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# OLD TOM REEF MINE & ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

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## Location

OLD TOM TRACK EAGLEHAWK, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7724-0224

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO675

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 4, 2005

The Old Tom Reef Gold Puddling Site consists of the remnants of one puddling machine complete with water race. The puddling machine site, which was operated in the 1930s, is very rare in that the puddling trench still has traces of its timber lining. The site lies close to the remnants of a quartz mine known as the Old Tom Reef. The site is a good characteristic example of the puddling technology developed in Victoria from 1854 in response to the need to process enormous amounts of clay soil which needed to be broken up to get at the gold. Horses were used to drag harrows around a circular ditch in which the soil and water were mixed.

The Old Tom Reef Gold Puddling Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Old Tom Reef Gold Puddling Site is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of a site associated with the earliest forms of gold mining which, from 1851, played a pivotal role in the development of Victoria. Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology or method developed entirely on Victorian goldfields.

The Old Tom Reef Gold Puddling Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 8525

Property Number

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*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/>*