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# FIDDLERS GULLY REEF FORGE

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## Location

NORTH OF CLARK'S ROAD, MOONLIGHT PINE PLANTATION

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1255

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 8, 2022

### What is significant?

Fiddlers Gully Reef Forge has the potential to contain moderate archaeological significance and moderate archaeological potential to provide information on the quartz mining technologies during the Mount Alexander gold rush. The forge site is located to the south of Fiddlers Gully and a side gully. The site comprises a square building 4.5m x 4.5m with stone walls (stone set in mud mortar). In some places walls stand to a height of 1.2m. The southeast corner of the building has collapsed. The building contains a forge and fireplace. Next to the forge, north side of the building is a doorway. However, the building is in poor condition due to pine trees (Moonlight Pine Plantation), therefore the site is highly vulnerable.

The forge is historically significant due to its association with 1860s quartz mining and being part of the heritage of the nationally significant Mount Alexander Gold Rush/Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

### How is it significant?

### Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	Part of the Moonlight Pine Plantation and hence there is always a threat that it will be accidentally demolished.
Hermes Number	208832
Property Number	

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## History

Fiddler's Gully was initially mines for alluvial gold. In 1856, the gully had at least one puddling machine. In the 1860s, Fiddlers Gully Reef was opened and small scale quartz mining undertaken. This forge most likely, due to its location/association with mullock, dates from the 1860s.

*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/>*