

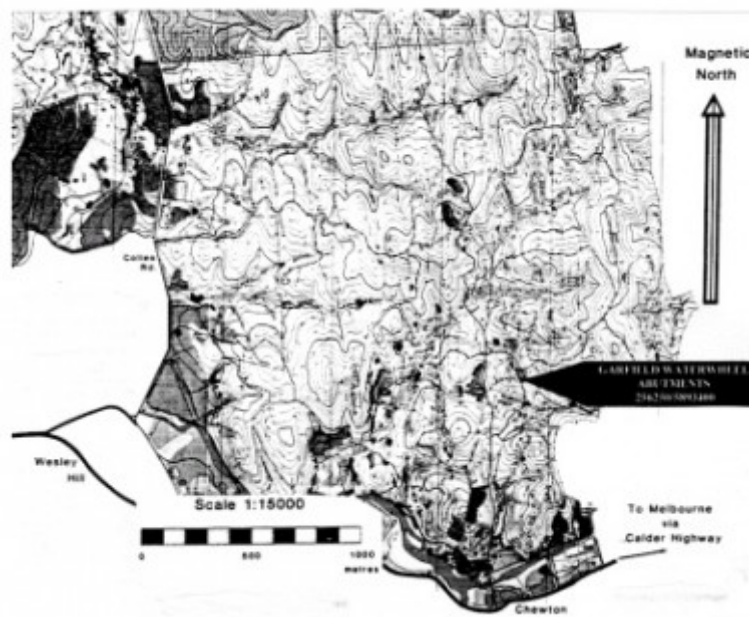
# GARFIELD WATERWHEEL QUARTZ GOLD MINING SITE



GARFIELD WATERWHEEL QUARTZ GOLD MINING SITE SOHE 2008



1 garfield waterwheel quartz gold mining site quartz hill track chewton front view jan1990



garfield waterwheel quartz gold mining site plan

## Location

NORTH STREET CHEWTON, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1356

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO703

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

October 12, 1988

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - May 13, 1999

Quartz reefs near the site were being worked as early as 1856. During the mid-1880s the reefs were being mined by the Garfield Company. In 1887, the company relocated their 23-head quartz crushing battery, replacing its steam boilers with a 70ft diameter waterwheel. The wheel was mounted on large stone foundations and was set in motion by a supply of water from a nearby water race. The race had been installed by the State government, as part of the Coliban Water Supply Scheme. The battery and waterwheel were later operated by the Forest Creek Gold Mining Company until about 1903.

The Garfield Waterwheel Quartz Gold Mining Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Garfield Waterwheel Quartz Gold Mining Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic example of an important form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, quartz mining, with its intensive reliance on machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry. The Garfield abutments are associated with the largest waterwheel ever erected in Australia, and along with a similar but smaller example at Mopoke Gully are testament to an innovative use of waterwheel technology in an environment that was too dry to accommodate it, until the arrival of water from the Coliban system. The Garfield Waterwheel Quartz Gold Mining Site is a rare and well preserved artefact of what was once a relatively common technology on many Victorian goldfields, particularly those in the alpine regions.

The site of the Garfield Waterwheel Quartz Gold Mining Site is also scientifically significant for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide information about the technological history of gold mining.

## Permit Exemptions

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS: (Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995) No permits are required for the following classes of works provided they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Plan For Historic Mining Sites prepared by David Bannear in 1996. Mineral Exploration Fire suppression duties Timber production Weed and vermin control Public safety Rehabilitation

Construction dates	1880,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	Garfield Water Wheel,
Hermes Number	5254
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

1. All the Crown land, including above ground features; large stone waterwheel abutments, battery loading ramp, take-off point for flume; all archaeological deposits and artefacts within a 200 metre radius of the waterwheel abutments and/or of the point with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E563 N934 on 1:100,000 Map Sheet No. 7723 Castlemaine.

*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/>*