

**VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS  
PROJECT**

**HISTORIC GOLD MINING SITES  
IN  
AMHERST MINING DIVISION  
MARYBOROUGH MINING DISTRICT**

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
& ENVIRONMENT**

**January 1998**

## **1. Background**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This report is based on the results of a historical archaeology survey undertaken from 1996 to 1998. The historical research, fieldwork and public consultation undertaken within the study indicated that the district experienced extensive gold mining from 1852 until the 1940s.

The study area is relatively small compared to other Mining Divisions and is centred around the Talbot and stretches from Amherst in the north, south to Mount Greenock.

The majority of the sites investigated date from the late nineteenth century, and the main gold mining site types recorded are associated with re-working shallow alluvial ground, deep lead mining, and quartz reefing. The recent age of surviving mining relics is a reflection of the temporary and basic nature of the early gold rush activities undertaken and the constant re-mining that occurred, resulting in the disappearance of earlier sites.

### **1.2 Site Gazetteer**

The study involved a detailed analysis of historical records, previous survey work results and where possible community consultation. The assessment process used was designed to achieve the best practical results within the project's time-frame. All sites assessed as having potential significance were visited, recorded and included in the gazetteer that forms part two of this report.

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1 Purpose of report**

The study seeks to identify, assess and document the cultural heritage values relating to the historic themes of gold mining in the Amherst Mining Division. The categories or types of sites to be covered by the report are shallow alluvial (shaft sinking, surfacing and puddling), deep lead (tunnelling and shaft sinking); quartz reefing (shaft sinking and open cutting); and cyadining.

The study will make a significant contribution to a state-wide systematic coverage of historic gold mining themes.

### **2.2 Aims of report**

The aims of the project are as follows

- To conduct historical research on the historic gold mining-related categories of shallow alluvial, deep lead, quartz reefing and re-treatment of ore.
- To compile information on places identified from earlier studies.
- To identify and record historic places of State and regional significance
- To clearly document the project's methodology and decision-making processes

### **3. Methodology**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This study forms part of a State-wide inventory of historic gold mining sites which commenced some eight years ago. The primary aim of the State-wide inventory is to systematically record, interpret, and assess historic gold mining sites on public and private land in Victoria for the purpose of providing a sound basis for management of such sites. The report has been written, however, from the perspective of sites on public land and the management of these by DNRE and Parks Victoria.

#### **3.2 Historical Research**

The assessment process was designed to achieve the best practical results within the project's time-frame. The first stage of the assessment was an investigation of primary and secondary historical sources, including Mining Surveyors Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Reports; Mines Department maps, plans and reports; photographs and illustrations; published local histories and newspapers.

#### **3.3 Assessment Process**

##### 3.3.1 Site gazetteer

The starting point for the project was a comprehensive historical survey which concentrated on Department of Mine's records. For each gold mining locality, a chronology of activity was compiled, detailing gold discoveries, mining parties and machinery, settlement patterns, population levels, and gold production figures. This information was used to target important mining localities and specific sites for fieldwork, and also aided in the interpretation of sites.

The focus of the survey work was entirely on investigating the relics of above ground mining operations. For obvious reasons of access and safety, it did not cover any aspects of underground mining. The perspective presented by the inventory is thus biased, for on some types of mining sites, in particular, quartz reefing and deep lead mining, the bulk of operations and human effort took place below ground, hidden away from sight. A physical picture of underground mining technology and features can only realistically be gathered and recorded when new mining ventures take place on old gold mining sites.

##### 3.3.2 Site selection process

The sites identified for survey were those considered likely to have significant heritage values.. Some 26 sites were visited in the following two stage process, resulting in 3 sites being identified as having potential State significance:

- a) *Consultation process*—Given the comprehensive historical research undertaken as part of the State-wide survey, additional information was mainly sought through consulting present and former Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) field staff (foresters and land protection officers), Parks Victoria rangers, and local community members. Information sought included:
  - the integrity and condition of sites: in particular, whether the site still exists or has visible remains (including foundations),
  - whether they know of other sites of a similar nature which had physical remains, and
  - names of other informants who may have knowledge of gold mining activity sites in the Daylesford Mining Division

The consultation process was designed to sieve out sites not worth a visit because no substantial evidence remained, and to pick out sites which had played only marginal historical role (and hence not highlighted by the historical assessment) but now may have a high scientific significance due to their intactness or rarity.

- b) *State heritage threshold*—The following significance indicators were further used to refine the list of site to be surveyed:
- the role the place played in the historical development of the region and State's gold mining industry. For any given place significance will be greater where evidence of an association or event survives in situ.
  - the scientific importance of the data represented in the features of a place and upon the degree to which the place may contribute further substantial information.
  - the degree to which the place can be demonstrated as having historical integrity and /or rareness in its intactness or condition better than any other similar place
  - the measure of the awareness in the local community of the site and its role in the history of the locality.
  - the degree the setting of the place had been modified.

### **3.4 Site survey**

The terms of reference for the project required that previously unrecorded sites assessed as having potential significant heritage values be visited and documented following set guidelines, so that they were comprehensively and uniformly identified, located, described, assessed and photographed. Time and budgetary constraints necessitated that recording be of a fairly basic standard: brief descriptions, rough plans and photographs. It was envisaged that more detailed recording of the more significant sites should be undertaken in the future, when all sites have been identified, and the more significant sites have been determined.

### **3.5 Final ranking**

The main thrust of current heritage assessment in Australia is that the more significant cultural places are generally those that retain unique qualities which can best explain the past to present and future generations. Three of the 26 places recorded were assessed as having this potential and ranked as being of State significance.

Places were assessed against the following criteria developed by Heritage Victoria to determine whether a place or object is of State significance and should be placed on the Victorian Heritage Register:

- a. The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.
- b. The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness
- c. The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.
- d. The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.
- e. The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.
- f. The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements
- g. The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural association.
- h. Any other matter which the Council deems relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance.

### **3.6 Victorian Heritage Register**

The Heritage Act (1995) provides for the protection and identification of places of heritage significance to the State. It applies to both private and public land and to both public authorities, private owners and companies. The Act expands the type of place that can be listed on the register to include buildings, archaeological sites and landscapes. If a site is placed on the Heritage Register, a permit must be sought for works from Heritage Council unless those works are covered by an exemption negotiated at the time of registration

In the course of fieldwork 26 historic mining sites were assessed for potential State significance. Of these sites, 3 were assessed as possessing heritage values which warranted their consideration for nomination to the Victorian Heritage Register.

The table below shows the two sites assessed as having potential State significance.

Site No	Name	Goldfield
17.2	Big Hill Reef outcrop	Talbot
18.0	Stewart and Farnsworth's reservoir & water race	Evansford
26.0	Stony Creek School	Talbot

### 3.7 Victorian Heritage Inventory

The Heritage Act (1995) establishes a Heritage Inventory for all archaeological sites recorded in the State. The Act contains provisions to protect all archaeological sites and relics whether known or unknown. The consent of the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria is required to excavate, damage or deface an archaeological relic. Any relics found during excavation have to be reported to the Executive Director, and consent is required to sell relics.

Until the assessment of the 3 proposed nominations by Heritage Victoria, all sites included in this report will be registered as archaeological sites and placed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

## 4. Report Body

### 4.1 Introduction

The research of primary resource material and community consultation undertaken in the course of this study were designed to trace the development of the various gold mining activities, in order to produce a picture of the underlying technology and physical remains and to identify potential sites. Both lines of investigation concurred that the focus of gold mining activity in the Amherst Mining Division took the form of shallow alluvial, deep lead and quartz reef mining. Historically, the distribution of these sites was extensive with often intensive re-mining occurring.

The following historical overview is designed to provide a context for the surviving historic mining sites in the Amherst Mining Division.

### 4.2 Historical Overview

Early shallow alluvial gold discoveries

James Flett credits a shepherd named Thomas Chapman with the first discovery of shallow alluvial gold at Amherst: recovered from a gully near Daisy Hill in 1848. Chapman's discovery, according to Flett, caused the first gold rush in Victoria.<sup>1</sup> Many people turned up to look for gold in the gully but became disillusioned by the small quantities obtained. As gold mining was illegal in Victoria at the time (and remained so until the gold licence was introduced in 1851) the rush was quickly broken up by Government police.

The Amherst field was officially recognised in December 1852 following the discovery of gold in Blacksmith's Gully. The locality was about a mile east of the later township of Amherst and was known as Cowley's Rush.<sup>2</sup> By early the next year there were about 1000 diggers on the field.<sup>3</sup> The mining population continued to grow, especially after the discovery, in 1854, of the Back

Creek or Talbot goldfield. The rushes to the district peaked in the winter of 1855 with about 10,000 miners at work. Numbers soon declined due to an exodus to the opening of the Beaufort or Fiery Creek goldfield.<sup>4</sup>

From the mid 1850s to 1870s, shallow alluvial mining mainly involved re-working old ground by sluicing and/or with horse-powered puddling machines. Favoured early puddling localities were Kangaroo Flat (Amherst), and Mia Mia Flat and Nuggetty Gully (Talbot). These gullies are listed in mining reports of the times as having mining populations ranging from 200 to 600 people. From time to time, new shallow leads were discovered causing dramatic escalations in mining numbers: one of the most extensive rushes was in 1861 and focussed on the head of Amherst Flat, about 1-1/4 miles distant from Amherst township. The new gold deposit had been discovered during the construction of the town's water-supply reservoir. At its peak, the Reservoir Rush attracted an estimated 3,000 miners.<sup>5</sup>

The last significant shallow alluvial rush in the Amherst Mining Division was in the 1880s when prospectors employed by Caralulup Prospecting Association discovered a new lead in Reily's Gully. This discovery became known as the Association Rush.<sup>6</sup>

#### Sluicing operations - reworking of old ground

The country encompassed by the Amherst and Talbot goldfields is very dry. To overcome water shortages miners dug channels (called races) to bring water to the gold diggings. The water was used to sluice (with hose and water pressure) the gold from the old diggings and to prolong the operation time for puddling machines. One of the earliest sluicing schemes was carried near Mount Glasgow. In 1865, a small company sluiced auriferous ground near the eastern base of Mount Glasgow with water conveyed by a race from the Merin Merrick swamp, about one mile distant.<sup>7</sup> In comparison, the scale of Messrs Leyland and Stewarts hydraulic works at Kangaroo Diggings was immense:

The hoses, with pressure of 33 feet, are equal to washing 1,000 tons of dirt in 20 hours with two shifts of men (six in each gang). The tailings are lifted 20 feet by a series of dredge buckets, which are attached to an overshot water-wheel of 14 feet diameter.<sup>8</sup>

The largest water race system was constructed by Messrs Stewart and Farnsworth. These men had by 1871 invested over £9,000 in the construction of several reservoirs, 11 miles of headraces (capable of carrying 70 sluice heads), 85 miles of supply races (capable of carrying 20 sluice heads), 150 miles of viable distribution races, and 100 miles of abandoned distribution races.<sup>9</sup> Their large investment capitalised on the fact that by 1870 sluicing with hose and high pressure of water was the only viable mining method able to produce profitable results. By the end of the 1870s, most of the available shallow alluvial ground within the reach of Messrs Stewart and Farnsworth water supply system had been sluiced. With the demise of sluicing operations in the district shallow alluvial mining became no more than a part-time profession carried out by a small band of old fossickers.

