

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 27/02/20



HERONS REEF HISTORIC GOLD DIGGINGS



1 herons reef tourist mine wall



herons reef plan



Herons Reef Tourist Mine Plan

Location

VAUGHAN-CHEWTON ROAD FRYERSTOWN, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1323

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO968

VHR Registration

June 19, 1997

Amendment to Registration

June 14, 2001

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 18, 2000

What is significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings takes in a tangle of gullies at the head of Golden Gully and possesses a comprehensive range of gold mining relics, habitation sites and blacksmith forges. The area was first important for alluvial gold, with Golden Gully rushed in early 1852. From 1859 the mining focus shifted to the various reefs that crossed the gully. The main quartz mine was operated by the Anglo Australian Company (later known as Fryers Creek Gold Mining Company) from 1869-90. Golden Gully was hydraulically sluiced at the turn of the century, and appears to have been a favoured ground sluicing locality during the 1930s.

How is it significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved mining landscape which possesses examples of many forms of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. The mining relics at the Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings are important in illustrating the ongoing and changing nature of gold mining, and how the gold miners lived and repaired their mining equipment.

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves. This significance is enhanced due to the protection the place by the owner from 'treasure hunting'.

Permit Exemptions

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

No permits are required for the following classes of works:

* future Landcare, including noxious weed and vermin control, erosion and salinity.

* operation of the owner's gold mining tours

Construction dates 1852,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Other Names ANGLO AUSTRALIAN MINE SITE, HERONS REEF TOURIST GOLD MINE,
Hermes Number 11555
Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1323 in the category described as a Heritage place, Archaeological place is now described as:

Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings, Chewton-Fryerstown Road, Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the land including the remnants of buildings, forges, dams, ground sluices, mullock heaps, mining machinery foundations, water races and any other archaeological relics and deposits, marked L1, L2, and L3 on Diagram 607521 held by the Executive Director, being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 9506, Fol 324 and all the land described in Certificate of Title Vol 790 Fol 889 and Vol 721, Fol 087.

Dated 12 June 2001

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 24 14 June 2001 1280-1281]

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 data owner.

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