
MYSTERIOUS GULLY MINING LANDSCAPE

Location

SOUTH-WEST OF MCDONALD PARK RECREATION AREA, ARARAT HILLS BLOCK, ARARAT REGIONAL PARK ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0093

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 13, 2022

What is significant?

The site is an alluvial mining landscape. Gold was first discovered in the Ararat Region in 1854, with the first workings consisting of alluvial gold sites (including Mysterious Gully). After the initial Ararat Rush, shallow alluvial mining in the area slowed and the majority of gold resources were coming from reworked gullies and creek beds by sluicing or puddling parties, or alternatively by shallow shafts.

The site contains evidence from the first phase of mining (water race and ground sluicing). The ground sluicing was done with water supplied by the race that runs from a dam which is now called Tub and Cradle. The majority of features are shafts (open and filled) to work cement beds that formed a layer in the associated elevated terraces. It is possible that a couple of the shafts were sunk to search for gold in an underlying quartz reef. The remains of two puddling machines were found: one on the eastern end of the embankment of Tub and Cradle Dam; the other near the evidence of ground sluicing. Based on this, the site has moderate archaeological potential to provide an understanding of the Ararat Goldfields during the Victorian Gold Rush era.

The site is historically significant as a shallow alluvial mining landscape in the Ararat Goldfields, presenting good examples of three phases of gold mining including, ground sluicing, puddling, and shaft mining.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Hermes Number 208978

Property Number

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/>