#### Quartz mining

Quartz mining around Talbot and Amherst was extensively carried out, but no mines became major gold producers. By the early 1860s several reefs had been discovered including Prince of Wales, Mia Mia, New Years, White Horse, Carnabian, Sydenham, Cockatoo, and Dana reefs. These reefs were serviced by several small crushing mills. One of these early batteries erected was by the Victoria Company on Whitehorse Reef, near Amherst. The battery consisted of 10-head of stamps and was driven by a 30hp steam engine.<sup>10</sup> The Waterloo Company, at Blucher's Reef (Emu Diggings) had a battery powered by a 40hp steam engine.

The two principal reefs of the 1860s proved to be the Prince of Wales and Dana Reef. The latter reef was reported by the Mines Department as contributing the bulk of the district's quartz gold production during this time. At first Dana Reef yielded as high as 6 ounces of gold to the ton,

but the grade became poorer as the shaft went deeper. Productive mining on Dana Reef stopped at 240 feet.<sup>11</sup>

From 1870 onwards quartz mining on the old known reefs was intermittent. The prominent reefs and companies were Blucher's Reef on the Emu Diggings (Nuggetty Company); Laura Reef (Croyden Co-operative Company); Mia Mia Reef; Princes of Wales Reef; and Union Quartz Mining Co., Church Hill. The latter company developed into one of the largest concerns and for a brief time employed over 30 men. The only bright news was the discovery of some promising reefs near Merin-merin Swamp and Mount Glasgow. These reefs were cited by some as proof of the continuation of a hugely rich line of reefs that were being mined at Clunes. Several companies were formed - including Great Wheal, North Clunes Extended, Great Northern, Annuities, and the Talbot & Clunes. Despite the companies proposing to erect powerful plant, none were ever reported as obtaining any gold. Another new reef discovery occurred at Lexton in 1875. The reef, located in Brown's Gully, was considered promising enough by its discoverers to erect a 12-head battery. A year later, the battery was up for sale.<sup>12</sup>

### *Deep Lead mining*

Deep lead mining was responsible for the bulk of the industrial development in the district. By 1857, mining parties had commencing to work deep wet ground at Talbot with payable results. Known as the Scandinavian Lead its richness and durability led to the development of present day Talbot. For several years the lead was traced in a northerly direction and provided employment for over 1,000 miners.<sup>13</sup> Horse-powered haulage whims were initially used to bail water from the deep shafts but gradually steam engines were introduced. In 1859 two new deep gutters adjoining the Scandinavian Lead were discovered: the Rocky Flat and Union leads.

The Sadowa Company was flagship of Talbot's deep lead mining. This company came to prominence in 1868 and mined until 1872. Its successes spurred a number of other companies to try their hand, including the Nil Desperandum, Band of Hope, Brunswick, Cockatoo and Golden Gate. All mined with limited success and by 1874 had worked out their claims and had been replaced by a new wave of progressive companies further along the lead. These second wave of companies - included the Narrigal G. M., New Greenock Park Tribute, and Prince of Wales companies - all met with indifferent success. They were all wound up and their machinery sold by the end of 1875. A third, and last, wave of mining commenced on the Scandinavian Lead in 1877, principally by the New Golden Gate and United Miners. These mines were equally short lived.

The district's most prolonged deep lead mining operations took place at Mount Greenock, a few kms to the south of Talbot. Mining on Mount Greenock commenced in early 1859 and by the end of the year the mining surveyor reported that:

at the base of the hill, on the north side, there are about 100 miners busily employed mining in a paddock, the property of Mr. Ambrose ... Outside the paddock is a surveyed road, under which the gutter has been traced ... There has been several prospecting holes being worked, and the prospectors entertain high hopes of the results of their labour.<sup>14</sup>

The Mount Greenock deep lead mines developed slowly over a twenty year period. In 1864 a number of small companies were at work on the slopes of the Mount mining by either shaft or decline tunnel with the aid of either horse- or steam-powered pumping engines. These early companies included All Nations, Victoria, Perseverance, Great Tunnel, Southern Cross, Pioneer, Oriental., Darling, Princess Alexandra, and Prince of Wales.<sup>15</sup> A small township formed around the base of the Mount. The early companies all mined with no or only very limited success. Their failure led to a reluctance by speculators to invest in the gold field.

In 1865, deep lead mining commenced on the basalt plain several kms to the south of Mount Greenock, near the junction of Clunes and Ballarat Roads. Mining at Mount Greenock South proved to be the district's most successful. The pioneering company was the Hoffnung. In 1866 this company had

a 12hp engine, with 6-inch pipes and a 70-ft lift, employed for some months past exclusively in pumping, but have had to suspend operations to place in 10-inch pipes, which is thought will clear the lead so as to enable the miners to proceed<sup>16</sup>

For two years Despite the Hoffnung Company failed to mine profitably, its pumping machinery continually breaking down under the strain of an immense volume of underground water. In 1868, the Hoffnung Company was joined on the lead by three other companies - Union, Gladstone and Nicholls Freehold - and their combined pumping power finally overcame the water problems. The Gladstone Company despite spending over £20,000 failed to find an economic gutter, the other three, however, were more successful and by 1870 all were producing gold.<sup>17</sup> The three companies operated throughout the 1870s and into the early 1880s. The last to cease work was the Union Company in 1884.<sup>18</sup>

After the demise of the Union Company, a third, short-lived period of deep lead mining commenced at Mount Greenock. This proved to be last mining in the area and was undertaken principally by two companies: the New Rip Van Winkle and Adam's Freehold. These companies mined with some success through the 1880s. The Adams Freehold Company was the most preserving: it ended up sinking three shafts and operating for about ten years.

With the demise of mining at Mount Greenock, the district's deep lead industry stalled. It was to be nearly forty years before large scale underground operations recommenced in the district: this time at Caralulup Creek, 12.5kms south-west of Talbot, near Lillicur. Mining at Caralulup Creek commenced in the late 1930s when the Talbot Alluvials Company sunk two shafts. For several years the company was a major employer of men. In 1936 the company were employing 160 men at its first shaft or No.1 shaft. The results from this shaft proved disappointing and a second shaft (known as Norbury's) was sunk. The company erected expensive and up-to-date plant - including an electric wining engine and motor-driven puddlers - at its No. 2 shaft and despite conducting extensive underground operations were equally unsuccessful. The mine had closed down by 1940.

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- 1 Flett, 1979, p254
  - 2 Flett, 1979, p254
  - 3 Flett, 1979, p254
  - 4 Flett, 1979, p254-255
  - 5 Mining Surveyors Reports, May 1861
  - 6 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1886
  - 7 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1865
  - 8 Mining Surveyor Reports, September 1865
  - 9 Mining Surveyors Reports, June 1871
  - 10 Mining Surveyors Records, September 1866
  - 11 Special Report, 1894)
  
  - 12 Mining Surveyors Reports, September 1876
  - 13 Mining Surveyors Reports, August 1859
  - 14 Mining Surveyors Reports, September 1859
  - 15 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1864
  - 16 Mining Surveyors Reports, September 1865
  - 17 Mining Surveyors Reports, December 1870
  - 18 Mining Surveyors Reports, December 1884



**VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS  
PROJECT**

**HISTORIC GOLD MINING SITES  
IN  
AMHERST MINING DIVISION  
MARYBOROUGH MINING DISTRICT**

**SITE GAZETTEER**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
& ENVIRONMENT**

**December 1998**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.0	Talbot Alluvials No. 1	Caralulup Creek	Regional	
1.1	Talbot Alluvials No. 1	Caralulup Creek	Local	
2.0	Union Quartz Minin Company	Amherst	Local	
3.0	Victoria Company	Amherst	Local	
4.0	Prince of Wales Company	Amherst	Regional	
4.1	Puddling Machine	Amherst	Regional	
4.2	Whim shaft	Amherst	Regional	
4.3	Perseverance Company	Amherst	Regional	
5.0	Scandinavian Lead	Talbot	Local	
6.0	Cosstick's battery	Amherst	Local	
7.0	Rocky Flat workings	Talbot	Local	
7.1	Sadowa Company	Talbot	Regional	
8.0	Union Extended Company	Mt. Greenock	Local	
8.1	Union Company	Mt Greenock	Regional	
8.2	Hoffnung Company	Mt Greenock	Regional	
8.3	Nicholl's Freehold Company	Mt Greenock	Regional	
8.4	Adams Freehold Pump Shaft	Mt Greenock	Regional	
8.5	Adams Freehold Engine Shaft	Mt Greenock	Regional	
9.0	Annuities Company's battery	Merin Merin & Middle swamps	Local	
9.1	Mine site	Merin Merin & Middle swamps	Local	
9.2	Glasgow Reef Workings	Mount Glasgow	Local	
10.0	Tunnel Hill adit	Talbot	Local	
10.1	Garden Beds	Talbot	Regional	
11.0	Nuggetty Reef Mine	Talbot	Local	
12.0	Long Gully Puddling Machine 1	Talbot	Local	
12.1	Long Gully Puddling Machine 2	Talbot	Local	
13.0	Flinders Company	Talbot	Regional	
14.0	Reily's Gully Puddling Machine	Talbot	Regional	
15.0	Mia Mia Flat Puddling Machine	Talbot	Local	
16.0	Mia Mia Reef mine	Talbot	Local	
16.1	Chinese camp site	Talbot	Regional	
17.0	Daisy Creek Lead Puddling Machine 1	Talbot	Local	
17.1	Daisy Creek Lead Puddling Machine 2	Talbot	Regional	
17.2	Big Hill Reef Quartz Blow	Talbot	State	
18.0	Stewart & Farnsworth's reservoir & water race	Evansford	State	
19.0	Amherst Reservoir Alluvial Workings	Amherst Flat	Local	
20.0	Eucalyptus DistilleryPlant Site	Amherst	Local	
20.1	Shallow alluvial workings	Amherst	Local	
21.0	Workhorse Gully Mining Precinct	Amherst	Regional	
22.0	Possum GullyMining Precinct	Amherst	Regional	
23.0	Possum Gully Cement Workings	Amherst	Regional	
24.0	Brogan's Hut and Paddock	Amherst	Regional	
25.0	Kangaroo Gully Puddling Machine	Amherst	Regional	
26.0	Stony Creek School	Talbot	State	

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **1.0   Talbot Alluvials Ltd No. 1 shaft**  
                                  **1.1   Talbot Alluvials Ltd No. 2 shaft**

**HI No.**                       **H7623-0252**

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**LOCATION:**                    Sites are on Madame Hopkins Lead, Caralulup Creek, 12.5kms south-west of Talbot, near Lillicur.  
                                  Site 1.0 - North-east corner of junction of Browns Road and Mine Road.  
                                  Site 1.1 - East of Mine Road

**MUNICIPALITY:**            Central Goldfields Shire Council

**LAND STATUS:**             Freehold Land

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**HISTORY:**

In the late 1930s the Talbot Alluvials Company sunk two shafts and for several years were a major employer of men. In 1936 the company were employing 160 men at its first shaft or No.1 shaft. The results from this shaft proved disappointing and a second shaft (known as Norbury's) was sunk. The company erected expensive and up-to-date plant--including an electric wining engine and motor-driven puddlers--at its No. 2 shaft and despite conducting extensive underground operations were equally unsuccessful. The mine had closed down by 1940.

