

# HARD HILL MINING SITE



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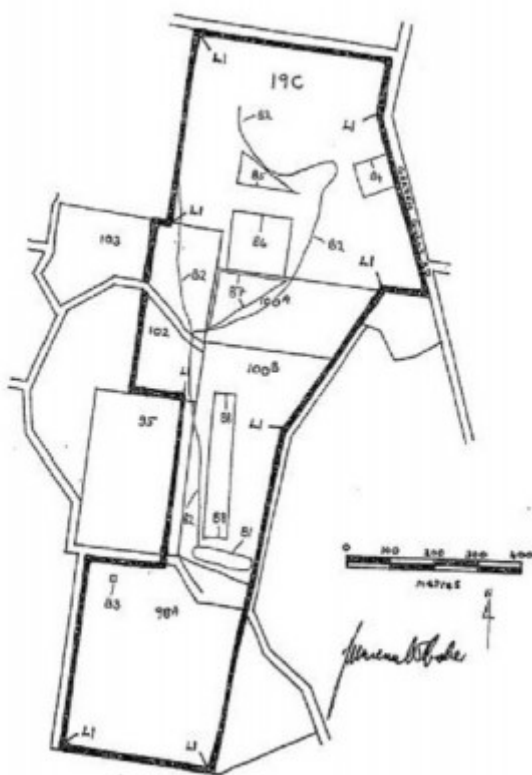
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1 hard hill mining site garden gully road  
stowell landscape mar1990



h01044 plan h1044

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## Location

GARDEN GULLY ROAD and HARD HILL ROAD ARMSTRONG and GARDEN GULLY ROAD GREAT WESTERN, Ararat Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1044

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO114

HO7

## VHR Registration

December 1, 1994

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 4, 1999

The first gold was found at Hard Hill in January 1856 and it continued to be the site of alluvial mining until the 1870s. The area includes an almost intact example of an earthen water race system and associated mining evidence, including domestic and other complexes.

Hard Hill is important for its cultural and social associations with the beginning of gold mining in Victoria, and in particular the Ararat gold field, which experienced possibly the largest rush in the State.

The Chinese Camp is an extraordinary example of a small isolated Chinese mining community forcibly dispossessed from more profitable Ararat goldfield, which experienced possibly the largest rush in the State.

Hard Hill represents modest mid-nineteenth century alluvial mining and the transient nature of domestic occupation associated with such sites. Hard Hill 3 demonstrates the changing pattern of occupancy to the more permanent settlement and exploitation of the region.

The earth and stone water race, extending for over one kilometre around the flank of the Hill, the large earthen dam and sluicing demonstrate considerable ingenuity and engineering ability, constructed as they were using

only local resources and without the benefit of sophisticated technology.

The site is a representative example of a once common small-scale mid-nineteenth century shallow lead alluvial mining landscape. The cement workings in the same area are quite rare and are also essentially intact. The other archaeological features at Hard Hill, comprising habitation sites and refuse deposits associated with the mining, rarely display such integrity.

Hard Hill demonstrates a variety of mining techniques including cement shallow alluvial sinkings and ground sluicing.

Hard Hill, through both the archaeological and mining remains, demonstrates an association with the Chinese miners who played an important role in the history of the Victorian gold rushes. Hard Hill 4 in particular may have significant archaeological potential to further reveal the daily activities of a cultural minority about whom little was recorded.

The discovery of gold at Hard Hill in 1856, one of the earliest on the Ararat gold field, means that the site dates from the earliest period of gold mining in Victoria.

Construction dates	1850,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	2104
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1044-

Hard Hill Mining Site, former Garden Gully Road, Armstrong, Shire of Stawell.

(To the extent of:

1. All of the objects, structures and works known as Hard Hill Mining Site, including the dam (B1), the water race (B2), the house remains (B3), the Chinese Camp (B4), and all of the shafts, adits and alluvial working contained within the areas marked B5, B6, B7 and B8 and marked on Plan 601928B, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

2. All of the land contained in:

Crown Allotment 19C, Section 2, Parish of Concongella South, County of Borung being described in Certificate of Title Volume 9672 Folio 672;

Crown Allotment 102 and portion within 150 metres of the eastern boundary of Crown Allotment 103, Section 15, Parish of Ararat, County of Borung being described in Certificate of Title Vol. 5147 Folio

1029368; Crown Allotment 100B, Section 15, Parish of Ararat, County of Borung being described as Permanent Natural Interest Reserve, Gaz; 1987-064;

Portion of Crown Allotment 100A, Section 15, Parish of Ararat, County of Borung being described as the eastern portion within 50 metres of the eastern boundary being described in Certificate of Title 4177 Folio 835205;

Portion of Crown Allotment 98A Section 15, Parish of Ararat, County of Borung being described as the western portion bounded by the western edge of a south-westward continuation of the Government Road Reserve, the eastern boundary of CA 100B, being described in Certificate of Title Vol. 7358 Folio 1471591;

and marked L1 on Plan No. 601928B, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G48 1 December 1994 pp.3196-3197]

*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/>*