
GARDEN GULLY HOUSE REMAINS

Location

45 GARDEN GULLY ROAD, ARMSTRONG VIC 3377

Municipality

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0099

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 27, 2024

What is significant?

The site appears to have been relatively undisturbed since the end of occupation at the site, providing an opportunity for insight into the day to day lives of miners and farmers from the late 19th to early 20th century. The dwelling pattern in this area of Armstrong and the intact elements are both uncommon. The site has high archaeological significance due to these factors.

How is it significant?

The site has high archaeological significance as it has been relatively untouched since the end of occupation. The historical record indicates a pre-1906 dwelling in the adjoining lot as well as old gold diggings and old orchard within close proximity. The site may offer insight into a denser living area for miners and, later, farmers.

Why is it significant?

The layout, landscaping and kitchen garden elements as well as the dwelling pattern are uncommon.

Interpretation
of Site

E. Whitten Jnr took ownership of the site in 1939 on May 11, it is unclear if this was due to the passing of Whitten Snr or that this was the date the formal title was granted for a site that was marked as a recreation area at the start of the 20th century. The site has remarkable features and appears to have been left relatively untouched, providing potential insight into the daily lives of miners and, later, farmers. The kitchen garden aspect of this site is unusual as is the density of dwelling activity around it, with a dwelling to rear indicating this may have been a hub of quarters near to more significant mining activities further into the land adjoining. Given the significance of the mining works that E. Whitten was undertaking and that he was involved in the operation with at least one other person, this site may provide insight into a rare style of living for the period. Although it is not possible to ascertain the exact date of construction, the site was likely built in the early part of the 20th century with the dwelling behind on an adjoining lot being earlier and potentially from the late 18th century. The site has sat in ruins for many years and has been cleared of much material, but the archaeological potential remains high.

Other Names HOUSE REMAINS - SITE #49,

Hermes
Number 212160

Property
Number

History

Until E. Whitten Jnr took ownership of this lot in 1939, the site was marked out by earlier surveys as a recreational reserve. E. Whitten (unclear if this is Jnr or not) owned the sites on either side of the reserve from prior to 1906, as a survey for another land title application at this time shows the ownership pattern at that time. There is an adjoining site still present at the location where in a 1906 survey it is marked as a "dwelling". Other surveys in this area mention old gold diggings and an old orchard on adjacent and adjoining lots to the subject site. This area appears to show more dense occupation and is unusual for the area. It is not possible to determine when the dwelling was constructed however E. Whitten was living "at an abode at Garden Gully" where he was a successful gold miner with a business partner in 1897 according to an edition of the Town and Country Journal. It is possible that E. Whitten was residing within an adjoining allotment at this time as the survey for the subject site is missing from the archive. Since the house fell into disrepair it has sat in place with likely very little change. This includes the landscaping and garden. The site is unoccupied and presumed owned by the adjoining larger farming property that has access to it via a shared driveway.

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/>