1936: Talbot Alluvials--No. 1 shaft employing 160 men. Returns disappointing. No. 2 shaft (Nor-bury's) up-to-date plant--electric winding engine, motor-driven puddlers, etc. Employing 77 men. Ex-pensive mine, due to amount of water.<sup>1</sup>

March 1936: Talbot Alluvials--Long report in Chemical Engineering & Mining Review, with diagrams. No. 1 shaft was sunk many years ago and dewatered by Talbot Alluvials Ltd. Description of plant.

July 1937: Talbot Alluvials--Ceased operations at No. 1 shaft. Work concentrated on No. 2 shaft.<sup>2</sup>

1938: Talbot Alluvials Ltd.--Employing 120 men, extensive development work, No 2 Shaft.<sup>3</sup>

July 1938: Talbot Alluvials Ltd.--Nos 1 & 2 shafts electric power, electric winding machinery.<sup>4</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 1.0: Talbot Alluvials No. 1 shaft

Mullock heap--Large raised mullock heap with partly quarried pebble dump.

Sand dump--Large, but partly quarried sand dump, no cyanide vats visible.

Machinery foundations--Large rectangular-shaped concrete engine bed measuring 15-3/4ft x 13-3/4ft, standing approximately 5ft high. The engine bed, which has 3/4 inch mounting bolts, is located in the south-east corner of a large concrete bed which measures approximately 38ft x 50ft. The concrete floor has several small mounting beds and an arrangement of open drains. On the opposite corner to the engine bed, is a 24ft square, below ground, concrete tank with 2ft thick walls. In the middle of the tank, which is 3-1/4ft deep, is a small concrete pedestal.

Shaft--An open shaft, surrounded by the remains of a collapsed wooden poppet head, is located some 60 feet to the west of the engine bed.

Site 1.1: Talbot Alluvials No. 2 shaft

Mullock heap--Large, partly quarried mullock heap

Sand dump--Small intact slum pond.

Machinery foundations--Large rectangular-shaped concrete engine bed which overall measures 15-1/4ft square. The engine bed stands 4ft , and has 3/4 inch mounting bolts. Near the engine bed are two concrete slabs--the western slab measures 60ft x 20ft, the southern slab is approximately 15ft square and has wooden post stumps.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**     Site 1.0--Foundations are in good condition, and enough survives of the site to provide an impression of the above-ground operations.  
                                  The mullock heap is a landscape feature.  
                                  Site 1.1--The site has less intact features and little integrity.

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 1.0 has

*Scientific significance*—the site has the most comprehensive range of deep lead machinery plant foundations and earthworks to survive in the Amherst Mining Division.

*Social value*—mine's mullock heap is a prominent historic gold mining landscape feature.

*Archaeological potential*—No. 1 shaft is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

Site 1.1 has:

*Network values*—No. 2 shaft lies to the north. Foundations at this site in very poor condition.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Sites listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear    Date: 1998.

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- 1        Mines Department Annual Report
  - 2        Mining and Geological Journal
  - 3        Mining and Geological Journal
  - 4        Mining and Geological Journal

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 2.0 Union Quartz Mining Company

**HI No.** H7623-0253

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**LOCATION:** Churchill Reef, 1/2km north of Amherst, below (south) Buchan Dam  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest

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**HISTORY:**

December 1878: Union Quartz Mining Co., Church Hill, sinking new shaft to depth of 180 feet and erecting new steam machinery.<sup>1</sup>

September 1879: Union Quartz Mining Co., Church Hill, crushed 86 tons for 260 oz gold<sup>2</sup>

June 1884: Union Quartz Mining Co., 420 tons yielded 871 oz 3 dwt - average 2 oz 11 dwt per ton. 35 men employed.<sup>3</sup>

September 1884: Only dividend for quarter - £97 13s by Union Quartz Mining Co. of Dunach. Scarcely a dividend, as the claim is not paying wages to tributers. The above amount was paid by tributers to original shareholders. Total yield for quarter less than 48 oz.<sup>4</sup>

June 1885: Union Co. shortly to resume work.<sup>5</sup>

September 1885: The old Union Quartz Mine, Amherst, purchased by Edward Morey, of Ballarat, and renamed the Daisy Hill Quartz Mining Co.. "It is hoped that the mine will now be opened with something like an enterprising spirit."<sup>6</sup>

March 1891: Morrison and party continue to get payable gold.<sup>7</sup>

1917: Deepest shaft in district<sup>8</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

2.0: Union Quartz Mining Company, Churchill Reef (Company operated from late 1870s to mid 1880s)

Mullock heap--Large, partly quarried mullock heap.

Machinery site--On the north-east corner of the heap is a flattened machinery site (brick, stone and mortar rubble)

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Mullock heap is still reasonably intact. Apart from this the site has little integrity.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of the site reduced as to have very little interpretive value. May have some archaeological potential to yield artefacts.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>4</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>5</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>6</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>7</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>8</sup> Records of Geological Survey, Vol. IV, part 1 1917

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 3.0 Victoria Company  
**HI No.** H7623-0254

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**LOCATION:** White Horse Reef, 2km south-west of Amherst.  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest

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#### HISTORY

September 1866: The Victoria Co., at White-horse Reef, near Amherst, has erected a steam engine, of 30 hp, outlay of £3000. 10-head of stamps.<sup>1</sup>

September 1870: Arrangements to let the Victoria battery on tribute, so that good returns may be looked for from White-horse Reef<sup>2</sup>

December 1870: Quartz mining in this division does not appear to be well understood of we should not have valuable lodes like Blucher's, White Horse, and the Big Reefs, which are known to yield good payable returns, standing idle.<sup>3</sup>

September 1871: Forbach Company, in Amherst, have collapsed for want of means to carry on the works, notwithstanding a first-class crushing and winding plant on the ground.<sup>4</sup>

March 1888: Mine employed 11 men, for a yield of only 11 oz.<sup>5</sup>

June 1888: Mr Stone, the proprietor, struggling on - £2000 out of his own pocket, having paid full wages to 9-11 men for a considerable time.<sup>6</sup>

September 1888: Mr Stone persevering at his own expense. Indifferent success.<sup>7</sup>

March 1889: Very little work done on lease by Henry Stone. After spending £2000 over the past two years, has been on two occasions unsuccessful in getting assistance from Maryborough Prospecting Board. Reef would be payable if sufficient capital spent on development.<sup>8</sup>

June 1889: No crushing done this quarter at the White Horse Reef battery.<sup>9</sup>

September 1889: Mr Stone, proprietor. Labour covenants suspended for three months, for prospecting. Shaft 700 ft.<sup>10</sup>

December 1889: Mine remained idle, except small amount of prospecting by two men--indifferent.<sup>11</sup>

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#### DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Site 3.0: Victoria Company, White Horse Reef (Victoria Company operated in the mid 1860s, the battery continued to be used until at least 1889).

Mullock heap--Partly quarried large mullock heap, quarrying is still taking place.

Machinery site--Flattened site with a spread of red brick, stone and mortar rubble. 200 metres to the east, is a narrow, largely buried, stone structure with 2ft thick walls. The walls of the structure are 25ft long and set 10ft apart.

Settlement--Near the mine, on the north side of the track, is a small clearing which has been extensively dug-over by "treasure hunters". The clearing is littered with nineteenth century bottle glass.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** The mullock heap is still reasonably intact, but apart from this the site has little integrity.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of the site reduced as to have very little interpretive value. May have some archaeological potential to yield artefacts.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1998.

<sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

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4	Mining Surveyors' Report
5	Mining Surveyors' Report
6	Mining Surveyors' Report
7	Mining Surveyors' Report
8	Mining Surveyors' Report
9	Mining Surveyors' Report
10	Mining Surveyors' Report
11	Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** **Prince of Wales Reef**  
**4.0 Prince of Wales Company**  
**4.1 Puddling Machine Site**  
**4.2 Whim shaft**  
**4.3 Perseverance Company**

**HI No.** **H7623-0124**

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**LOCATION:** Prince of Wales Reef, 4.0kms north-east of Amherst, north of Blacksmiths Track  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

This gold mining site is significant for the intactness of its physical remains, the extent of documentation and the ease of interpretation it offers the visitor, demonstrating both shallow alluvial and quartz reef mining techniques (p. 177). Recommended for Schedule Three: Buildings and Sites recommended for inclusion or retention on the Register of the National Estate (p. 50).

**INTERPRETATION:**

Prince of Wales Reef and Gully. This is one of the best documented small reefs in the Shire and many of the nineteenth century features identified in Howitt's 1909 "record" (in Records of the Geological Survey of Victoria, 111, part 2, 1909, p155-158).

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

Currently the attributes of the site include several deep open shafts, mullock heaps, a battery site (with broken bricks and dressed basalt), outcropping quartz of the reef and a large dam (wall breached). From the alluvial gully a puddling circle is also located adjacent to the dam with a very clear overflow channel. Vegetation is growing very rapidly after the 1985 bushfires and this tends to obscure some of the relics in the vicinity of the dam and puddler. Reworking of this area is also in progress and has already downgraded the significance of the site (p.176).

**SOURCES:** Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken 1988.

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**HISTORY**

May 1857: The next important gold discovery was on a series of hills ranged along the south side of the Craigie-Amherst Road. The discoverers caused what was known as the notorious Emu Rush, so called from the Emu Inn that was on the cross-roads just below the first workings<sup>1</sup>

1860's: First worked in 1860's--yields now unavailable<sup>2</sup>

June 1874: Prince of Wales lode gives good wages, men are now down to water level. When pumping engine, which is now being erected on lease No. 1765, is in working condition, yields should improve.

