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# OLD TOM CREEK PUDDLING MACHINE SITE

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## Location

RYANS TRACK, WOMBAT STATE FOREST

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-1258

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 30, 2022

### What is significant?

Old Tom Creek was mined for alluvial gold from the early 1850s. In 1861, the local mining surveyor stated that puddling machines were gradually making their appearance in the western portion of his mining division - such as at Old Tom, Champagne, Brandy Hot, Break-of-Day, and adjacent gullies.

The site contains a puddling machine earthen imprint, but no known timber elements. The diameter of the puddling trench is 6m, the horse-way is 1.6m wide and central mound has a diameter of 2.6m. There is an imprint of central post and a drain is on north side.

### How is it significant?

This site is of local historical significance, technological and archaeological significance.

### Why is it significant?

The Old Tom Puddling Machine is significant as a feature of the gold rush and is a rare example of puddling activities in the Wombat State Forrest. It is significant and an example of puddling technology and demonstrates the different periods of gold mining withing the area.

Interpretation of Site Puddling machine site

Hermes Number 209313

Property Number

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## History

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*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/>*