
Old Tom Reef Mine, Alluvial Workings and Cyanide Works and Unfortunate Bolle's Reef Mine



Old Tom Reef Mine and Alluvial Workings



Old Tom Reef Cyanide Works



Unfortunate Bolle's Reef Mine

Location

CA 4 Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road, WOODVALE VIC 3556 - Property No 198895

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO705

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

(Old Tom Reef Mine and Alluvial Workings)

The site has considerable potential to educate and illustrate important aspects of mining on Bendigo because it displays a comprehensive sequence of activities over time: shallow surface alluvial workings, quartz mining,

sluicing, puddling, cyaniding; being part of a group or network of sites, the totality of which is considered to be significant (criterion C) and is associated with all the stages of mining in the Whipstick area (criterion A). The puddling machine at this site is significant because it is well preserved, because it is of large size and there is anecdotal evidence that it was not constructed until after 1930. It is therefore extremely useful as a reference site for comparing and dating with puddling machines found at other sites (criterion C).

(Old Tom Reef Cyanide Works)

The site is associated with the small-scale re-treatment of tailings by the cyanide process and represents the last phase of mining on Old Tom Reef which first began in 1860 (criterion A). The Old Tom Reef site is the most intact of the smaller cyaniding sites in the study area (criterion B) and is associated with other significant sites in the neighbourhood (that is, Old Tom Reef mine and alluvial workings and the Raywood Channel).

(Unfortunate Bolle's Reef Mine)

The site displays all the characteristics of reefs in the Whipstick area - very rich on the surface and poor at depth and has the potential to illustrate an important phase of mining in this area (criterion C). It also contains some well-preserved 1860s shallow reef workings (criterion D).

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Greater Bendigo - Marong Heritage Study 1999, Andrew Ward and Associates, 1999; |
| Construction dates | 1857, 1930, 1862, |
| Hermes Number | 197457 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Old Tom Reef Mine and Alluvial Workings

Mine site: 40 metre-long mullock heap with one dumping line running north from a filled shaft. The heap has been partially quarried. 20 metres south is a scatter of red hand-made bricks and rough concrete rubble. Further south there are smaller mullock dumps and a line of shallow reef workings.

Surface workings: 30 metres west of the mullock dump, running north, is a line of small mullock paddocks, terminating in a shallow open cut. On the same line to the south, in an area north and west of the most southerly section of reef workings there is an area of hydraulic sluicing. West of the cyanide works and along Scotchman Gully there are patches of shallow alluvial workings.

Battery site: On the eastern side of the open-cut is a small mullock paddock, below which is a spread of hand-made red bricks and fire bricks. Near this rubble is a dry dam, with traces of battery sand nearby.

Puddling machine site: 10 metres north of the water race is the outline of a 20 foot diameter puddling machine. The central mound retains its wooden post and fragments of timber side-boarding are still present in the puddling trench. Water was fed to the puddling machine from the race by a pipe, now largely buried.

The dumps are weathered and partially quarried, but the puddling machine is in good condition.

Physical Description 2

Old Tom Reef Mine and Alluvial Workings

The approximately triangular site is bounded on the south-west by the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road, on the north by Scotsmans Track and on the east by Old Tom Road between the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road and the Raywood Channel and by the Raywood Channel between Old Tom Road and Scotsmans Track.

Physical Description 3

Old Tom Reef Cyanide Works

North of Old Tom Mine, across a concrete-lined water race, is a dump of treated battery sand, which has apparently been shifted from near the battery. On top of the sand dump is a line of depressions signifying three 22 foot diameter cyanide vats. The corrugated iron of which the vats were originally constructed has apparently rusted away. North of the vats is the circular depression for a drainage vat

Physical Description 4

Old Tom Reef Cyanide Works

The approximately triangular site is bounded on the south-west by the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road, on the north by Scotsmans Track and on the east by Old Tom Road between the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road and the Raywood Channel and by the Raywood Channel between Old Tom Road and Scotsman Track.

Physical Description 5

Unfortunate Bolle's Reef Mine

North of Scotsmans Track is a line of reef workings, about 150 metres in length, running approximately north-south . The workings consist of three collapsed shafts and some shallow open-cutting, from which leads an adit. Several shafts have been sunk onto the underlying drive.

Physical Description 6

Unfortunate Bolle's Reef Mine

The site is approximately rectangular, bounded on the south by the Raywood Channel and extending northwards for a distance of 50 metres either side of the workings along the reef.

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/>