September 1874: Claim holders on the reef have sunk a shaft to 130 feet, a permanent plant of 20-hp is in the course of erection.<sup>3</sup>

December 1875: The Prince of Wales Company have completed a battery of eight stamps, but the first and only crushing did not come up to their expectations.<sup>4</sup>

1876: Lubie and party worked claim in 1876. ½ oz to the ton, up to 1 oz per ton. Perseverance United Co. held 10 acre lease, just north of Lubie's. Main shaft 225 ft deep<sup>5</sup>

1877: Lubie claim purchased by Perseverance United Co.<sup>6</sup>

July 1878: Perseverance United Co. yielding up to 10 dwt per ton<sup>7</sup>.

1879: Dehnert & party had tribute on Perseverance mine. Worked just south of Perseverance shaft, for 10-15 dwt per ton. Last crushing 4 dwt per ton.<sup>8</sup>

May 1880: Perseverance Co. closed down. New company Talbot Quartz Mining Co. formed. Stated in prospectus that 1,600 oz had been obtained from Prince of Wales Reef.<sup>9</sup>

1881: Talbot Co. unwatered shaft. Poor prospects. Last work on main portion of reef lode was carried out in 1881.<sup>10</sup>

1883: An attempt was made to float the Talbot Co. mine as Mt Emu Gold Mining Coll Unsuccessful.<sup>11</sup>



June 1887: The “Providential Spur” prospecting claim, near Prince of Wales Reef, held by one of the Dunstones, had a nice patch--2 tons yielded 13 oz 5 dwt, besides a small patch (only a pound) which yielded 6 oz. This quartz was obtained close to the surface, and was traced from an old wheel track.<sup>12</sup>

1909: From the Prince of Wales engine shaft north to the Perseverance shaft (10 chains), there is a continuous line of old workings: Prince of Wales main shaft, Busch & Party's rich claim, Fentel's rich claim, Lubie's claim, and Perseverance United Co. workings. Other workings to 60 ft deep on places. Main Prince of Wales shaft is 240 ft deep, 9 ft 6 in. x 4 ft 6 in. Mine had own battery for some time, earlier crushings at Cosstick's Battery, two miles distant and Craigie battery, four miles away. North and just across the gully from the main engine shaft, are old workings of Busch & party. Mined highly payable shoot to 130 ft by whim shaft. North again, Fentel and party worked to 130 ft. North again, Lubie and party worked claim in 1876 (reference to The Mineral Resources of Amherst and Talbot, G.D.Reid). (Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912).

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#### DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

The Prince of Wales Reef was first worked in the 1860s and a highly payable shoot of gold was worked by whim to a depth of 130 feet. It was not until the mid 1870s when the first steam-powered machinery was erected on the site by the Prince of Wales Company. This company installed a 20-hp. pumping engine in 1874 and by the following year had a 8-head stamping mill on the site. The first crushing did not come up to expectations and the company was wound up. The mine, in 1877, was then acquired by the adjoining claimholders, the Perseverance United Company, who were equally unsuccessful. The Perseverance United Company closed down in 1880 and its claim was taken over by the Talbot Quartz Mining Company. In the latter company's prospectus, it was stated that 1,600 ounces had been obtained from the Prince of Wales Reef by previous owners. The Talbot Quartz Mining Company unwatered the shaft but ceased work in 1881. Prince of Wales Reef workings have been extensively bulldozed. The most notable features are:

Site 4.0: Prince of Wales engine shaft (This company worked during the mid 1870s).

Mullock heap--Remnant of mullock heap and filled shaft.

Battery site--Flattened foundations, spread of brick, stone and mortar rubble. Rubble covers some basalt foundations.

Water dam--in the gully below the battery site is a small silted dam.

Tailings--In the gully below the battery site, above the small dam, are some partly quarried (untreated) tailings.

Site 4.1: Puddler

Puddler--Well preserved 22-ft diameter puddler with pronounced inner mound and deep trench with sheer sides. Well pronounced outlet channel, little wash and no pivot post or trench slabbing. Puddler and gully obscured by thick Regrowth (post 1985 bushfire). Howitt's 1909 mine plan of the lease shows a puddler on the north side of the dam.

Site 4.2: Whim shaft

Whim platform--Between Prince of Wales and Perseverance mine sites, on the south side of the reef, is the remains of a circular whim platform.

Site 4.3: Perseverance shaft (Company probably contemporary to Prince of Wales, mid 1870s).

Mullock--Remnant of mullock heap.

Machinery site--Near the north end of the mullock heap are some flattened machinery foundations (spread of red brick and stone rubble).

Dam--Small dry dam on the opposite side of the track.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Still retains a number of features, but extensive bulldozing has reduced their integrity.

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#### CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The sites as a precinct have:

Historical significance—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The precinct contains a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—Contains a range of relics documenting quartz and alluvial gold mining operations carried out on the site.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

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- 1 Flett, 1979, pp 255 - 256
  - 2 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912)
  - 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 4 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 5 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 6 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 7 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 8 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 9 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 10 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 11 Records of Geological Survey, Vol III, part 2, 1912
  - 12 Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 5.0 Scandinavian Lead  
**HI No.** H7623-0255

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**LOCATION:** Talbot Township  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** Freehold Land

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**HISTORY:**

Jan 1859: Discovery of Scandinavian Lead by prospectors Carl Olsen, Carl W Hallen and Joseph Bell. The Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser estimated 1000 claims had been marked by mid January and on 21 January that newspaper devoted its first classified listing for merchants at the rush, although at this date, they were at the old township on Back Creek. Unlike many rushes, this new lead was accessible only after blasting through 30 feet of basalt, the ancient lava flow of Mount Greenock. Confusion about nomenclature reigned: the area was referred to as Good Man's Hill or Back Creek New Rush.<sup>1</sup>

Mid-February: a population of 800-1500 was estimated by the Advertiser and this doubled and trebled in a matter of days. On 15 February the Advertiser correspondent claimed that "the permanent character of the place is now established beyond a doubt, and an immense number of stores and tents have been removed to it", while a week later the editor reported formation of the main street.

*The rush to the Back Creek has assumed gigantic proportions; several thousand are already congregated on the spot, and every hour of the day fresh bodies of miners are pouring in. Stores and other places of business, as well as grog shanties, are being erected by scores, and in short all the signs are there which denote a monster rush.*

By the start of March the new main street had been christened Scandinavian Crescent.<sup>2</sup>

April 1859: The rush to Scandinavian Lead was being compared favourably with "those glorious epochs", the rushes to Maryborough (1854), Dunolly (1856) and Ararat (1857), and in early March the cry "it will be as good as Fiery Creek", was perhaps the ultimate accolade.<sup>3</sup>

**Scandinavian Lead--Mining progress**

The depth of sinking on the Scandinavian Lead was generally 15-20 metres, but progress was slowed by a layer of basalt, often 5 m thick or more. Although often decomposed into boulders, blasting with powder was necessary and sometimes tragic in its consequences for the operator. "The Ballarat miners who throng the lead are too accustomed to difficulties to fear anything" quipped the Advertiser correspondent in mid-April as the lead became increasingly rocky at the north end. (appropriately named Ballarat Street). "The small claims were worked by hand windlasses and the basalt rocks, piled with mullock beside the claims, gave a distinctive visual quality to the new mining landscape ... Warden Crespigny refused applications for puddling machines until the rush had consolidated, to avoid the consequent sludge nuisance ... The Scandinavian Lead was traced in a semi-circular configuration with the northern end eventually ending at a mullock bank near Hard Hill, while the southern end crossed Scandinavian Crescent above Oxford Street and joined the previously worked lead on Goodwoman's Hill. A wide branch forked off south of Oxford Street and headed for Mount Greenock but was soon exhausted. The most promising extension was Rocky Lead which ran east across the plains towards McCallum's Creek".<sup>4</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 5.0: Scandinavian Lead Little trace of old workings. Part of the lead now covered by the township of Talbot. More a historical location.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** **Local.** Alluvial workings have been obliterated, part of lead covered by township of Talbot

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of the workings reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 
- 1 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988
  - 2 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988
  - 3 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988
  - 4 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 6.0 Cosstick's battery (formerly Croydon Co.)  
**HI No.** H7623-0256

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**LOCATION:** Laura Reef, 3.5kms north of Amherst, east of Possum Gully Road  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest

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**HISTORY:**

1860's: Prince of Wales mine crushings at Cosstick's battery (Also known as Croydon battery).<sup>1</sup>  
June 1872: Laura Reef (Croydon Co-operative Company) has had an average yield of above 6 dwt to the ton, with a lode 16 feet in thickness. The lode has been worked for about 12 years.<sup>2</sup>  
September 1872: Laura Reef has produced a greater amount of stone with a larger average yield than formerly. The mine has an immense amount of stone, being more like a quarry than a quartz lode for quantity.<sup>3</sup>  
June 1874: Laura Reef has given slightly improved yields, will give good wages to men employed.<sup>4</sup>  
September 1875: A rich quartz load recently struck in the Croydon Co.'s ground.<sup>5</sup>  
December 1885: A party at Havelock have had 31 tons of quartz crushed at Mr Cosstick's mill within this division, yielding 208 oz 15 dwt gold.<sup>6</sup>  
June 1887: Dunstone and party's claim, the "Last Chance"--112 oz 4 dwt from 363 tons. Best parcel yielded 49 oz 13 dwt.<sup>7</sup>  
1894: The Laura Reef, near Amherst, gave excellent returns for a long time at an average of 5 dwt to the ton, the reef having a thickness from 10 to 15 feet.<sup>8</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 6.0: Cosstick's battery, Laura Reef (Reef has been worked from 1860. A battery was operating on the reef during the 1870s and was still working in the mid 1880s).  
Open cut/stope--Long, narrow open cut/stope which has been partly bulldozed and filled. The southern end of the open cut still relatively intact.  
Mullock heap--On the western side of the intact section of the open cut/stope is a mullock heap with four short dumping lines.  
Machinery site--Near the mullock heap are some flattened machinery foundations (spread of brick, stone and mortar rubble) and a partly buried concrete winder bed.  
Tailings dump--In the gully to the west of the mine workings, on cleared freehold land, is an extensive dump of tailings.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Northern section of the workings has been bulldozed, the southern section (open cut/stope, mullock heap and machinery site) has some integrity.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of the site reduced as to have very little interpretive value. Site may have some potential to yield archaeological artefacts.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1998.

- <sup>1</sup> Records of Geological Survey, Vol. III, part 2, 1912
- <sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
- <sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
- <sup>4</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
- <sup>5</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
- <sup>6</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
- <sup>7</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report



**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **7.0   Rocky Flat Lead workings**  
                                  **7.1   Sadowa Company**

**HI No.**                                 **H7623-0257**

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**LOCATION:**                             Talbot, the lead runs from the present location of Talbot Rubbish Tip to McCallum Creek  
**MUNICIPALITY:**                     Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:**                     Freehold Land

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Site 7.1--A significant deep lead mine opened during the early period of deep mining at Talbot and culminating in one of the largest cyanide works in the district. In terms of gold production at a state-wide level the mine ranks among the top fifty deep lead mines. The physical remains of the mullock dumps and gravel heaps are some of the largest and most visible in the district and form part of a network of sites on the Rocky and Mount Greenock Leads (pp.50-51).

