
DENICULL CREEK GOLD MINING SITE

Location

ROCKY POINT ROAD DENICULL CREEK, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0070

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

The mining site at Denicull Creek probably relates to alluvial mining for gold during the second half of the 19th century. The suite of features present suggest that the miners were working a high level auriferous drift. This interpretation is supported by the fact that the site is located 5-10m above the nearby watercourse.

Interpretation of Site

The narrow square shafts were possibly drift shafts dug to test the extent of auriferous gravel. Washdirt was probably extracted from the pits. The races and dams would have been used to provide water to sluice or wash the gravel. The races below the dam and along the western section of the site may have been tail races, used to drain water and tailings from the mining activities. The small mullock dumps are probably tailing mounds from the shafts and pits.

There is some suggestion that the cylindrical, northern-most shaft was dug by Chinese miners. Property owner, Mr Darren House, recounted a story that Chinese miners dug round shafts because they believed evil spirits would lurk in the corners of square shafts.

Hermes Number

12411

Property
Number

History

Mining commenced in the Ararat region in 1854 and the site probably dates around this time.

It is possible that both European and Chinese miners were engaged in high level auriferous drift mining at the site during the second half of the 19th century.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>