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# EAGLEHAWK GULLY WESTERN DAM PUDDLER

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## Location

GRAVES TRACK ADELAIDE LEAD, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0129

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

SiteCard data copied on 09/07/2024:

## What is significant?

Fairly well preserved puddling machine site, associated dams and hut site. Nearby is a sealed adit.

## How is it significant?

The site is significance because it has:

Intactness: retains evidence of puddling machine site

Integrity: a compact arrangement of mining relics which demonstrates the processing of alluvial gravels by a

puddling machine.

Condition: retained fabric in a condition that can be understood and interpreted

## Why is it significant?

The site has significance as a relic of Victoria's historic gold mining industry.

Interpretation of Site	The site demonstrates the processing of alluvial gravels by a puddling machine. It has an associated hut site and two dams. Nearby is an adit that has been sealed.
Other Names	This site is associated with H7623-0130 Eaglehawk Gully No. 1 Adit.,
Hermes Number	7180
Property Number	

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## History

Eaglehawk Gully would have been opened during the mid 1850s. As miners traced the leads through new ground, they left behind a wilderness of shafts, uprooted and burnt trees and mounds of clay and gravel. This 'worked-out' ground was taken over by puddlers. Whereas the first miners had been content to deal with the washdirt from only the very bottom of the gutter, the puddlers often treating everything from the surface to a depth of twenty feet with their horse-powered washing machine. The history of alluvial mining in Eaglehawk Gully is not well documented and only one newspaper reference to the gully was found in TROVE - The death of a puddler named Thomas Brown, who was working a claim in Eaglehawk Gully. Mr O'Leary, Inspector for Mines for the Maryborough Division, who had examined the mine produced a portion of the rope, which was used in the shaft, and declared to the jury it was quite rotten, and wholly unfitted for the use in a shaft of the depth of this one, viz. 168 feet. [MAM 20/3/1874, P.2]. This report suggests those involved in operating puddling machines were probably quartz prospecting/mining when there was no water available for their machines. Due to the poor preservation of Eaglehawk Gully, this site was dealt with separately rather than lumped together with other recorded sites.

*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/>*