Schedule Three: Buildings and sites recommended for inclusion or retention on the Register of the National Estate--Sadowa mine and cyanide works, off Champions Road, Rocky Flat (p.51).

**INTERPRETATION:**

Sadowa mine and cyanide works. This mine was one of the richest mines in the district and Bowen records that the Sadowa won 1559 kg of gold during its operation. This makes it comparable to the mines at Clunes in terms of gold production and also slightly greater than the Hoffnung mine at Dunach. On a state wide basis the Sadowa was among the top fifty deep lead mines in terms of production.

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

This site still retains large mullock heaps, gravel heaps and evidence of slimes, although early cyanide treatment has now severely depleted this last element. The site comprises at least three main sites, which correspond with the sites of early shafts. Two of the mullock heaps are thought to relate to shafts 3 and 4. The site on allotment 33 has not been examined and may contain evidence of the cyanide works.

**SOURCES:**                             Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

1859: Scandinavian Lead--The last and richest gold discovery was the Scandinavian Lead, which was opened in early 1859 on the site of Talbot, and around which the town grew. For those comparatively late days of gold digging the rush was an enormous one. The lead, near the present Talbot railway station was discovered by diggers Adolph, Carl Olsen, Carl W. Hallem and Joseph Bell. Other discoveries were made during the Scandinavian Rush in 1859. Rocky Flat, east of the main lead was discovered separately, and the Union Lead, north of Talbot was opened by a party of Welshman. Joseph Barnes and party opened Long Gully, Talbot, in May 1859, and Mt. Glasgow diggings were started in June 1859 by a party consisting of Rolstone, Wilson, McLoughlin and Wood.<sup>1</sup>

August 1859: Rocky Flat Lead--Giving employment to 300 men. Believed by many to be a continuation of the Scandinavian Lead. 10-hp engine erected on the east end of the lead and two others in the course of erection. Scandinavian Lead has attracted such a large population 18 months ago, responsible for founding present township of Back Creek. Being traced in a northerly direction, at least 1300 actively engaged.<sup>2</sup>

September 1859: Engine shaft on Rocky Flat Lead struck payable gold at a depth of 90 feet. Scandinavian Lead: richness of lead--West of England claim, 210 oz from 43 loads (principally cement); United Miners, 373 loads yielded 656½ oz. Rocky Point--Sinking from 85 to 90 feet through 60 to 70 feet of basaltic rock.<sup>3</sup>

February 1860: Rocky Flat Lead--27 frontage claims in full work (200 men employed). General opinion is lead is trending towards Gibraltar. Ground in that direction being taken up in 3-acre blocks, by parties of 18 men to each block.<sup>4</sup>

May 1861: Rocky Flat frontage claims yielding good dividends. Scandinavian Lead has joined Rocky Flat Lead--mining dull.<sup>5</sup>

March 1864: Rocky Flat--400 men. Mining matters improved, particularly near McCullough's Pad-dock--Prince Alfred Co., British Standard Co., Lancashire Lass Co., Irish Lass Co., and Rocky Flat Paddock Gold Mining Co.<sup>6</sup>

September 1864: Progress good on Rocky Flat lead. Band of Hope and Rising Sun companies completed erection o machinery. Paddock Co., good weekly dividends. Britannia, Prince Alfred and Irish Lass being rewarded for labour. Royal Standard Co.'s engine started.<sup>7</sup>

December 1867: Sadowa Co. heads the list of alluvial mines, has given an impetus to deep lead mining.<sup>8</sup>

March 1868: Sadowa Co.--1166 oz.<sup>9</sup>

June 1868: Sadowa Co.--1705 oz.<sup>10</sup>

September 1868: Sadowa Co.--an increase of 532 oz. Nil Desperandum Co., Scandinavian Lead, has spent 9 months erecting steam machinery.<sup>11</sup>

June 1869: Sadowa Co. 2105 oz from No. 3 shaft. No. 4 shaft down 120 feet and has two substantial steam engines in course of erection.<sup>12</sup>

March 1869: Brunswick Gold Mining Co.—27-hp steam engine.<sup>13</sup>

September 1870: The Brunswick Co. has just completed the erection of a winding engine.<sup>14</sup>

December 1870: Sadowa Co., 1381 oz., Brunswick, 580 oz.<sup>15</sup>

September 1871: Sadowa Co. 934 oz; Band of Hope at Cockatoo, 542; and Brunswick Co., 466 oz.<sup>16</sup>

December 1871: Sadowa Co. 657 oz; Band of Hope at Cockatoo, 555 oz.<sup>17</sup>

June 1872: Sadowa Co. (Talbot Tribute Co.) returns of 679, New Band of Hope (Cockatoo) 627 oz, Lease No. 776 (Golden Gate) have sunk a shaft and found deeper ground than any yet worked on Rocky Flat.<sup>18</sup>

December 1874: Band of Hope Co., has collapsed, reformed under the title Narrigal G.M. Co.<sup>19</sup>

March 1875: The New Greenock Park Tribute Co., Rocky Flat, has entirely suspended operations.<sup>20</sup>

June 1875: The Narrigal and Prince of Wales companies have ceased work and their plants are for sale.<sup>21</sup>

December 1876: Golden Gate Co. completed their shaft. The machinery from the Sadowa Co. and from the Greenock Park Co., valued at £5000, has been removed to the neighbourhood of Creswick.<sup>22</sup>

March 1877: Golden Gate Co. and United Miners Co., Rocky Flat, have both bottomed their shafts.<sup>23</sup>

December 1877: Golden Gate Co., Rocky Flat, has mastered the water from the Sadowa Co. old workings.<sup>24</sup>

March 1878: The Golden Gate Co. burst its boiler and has stopped for want of funds.<sup>25</sup>

September 1886: A large tract of country has been taken up under the Mining of Private Property Act, on the basaltic plateau lying between McCallum's and Back Creeks, which was thought by old mining men to be highly auriferous, as the old Brunswick and Martell's Paddock Company obtained a large amount of gold from the west side of the plateau, near Back Creek.<sup>26</sup>

September 1888: Plant of Rip Van Winkle Co. (Mt Greenock) may be sold or hired to pump Scandinavian or Black Leads, on both of which profitable employment for many hundred would be available if leads were drained.<sup>27</sup>

December 1889: Messrs Toe and McKenzie applied for lease and proposed to form company to work Rocky Flat Lead at its supposed junction with the Mysterious Lead.<sup>28</sup>

June 1891: Phoenix Co. proved wash dirt payable, but require more powerful machinery.<sup>29</sup>

March 1891: Black Lead Co.--Favourable indications.<sup>30</sup>

1905: Rocky Flat Co.--Very good developmental work being carried on.<sup>31</sup>

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#### DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Site 7.0: Rocky Flat Lead workings (Lead opened in 1859 resulting in a large rush which led to deep lead mining. Large scale deep lead mining commenced in 1864 and continued with mixed fortunes until the late 1870s).

Deep lead workings--All the mine workings, mullock heaps and sand dumps have been flattened or removed. Little left, bar the Sadowa mines, to indicate the intensity of the workings on this lead.

#### Site 7.1: Sadowa Company

The Sadowa Company was Talbot's leading deep lead mine in the late 1860s. Rich gold yields--1,000 to 2,000 ounces a quarter--from 1867 to 1870 promoted a mining boom. The Sadowa Company sunk four shafts. The most substantial plant erected by the company was at the No. 4 shaft: in June 1869 this shaft was down 120 feet and two steam engines were being installed. The company's fortunes changed in the early 1870s and as gold production decline--by 1872 the company was only producing 600 ounces or so a quarter--the mine was placed in the hands of tributing parties. The mine closed down shortly



after. The Sadowa, from 1867 to 1869, produced 1,559kg of gold making it one of the more productive mines to operate on the Chalks Subgroup of the Loddon Group of deep leads. Company worked from c.1867 to 1872. Lead workings--Line of four large heaps running parallel to the north side of Talbot-Majorca Road.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:            Site 7.0 - No integrity  
   Site 7.1 - More a landscape feature

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Rocky Flat Lead workings

Integrity of the workings reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

Sadowa Company

The site has:

*Historical significance*—Site of the richest deep lead mine in the Amherst Mining Division.

*Social value*—the line of mullock heaps form a prominent landscape feature.

The significance of the site comes from its history and the landscape qualities of its mullock heaps

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear            Date: 1998.

- 
- 1        Flett, 1979, p 256
  - 2        Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 3        Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 4        Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 5        Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 6        Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 7        Mining Surveyors' Report
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  - 27       Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 28       Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 29       Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 30       Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 31       Mines Department Annual Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 8.0 Union Extended Company  
**HI No.** H7623-0258

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**LOCATION:** Mt Greenock, Burbank, 4.0kms south-east of Talbot.  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** Mt Greenock Geological Reserve (N1)

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Schedule One: Buildings recommended for inclusion or retention in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Interim Development Order: this is one of the many sites named and used for the survey work by Major Mitchell, but due to surrounding development has become the most prominent of the local sites. Its bare volcanic cone forms a graceful feature in the landscape and contrasts strongly with the surrounding forest. The surrounding area, including mines, roads, bridges and several early buildings combine to form an historical landscape of considerable significance.

**INTERPRETATION:**

Mount Greenock was climbed and named by Major Thomas Mitchell on 26 September 1836. He chose the name from a burgh on the Forth of Clyde. The vantage point resulted in much useful survey work by Mitchell and led him to refer to the bare surrounding volcanic cones as the "Mammeloid Hills". The Mount formed part of Alexander MacCallum's Dunach Forest pastoral run from 1841 and this was sometime referred to as the "Mount Greenock" run. Mining along the Mount Greenock Creek (or McCallum's Creek as it was later known) commenced in the mid 1850s and the area saw a mining boom in the 1870s and 80s when the deep alluvial lead running under the mount was exploited. Several mines had their workings on the slopes of Mount Greenock. The town of Dunach was largely a product of this mining boom and was also sustained by extensive farming in the vicinity.

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

Mount Greenock is still largely as Mitchell found it (judging from his sketch from the summit). Some mine workings are located on the lower slopes, several roads now skirt the base and a commemorative cairn has been erected on the summit.

