strotover District,
Surveyed by *C. H. Schmit* Asst Surveyor
Date *September 1887*

Scale 10 Chains to an Inch



C. H. Schmit
Chief Surveyor
Feb 2 1888

Measured lines to be drawn in red, calculated or stated lines in black, observed bearings in blue, and distances in black and blue, respectively. Draw a red circle round each peg and number it in black. The name of the station, the name of the surveyor and the date of the survey to be written in black.