

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 06/04/20



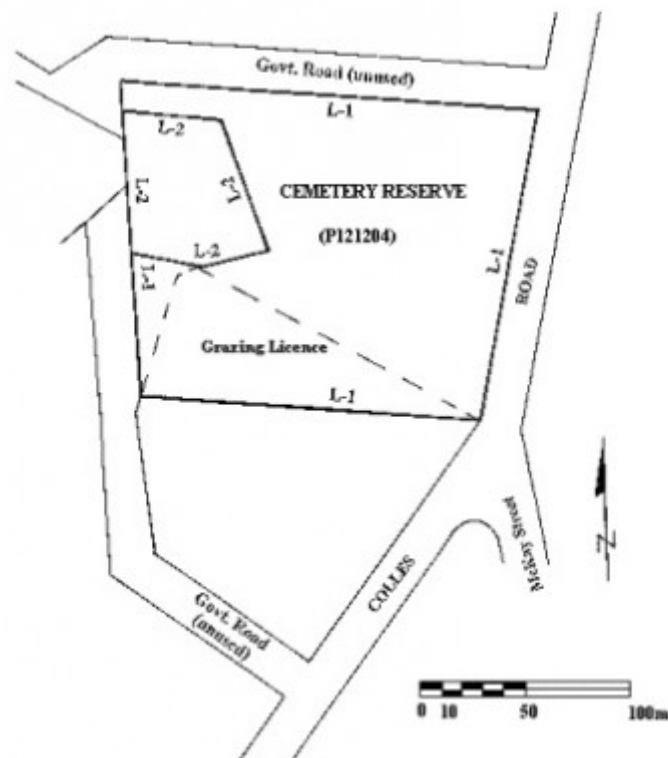
PENNYWEIGHT FLAT CEMETERY



PENNYWEIGHT FLAT CEMETERY
SOHE 2008



1 pennyweight flat cemetery colles road
castlemaine top view may1997



pennyweight flat cemetery colles road castlemaine plan

Location

1 COLLES ROAD MOONLIGHT FLAT, Mount Alexander Shire

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1675

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO601

VHR Registration

May 21, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 25, 1999

The Cemetery's origins are linked to the Mount Alexander alluvial gold rush of 1851-54. The first interment took place in 1852 and the cemetery was used until 1857. In the intervening years, between 150 and 200 burials had taken place. The cemetery is situated on a small rocky hill overlooking Pennyweight Flat, one of the richest gold spots on the goldfield. The gold seekers chose a patch of ground where gold was unlikely to be found, but one which was totally unsuitable for digging graves and for good hygiene. The rocky nature of the ground meant that the burials were very shallow (about two feet deep), necessitating the construction of above-ground stone mounds, which a local press report in 1860 described as 'tumuli, erected without mortar on pieces of sandstone broken from the surrounding rock'. Another report mentions complaints about the stench coming from the cemetery.

The Pennyweight Cemetery is of historical and archaeological importance to the State of Victoria.

The Pennyweight Cemetery is historically important due to its association with a key event in Victoria's history and a defining moment in the development of Australia's character and culture.

The Pennyweight Cemetery is historically and archaeologically important as a very rare artefact of Victoria's greatest gold rush. The ephemeral nature of structures and technology employed in the early gold-rush days means there is very little physical evidence of the intensity of technical and social activity sustained by the area during the gold rush years. The significance of this site is also derived from its setting: the cemetery overlooking the formerly gold-bearing flat and the large town that grew around the diggings.

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)

Construction dates 1852,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Hermes Number 5463
Property Number

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1675 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Pennyweight Flat Cemetery, Colles Road, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

EXTENT

1. All the land marked L-1 and permanently reserved as Cemetery Reserve P121204 on Diagram Number 601341 held by the Executive Director.
2. The enclosure known as the Pennyweight Flat Cemetery including headstones, monuments, Chinese footstones and above-ground structures, stone cairns, rocks and mounds, and all archaeological deposits and artefacts, marked L-2 on Diagram Number 601341 held by the Executive Director.

Dated 7 May 1998
RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G20 21 May 1998 p.1131]

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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>