**SOURCES:** Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

First period of gold mining at Mount Greenock

June 1855: There were about 10,000 diggers at Back Creek and Daisy Hill when the famous riots started at the bottom of Adelaide Lead in June 1855. Other discoveries in the area during 1855 were Mt. Greenock, east of Talbot; the White Hills; Cockatoo; and Daisy Flat at Amherst. Towns were surveyed at Back Creek and Amherst but the general exodus to Fiery Creek in September 1855 led to the cancellation of Back Creek town survey<sup>1</sup>

September 1859: Mt Greenock--At the base of the hill, on the north side, there are about 100 miners busily employed mining in a paddock, the property of Mr Ambrose. Outside the paddock is a surveyed road, under which the gutter has been traced from the inside. At a considerable elevation above the fence and road, with basaltic rock cropping over the surface. There are several prospecting holes being worked, and the prospectors entertain high hopes of the results of their labour.

March 1864: From present appearance the lead promises to be one of the most important ever opened up in the Maryborough district. A small township is rapidly being formed at the northern base of the Mount. Mines working of north side of the mount include All Nations Co., Victoria Co. (adjoining All Nations), Perseverance Co. (adopting the same system as Great Tunnel Co.--inclined tunnel on the side of the Mount). Southern Cross Co., Pioneer Co., Oriental Co., and Darling Co. are all sinking. Black Ball Co. making good wages. Talbot Gold has bottomed their shaft. Perseverance Co. building new brick chimney and replacing boiler. Prospectors south of the Mount unable to reach bedrock with windlass on account of water. Tunnel companies on the east side of Mount retarded by foul air—Princess Alexandra, Prince of Wales and Exploring Gold Mining companies are in, respectively, 1,200, 1,250 and 1,300 feet.<sup>2</sup>

September 1864: Those claims that have bottomed and opened out are getting very satisfactory returns especially All Nations, Talbot, Perseverance, Oriental, Black Ball, Darling, Victoria, and Prince of Wales.

Pioneer Co. struck payable gold. Undaunted Co., sinking. Southern Cross Co. sinking. Search and Find It purchased 25-hp engine. Homeward Bound and Lone Tree Isola about to commence. Golden Ball, Koh-i-noor and Grand Junction are sinking.<sup>3</sup>

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DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

The Mt Greenock lead was discovered in 1855. A small rush took place with mining mainly concentrated on the north side of the hill. The miners were getting gold by sinking shafts and tunnelling, from gravels deposited by an ancient river system. By 1859 the miners had traced the gold bearing gravels to a paddock at the base of the hill where the lead was found to be covered by basaltic rock (lava flow).

The deep lead mining on the north of the hill, despite the promise shown in 1864, did not lead onto any large scale operations and by the next year the focus of mining had shifted to the southern side of the hill.

Site 8.0: Union Extended Co.

Mullock heap - North side of Mount Greenock. Small mullock heap, no pebble or sand dump, and no machinery foundations. Several smaller dumps below the heap, to the east.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:            Poor integrity but some historical value as landscape feature.

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The sites have:

*Historical significance*—evidence of the mining which took place along one of Amherst Mining Division's richest deep leads.

*Social value*—the mullock heaps associated with the mine sites are prominent landscape features.

*Network values*—Sites 8.0 to 8.5

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Flett, 1979, pp245-255

<sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **8.1    Union Company**  
                                  **8.2    Hoffnung Company**  
                                  **8.3    Nicholl's Freehold Company**  
**HI No.**                       **H7623-0259**

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**LOCATION:**                   Mt Greenock, Burbank, 4.0kms south-east of Talbot.  
**MUNICIPALITY:**           Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:**           8.1 - Mt Greenock Geological Reserve (N1)  
                                  Sites 8.2 and 8.3 - Freehold Land

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Schedule One: Buildings recommended for inclusion or retention in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Interim Development Order; this is one of the many sites named and used for the survey work by Major Mitchell but due to surrounding development, it has become the most prominent of the local sites. Its bare volcanic cone forms a graceful feature in the landscape and contrasts strongly with the surrounding forest. The surrounding area, including mines, roads, bridges and several early buildings, combine to form an historical landscape of considerable significance.

**INTERPRETATION:**

Mount Greenock was climbed and named by Major Thomas Mitchell on 26 September 1836. He chose the name from a burgh on the Forth of Clyde. The vantage point resulted in much useful survey work by Mitchell and led him to refer to the bare surrounding volcanic cones as the "Mammeloid Hills". The Mount formed part of Alexander MacCallum's Dunach Forest pastoral run from 1841 and this was sometime referred to as the "Mount Greenock" run. Mining along the Mount Greenock Creek (or McCallum's Creek as it was later known) commenced in the mid 1850s and the area saw a mining boom in the 1870s and 80s when the deep alluvial lead running under the mount was exploited. Several mines had their workings on the slopes of Mount Greenock. The town of Dunach was largely a product of this mining boom and was also sustained by extensive farming in the vicinity.

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

Mount Greenock is still largely as Mitchell found it (judging from his sketch from the summit). Some mine workings are located on the lower slopes, several roads now skirt the base and a commemorative cairn has been erected on the summit.

**SOURCES:**                Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

Second period of alluvial mining at Mount Greenock

March 1865: Ground for about 100 miners occupied about 1½ miles south of Mount Greenock, near the Antrim Arms, or junction of Clunes and Ballarat Roads. A tunnelling company, in driving westwards into the plains, obtained some good prospects. It is probable this may be Mount Greenock lead, or a tributary of it.<sup>1</sup>

September 1865: Considerable falling off has taken place in the Mount Greenock Plain leasing companies.<sup>2</sup>

September 1866: The alluvial mining about Mount Greenock continues in a depressed state, owing to the want of sufficient capital to work the main lead which is so heavily charged with water. The Hoffnung Co. at Mt. Greenock South, has had a 12-hp engine, with 6 inch pipes and a 70 ft lift, employed for some months past, exclusively in pumping, but has had to suspend operations to place in 10-inch pipes, which, it is thought, will clear the lead so as to enable the miners to proceed.<sup>3</sup>

September 1866: Alluvial mining about Mount Greenock continues in a depressed state, owing to want of capital.<sup>4</sup>

March 1867: Mount Greenock Lead will probably remain un-worked indefinitely until outside capital is brought in.<sup>5</sup>

September 1867: Hoffnung Co--broken down a third time.<sup>6</sup>

March 1868: Alluvial mining still in depressed state for want of capital. An effort is being made by the Union Co. to raise sufficient funds to develop the Mount Greenock deep lead, need about £4000.<sup>7</sup>

September 1868: The Union Co., Mount Greenock South, now erecting plant and will assist the Hoffnung with water. Private ground on the south side of Hoffnung has been let to a mining company-- Nicholls Freehold Co.<sup>8</sup>

March 1869: Nicholls Freehold--erection of two engines of collective power of 48-hp. Union Co. bottomed on gold at 150 feet.<sup>9</sup>

September 1869: The large mining companies on the plains are each progressing favourably.<sup>10</sup>

1868: Rip Van Winkle Co.--first attempt to find Mt Greenock Lead. Party sank shaft to 230 feet, then mining depression set in and shaft abandoned.<sup>11</sup>

June 1870: Hoffnung Co. in prosperous state, Union Co. to the north and Nichol's Freehold to the south, Rose Co. let on tribute. Potosi Co. not yet struck the gutter. So far spent £9,000. The Gladstone Co. has completed and started two engines.<sup>12</sup>

December 1870: Alluvial mining in the deep ground has disappointed our expectations. It was thought that Mount Greenock Lead, when found, would give good results; but after the expenditure of more than £20,000 in the Potosi and Gladstone claims, the aforesaid lead has been found to be worthless in the parts worked, so that we have nothing but the subsidiary leads to depend upon in alluvial mining. Nichol's Freehold, Union and Hoffnung claims produced respectively 1,296 ozs, 676 ozs and 331 ozs.<sup>13</sup>

September 1871: Nichol's Freehold--659 ozs.; Union Co.--358 ozs.<sup>14</sup>

March 1872: Union and Hoffnung companies continue to work profitably. The alluvial ground on the south side of the Mount spreads over too large a space to be worked with profit. Nichol's Freehold has ceased working for this cause, and their fine plant which cost about £5,000 is being sold and removed.<sup>15</sup>

June 1872: Hoffnung Co.--381 ozs., Union Co.--302 ozs.<sup>16</sup>

September 1874: A new company has been formed to work Nichol's Freehold, about 1½ miles south of the Mount.<sup>17</sup>

March 1875: Hoffnung Co. employs 21 men, produced 660 ozs.<sup>18</sup>

June 1875: Nichol's Freehold erecting steam machinery.<sup>19</sup>

December 1876: Nichol's Freehold completed their plant.<sup>20</sup>

September 1876: Hoffnung Co. still keeps up an excellent yield per ton of wash dirt.<sup>21</sup>

September 1877: Hoffman Gold Mining Co., Mount Greenock, produced 404 oz, employed 20 men.<sup>22</sup>

September 1879: Union Gold Mining Co., Mount Greenock, produced 753 oz. of gold during the quarter. Mount Greenock Extended Co. is progressing fast.<sup>23</sup>

1880: Rip Van Winkle Co.--second attempt to find Mt Greenock Lead. Powerful machinery installed, costing £6,000. Ground purchased for £9,000 from Mr Samuels of Talbot. Ground proved unpayable. Abandoned and plant removed<sup>24</sup>

December 1884: Union Co., Mt Greenock, has at last ceased work, after being in existence for about 20 years. A new lease has been taken up on Mt Greenock to work the ground to the east of old Union Extended claim in direction of the Princess Alexandra Tunnel.<sup>25</sup>

June 1885: South Greenock Co. may return something payable soon. Adams Freehold Co. has taken up 800 acres of land under Mining on Private Property Act, 1884. Expected to bottom in a few days.<sup>26</sup>

September 1885: South Greenock Co. has stopped work but a leases has lately been taken up close to the NE, by Richard Hull, under the Mining on Private Property Act. Already payable gold, which is supposed to be the real Mt Greenock Lead. Adams Freehold Co.--16 men employed main driving.<sup>27</sup>

June 1886: Adams Freehold Co. has sunk shaft no. 2 to 103 ft.<sup>28</sup>

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#### DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

Deep lead mining commenced to the south of Mt Greenock in 1865 when a tunnelling company, driving westwards into the basaltic plain, was successful in picking up the Mt Greenock Lead, or a tributary of it. A number of prospecting companies immediately commenced sinking shafts on the plains at Mt. Greenock South. The Hoffnung Company was one of the largest concerns but found itself unable to attract sufficient capital to install adequate pumping machinery. Deep lead mining languished for several years until 1869 when two other companies--Union and Nicholls Freehold --joined the fray and also erected steam-powered pumping machinery. Collectively, these three companies had sufficient power to de-water the lead. In March 1869, the Union Company bottomed on gold at 150 feet. The three companies were to all mine with varying success until the early 1880s, but only the Hoffnung, with a total production of 1,120kg of gold, rose to any prominence. Other companies who tried the south plains, including the Potosi and Gladstone, were not successful at all: eg. the Potosi Company spent £9,000 without finding profitable gold.

Site 8.1: Union Co.

Mullock heap--Remnant of mullock heap and pebble dump. Part of the mine site has been turned into a cap park for Major Mitchell Trail.

Sites 8.2 and 8.3: Hoffnung and Nicholl's Freehold companies.

Running south across the plain from the base of Mount Greenock are several partly quarried mullock heaps. No machinery foundations visible. Several other smaller heaps in the area.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Sites 8.1 to 8.3 have poor integrity in respect to machinery foundations but historical value as landscape features.

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The sites as a precinct have:

*Historical significance*—evidence of the mining which took place along one of Amherst Mining Division's richest deep leads.

*Social value*—the mullock heaps associated with the mine sites are prominent landscape features.

*Network values*—Sites 8.0 to 8.5

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 11 MSR 12/88
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 13 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 14 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 15 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 16 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 17 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 18 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 19 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 20 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 21 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 22 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 23 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 24 MSR 12/88
- 25 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 26 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 27 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 28 Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 8.4 Adams Freehold pump shaft  
8.5 Adams Freehold engine shaft

**HI No.** H7623-0251

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**LOCATION:** Adams Freehold pump shaft, 3.8 km Evansford, north of Evansford-Clunes Road  
Adams Freehold machinery foundations: 4.9 km south-east of Evansford, west of Old Ballarat Road

**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council

**LAND STATUS:** Freehold Land

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**SITE HISTORY:**

Third period of deep lead mining at Mount Greenock

Adams Freehold Co. has taken up 800 acres of land under Mining on Private Property Act, 1884. Expected to bottom in a few days.<sup>1</sup>

September 1885: South Greenock Co. has stopped work but a lease has lately been taken up close to the NE, by Richard Hull, under the Mining on Private Property Act. Already payable gold, which is supposed to be the real Mt Greenock Lead. Adams Freehold Co.--16 men employed main driving.<sup>2</sup>

June 1886: Adams Freehold Co. has sunk shaft no. 2 to 103 ft.<sup>3</sup>

September 1886: Adams Freehold Co. has just bottomed their shaft.<sup>4</sup>

December 1886: Adams Freehold Co. making slow progress.<sup>5</sup>

June 1887: Adams Freehold Co.--sinking third shaft. Loss of second shaft was great blow to company. Work would have stopped altogether without government grant.<sup>6</sup>

December 1887: Hull and party tunnelling for the lead--on the same run of ground as Adams Freehold Co. Has met with little success--ground poor and hard to work. Adams Freehold Co.--on Mt. Greenock Lead, higher up than Rip Van Winkle Co. Just completed third shaft 172 ft deep. Eight miles west of Talbot. Has lost two shafts through loose and friable ground.<sup>7</sup>

March 1888: Adams Freehold Co.--another stoppage--breakage of engine shaft. Engine said to be too light for both pumping and winding.<sup>8</sup>

June 1888: Adams Freehold Co.--main drives silted up with heavy flow of water. Machinery working well.<sup>9</sup>

September 1888: Adams Freehold Co.--shaft 129 feet on bedrock. Heavy water.<sup>10</sup>

December 1888: Ground held by this company has now been abandoned for the third time without having found the Mt Greenock Lead. Adams Freehold Co.--after deciding to erect more powerful plant, has remained inactive.<sup>11</sup>

March 1889: A co-operative party of 12 men have made arrangements with the owner to sink on Nichol's Plains. Sunk 45 feet, about 20 chains east of old South Greenwich (Greenock?) Co.'s workings.<sup>12</sup>

*References* Flett, J., *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*, 1979, pp245-55.

Mining Surveyors Quarterly Reports: September 1886; December 1886; March 1887; June 1887; December 1887; March 1888; June 1888; September 1888; December 1888; and March 1889.

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:**

**Adams Freehold Company**

The last phase of deep lead mining on the Mt. Greenock lead centred around two companies--the Adams Freehold and New Rip Van Winkle. The former company's operations were on the southern plains; the latter, on the plains, several miles north of the Mt Greenock. Both ventures were unsuccessful, with the Adams Freehold Company being particularly dogged by ill-fortune. By December 1887, the company had bottomed its third shaft at 172 feet: its two previous shafts being swamped before reaching any gold. The company had more success on its third attempt and managed to bottom its shaft only to find that the pumping plant it had installed was inadequate. After deciding to erect more powerful plant the company exhausted its capital and the mine closed down in the early 1890s.

Pumping shaft

Mullock heap--Small intact heap

Machinery foundations--Small wooden headframe and small concrete mounting block.

Shaft re-used in the 1940s for water supply purposes

Engine shaft

Mullock heap--remnant of mullock heap.

Machinery foundations--To the west of the mullock heap, near the side of a hay shed is an arrangement of large brick mounting beds. The largest bed is partly demolished, and is a rectangular tank-like structure which has an overall measurement of 45ft x 10ft. The surviving sections of its walls are 2-ft thick and stand to a height of 6ft, and have 1½ inch mounting bolts. On both sides of the large rectangular bed are smaller solid mounting beds.

Boiler settings--To the west of the pumping and winding foundations are two (largely buried) stone boiler settings.

Company operated from 1885 to c.1888; machinery foundations would belong to the last period of machinery installation at the mine, in 1888.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good. No current disturbance

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site 8.4 has:

*Scientific significance*—although dating from the 1940s, the Adams Freehold pumping shaft has a small wooden headframe which is similar to the type shown, in historical photographs, to have been use in the district during the nineteenth century. Adams Freehold Company's engine shaft has some substantial machinery foundations, the only surviving on any of the division's deep lead mines.

*Network values*—Sites 8.0 to 8.5.

Site 8.5 has:

*Historical significance*—Associated with one of the richest deep lead in the Amherst Mining Division.

*Archaeological potential*— The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

*Network values*—Sites 8.0 to 8.5

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed Heritage Inventory

Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 6 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 7 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 8 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 9 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 10 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 11 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 12 Mining Surveyors' Report



**PLACE NO. & NAME:**    **9.0    Annuities Company's battery**  
                                  **9.1    Mine site**  
                                  **9.2    Glasgow Reef workings**

**H No.**                               **H7623-0260**

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**LOCATION:**                        Sites 9.0 and 9.1 are located between Merrin Merrin and Middle swamps, 10.0kms south-east of Talbot  
  Site 9.2, south side of Mount Glasgow, off Wattle Gully-Ducal Road

**MUNICIPALITY:**                Central Goldfields Shire Council

**LAND STATUS:**                 Sites 9.0 and 9.1 - Freehold Land  
  Sites 9.2 - Crown

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**HISTORY:**

1859: In May 1859, and June 1859, Mt. Glasgow diggings were started by a party consisting of Rolstone, Wilson, McLoughlin and Wood.<sup>1</sup>

September 1869: The large gold mining companies near the swamps are making good progress, and have first class machinery erected, or in the course of erection. The Great Wheal and North Clunes Extended Companies expect to be alluvial mines, the former being 85 feet, the latter 100 feet deep. The Great Northern and Talbot and Clunes will be quartz mines.<sup>2</sup>

December 1869: The large companies near the swamps (on the prolongation of the Clunes Reefs) have not made much progress.<sup>3</sup>

March 1870: The Great Northern Co. at Merin-Merin Swamp, have powerful machinery completed. The Great Wheal and North Clunes Extension companies are at a standstill, owing to the great depression in the mining market.<sup>4</sup>

September 1870: Annuities Quartz claim at Mt Glasgow Reef has struck lode 23 feet thick; company propose erecting battery near the mine to save expense of cartage to Clunes.<sup>5</sup>

March 1871: Annuities Co., at Mt Glasgow bids fair to be a first-class claim. The company is now erecting a crushing machine on the margin of the Middle Swamp, about 1½ miles distant from the claim, which will be connected by tramway. The battery is a 12-head revolving one.<sup>6</sup>

December 1871: The Annuities Co. Mount Glasgow, has disappointed shareholders.<sup>7</sup>

March 1865: A Company has been formed for sluicing near the eastern base of Mt. Glasgow. Water to be conveyed from Merin-Merin Swamp, about one mile distant.<sup>8</sup>

1913: Two men working a small but payable reef.<sup>9</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 9.0: Annuities Company's battery

Mullock heap—small--30 metre long, 5 metre high--mullock heap. No sign of shaft.

Battery site--50 metres north, from the western end of the mullock heap, is a concrete and bluestone slab, part of the foundations for a stamping battery. The surviving section of the slab measures 9ft x 8ft and has a slot which is 5-1/2ft long x 1-1/4ft wide.

Water dam --In the gully below the battery foundations is a small full water dam.

Sludge pond--On the west side of the water dam is a small intact slum pond (approximately 30ft x 15ft).

Site 9.1: Mine site

Mullock heap--Approximately 0.5kms to the east of Site 9.0 is a small mullock heap.

Site 9.2: Glasgow Reef workings

Reef workings--Working mine

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**        Site 9.0 has some integrity with a range of features to help illustrate what took place. Site 9.1 has little integrity and Site 9.2 is currently being worked.

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Integrity of the sites so reduced as to have very little interpretive value. Some potential for archaeological artefacts.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1998.

- 
- 1 Flett, 1979, p 256
  - 2 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 4 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 5 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 6 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 7 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 8 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 9 Mines Department Annual Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **10.0 Tunnel Hill adit**  
                                  **10.1 Garden Beds**

**H No.**                                 **H7623-0261**

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**LOCATION:**                         1.8kms east of Talbot, summit of Tunnel Hill, south of Gladstone Street  
**MUNICIPALITY:**                Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:**                 Tunnel Hill Bushland Reserve

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Tunnel Hill mine, off Lexton-Talbot Road, Talbot. Schedule One: Buildings recommended for inclusion in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Interim Development Order; This gold mining site is significant for the intactness of its physical remains, being one of the few early reef mines in the shire where a tunnel is still intact (p178).

**INTERPRETATION:**

This is one of the few former mining sites within the shire where a tunnel of such an early date is still open. The current reworking is of such a small scale that it does not jeopardise the integrity of the site, although more intensive working could easily destroy attributes of this site (p.178).

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

The tunnel at this site is still open and is currently being reworked by a small operator. Other evidence of former gold mining operations is also located in the immediate area (p178).

**SOURCES:**                         Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

1861: Tunnel driven (“so it is said”) in 1861.<sup>1</sup>

1917: One mile west of Talbot. Formerly worked for over half a mile in length in an open cut, a tunnel and shallow shafts (including Gordon's shaft), up to 85 feet deep. The reef is 45 feet thick when exposed in the tunnel, which is driven, so it is said, in 1861. General desire by Prospecting Association to re-work the reef.<sup>2</sup>

1917: Victoria Gully--On east side of Tunnel Hill Reef, 1 mile west of Talbot. Formerly rich alluvial. The material in this gully is now being cyanided.<sup>3</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 10.0: Tunnel Hill

Adit--The adit is currently being worked. Modern mining buildings erected on the site (large (13ft long) elongated diamond with circles top and bottom.

Site 10.1: Garden bed

An arrangement of mostly geometrical stone outlines--elongated (13ft long) diamond which has 6-ft diameter circles top and bottom. The diamond is aligned roughly north-south. A few feet to the east of diamond is a large “crown” shape, below which is a large triangle. The “crown” is 8ft long and the triangle is 13-ft. There are several conflicting local views on this site, namely a surveying symbol left by Major Mitchell; a Aboriginal stone arrangement; or a garden-bed arrangement. The most probable interpretation is a garden bed arrangement. This view is supported by an exhibit which is currently in the Castlemaine Art Gallery. This exhibit, dating to the late 1860s, is a model of an ideal home. The front garden of the ideal home contains a number of quartz-lined geometrical shapes similar those at Tunnel Hill.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**         Site 10.0 is currently being reworked. Site 10.1 appears to be undisturbed. Local community has marked the garden bed site with white wooden posts.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Tunnel Hill

Integrity of the site reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

Garden bed:

*Historical significance*— A historical display item in the Castlemaine Art Gallery and Museum, depicts a model for an ideal home, c.1860s. The front garden of the ideal home contains a number of quartz-lined geometrical shapes similar those at Tunnel Hill.

*Archaeological potential*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the inhabitants of the site.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Tunnel Hill Adit: Site listed Heritage Inventory  
Garden Bed:

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Records of Geological Survey, Vol IV, part 1, 1917
  - <sup>2</sup> Records of Geological Survey, Vol IV, part 1, 1917
  - <sup>3</sup> Mines Department Annual Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 11.0 Nuggetty Reef mine

**H No.** H7623-0262

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**LOCATION:** Nuggetty Reef, 3.6kms south-west of Talbot, east of Nuggetty Gully Road  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** Freehold Land

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**HISTORY:**

February 1860: Nuggetty Gully when first opened up was very rich, numerous nuggets from 1 oz to 30 lbw found. At present supports a mining population of about 200 (principally puddling). Nuggetty Gully located at east end of Ballaarat Hill.<sup>1</sup>

February 1861: I will forward a plan and sections of Nuggetty Gully, connected with the end of Ballaarat Hill.<sup>2</sup>

December 1887: W.H Eustace, Nuggetty Gully, crushing tailings and cement from old claims, with some success.<sup>3</sup>

September 1889: Eustace's mill crushing stone from Search and Find It claim.<sup>4</sup>

1905: Very good developmental work being carried on by Nuggetty Gully Co.<sup>5</sup>

1905: Royal Standard Co. has sunk shaft and is erecting machinery to prospect Kangaroo and Nuggetty Leads. Company holds about 1½ miles. 16 men employed. Very good developmental work being carried on.<sup>6</sup>

pre-1917: "Munro's find"--2 or 3 chains above where the gully crosses Maryborough Road. Gully just a few chains in length. Nuggets up to 43 oz found. Gully worked to junction with Back Creek. Last machine puddled contained 15 oz gold.<sup>7</sup>

1936: Nuggetty Gully Central Co. Assisted by government aid, sunk shaft 50 ft<sup>8</sup>

1937: Report, pp. 642-3. Formerly rich in alluvial gold, noted for nuggets. Nuggetty Gully Central Co. has three compartment shaft, 10' x 3'6", 160 feet deep, windlass, pump. 1,500 oz of gold obtained, yielding up to 12 oz per ton. Harrison's Reef opened up "many years ago"--tested more or less superficially--south of Nuggetty Gully Central's operations.<sup>9</sup>

1938: Nuggetty Gully Central Co.--mentioned.<sup>10</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

11.0: Nuggetty Reef mine

Mullock heap--remnant of mullock heap with several dumping lines. Rest of mine workings and machinery plant foundations have been flattened or filled in.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Poor

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of site so reduced as to have very little interpretive value. May be some potential for archaeological artefacts.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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**Assessor:** David Bannear **Date:** 1998.

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- <sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
  - <sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
  - <sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
  - <sup>4</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report
  - <sup>5</sup> Mines Department Annual Report
  - <sup>6</sup> Mines Department Annual Report
  - <sup>7</sup> Records of Geological Survey, Vol IV, part 1, 1917

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8	Mines Department Annual Report
9	Mines Department Annual Report
10	Mines Department Annual Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **12.0 Puddler No. 1 and water race system**  
                                  **12.1 Puddler No. 2**

**H No.**                                 **H7623-0263**

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LOCATION:                             Long Gully, 4.5kms south-west of Talbot  
MUNICIPALITY:                    Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND STATUS:                      State Forest

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**HISTORY:**

1859: Joseph Barnes and party opened Long Gully, Talbot, in May 1859, and Mt. Glasgow diggings were started in June 1859 by a party consisting of Rolstone, Wilson, McLoughlin and Wood.<sup>1</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Like most rushed-gullies, Long Gully would have been re-worked by miners using puddling machines.

Site 12.0: Long Gully water race and puddler

Water race--System of channels running around the heads of several gullies which direct water to a large puddling dam.

Puddler--The puddler has been partly quarried. No pivot post or trench slabbing. The untouched section of the 18-ft diameter puddler is still well defined. Most of the wash has been removed. The associated dam has been breached.

Site 12.1: Long Gully puddler

Puddler—20-ft diameter puddler which is just beginning to weather. No pivot-post or trench-slabbing. The puddler's bank of wash is still intact. The associated dam has been breached.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**         Site 12.0 has been disturbed, but Site 12.1 has good integrity.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**       Integrity of the sites reduced as to have very little interpretive value

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:**         Site listed Heritage Inventory

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**Assessor:** David Bannear         **Date:** 1998.

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<sup>1</sup>         Flett, 1979, p 256

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 13.0 Flinders Company

**H No.** H7623-0264

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**LOCATION:** All Nations Reef, 5.2kms south-west of Talbot  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest (Talbot Block)

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**HISTORY:**

March 1885: Flinders Co.--shaft 229 ft--sunk by prospecting vote money. Beginning to open out.<sup>1</sup>  
September 1885: Flinders Co: pushing on with main drives, with government assistance. Taken up a prospecting claim, under the bye-laws, south of their lease.<sup>2</sup>  
March 1886: All Nations Reef intersects upper portion of new lead ("Association Rush" Reily's Gully, near Granite Hill, parish of Amherst) nearly at right angles.<sup>3</sup>  
1894: On the All Nations Reef a good deal of work has been done but without payable results, although 30 years ago stone averaging ½ oz to the ton was worked for half a mile along the line of reef down to water level, a depth of 150 to 160 feet.<sup>4</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

The All Nations Reef was first worked in the mid 1860s when stone averaging ½ oz to the ton was obtained. The reef was worked for half a mile along the line of reef down to water level, a depth of 150 to 160 feet. The only attempt at large scale mining on the reef appears to have taken place in 1885 when the Flinders Company with the aid of money obtained from the Government's prospecting vote, sunk their shaft but were unable to find a profitable ore body.

**13.0: Flinders Company**

Mullock heap--Small partly quarried heap which partly covers an open cut.

Machinery site--Near the north-west corner of the mullock heap is a flattened machinery site (red brick rubble, basalt and mortar). Visible amongst the rubble is the outline of a stone boiler setting.

Open cut--Partly filled small open cut.

Water dam--Small silted dam.

Sludge pond--Quarried sludge pond containing only traces of tailings. In the scrub above the pond, is a small mound of rubble which may well mark the site of the battery.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Poor - could be improved by archaeological excavation.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The site has:

*Scientific significance*—Contains a range of relics documenting quartz-mining operations carried out on the site.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

*Network values*—Reily's Gully puddler and Flinders mine.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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**Assessor:** David Bannear **Date:** 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>4</sup> Special Report, 1894



**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 14.0 Reily's Gully Puddling Machine

**H No.** H7623-0265

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**LOCATION:** Reily's Gully, 5.4kms south-west of Talbot.  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest

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**HISTORY:**

March 1886: New lead discovered by prospectors employed by Caralulup Prospecting Association. For want of water, it is not yet known if it will yield ordinary wages. Some miners say it will only last about eight weeks--gutter narrow, wash only three inches thick. House and party are prospectors. About 120 miners on the ground, most sinking shafts, about 20 of which have bottomed. Sinking seven to twenty feet, in easy country. All Nations Reef intersects upper portion of lead at right angles; lead runs westerly into Kangaroo Flat. Pieces of fine gold, six dwt and two dwt, found at bottom of prospecting shaft. One dwt per tub, on average. In the course of a week the lead will be properly tested--Talbot Council sending water down an old race from the reservoir to the rush.<sup>1</sup>

1917: A conspicuous knoll, four miles south-west of Talbot. Formerly nuggety alluvial found on the

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

In 1886, Reily's Gully, near Granite Hill, was the scene of a small rush which became known as the "Association Rush". The new ground, prospected by miners employed by Caralulup Prospecting Association, proved to be short-lived. Like most rushed gullies, it would have been re-worked by miners using puddling machines.

**Site 14.0: Reily's Gully**

Puddler—Well-defined 22-ft diameter puddler which has a pronounced inner mound and deep puddling trench with sheer sides. No pivot-post or trench-slabbing. There is a visible outlet channel leading to a relatively intact bank of wash. The water for the puddler comes via a water-race which runs from a dam situated some 200 metres away. Puddler is relatively free of regrowth.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Good. No sign of any recent disturbance

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The site has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—Contains a range of relics documenting quartz-mining operations carried out on the site.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

*Network values*—Reily's Gully puddler and Flinders mine.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 15.0 Mia Mia Flat Puddler Machine

**H No.** H7623-0266

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**LOCATION:** Site 15.0 is located at the head of Mia Mia Flat, 5.6kms west of Talbot west of Peters Hill Track  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** State Forest (Lillicur Block)

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**HISTORY:**

1857: Diggings at Back Creek and Amherst had nearly junctioned on Daisy Hill Flat, near Mia Mia, and in 1857 the Mysterious Lead, an intricate, winding, deep gutter, was discovered on the flat below the present cemetery.<sup>1</sup>

November 1860: "Several companies are at work on the Mia Mia Reef, most of shafts are 100 feet deep ... I will send you a plan of Mia Mia Flat Diggings, connected with the Hard Hill ... Parts of the flat having been opened at different periods has caused it to possess a variety of names, such as Tick Nickle, the flat supports a settled population of over 300".<sup>2</sup>

December 1872: Steam machinery is now almost complete on Mia Mia Reef.<sup>3</sup>

September 1873: Mia Mia Reef has turned out a complete failure. The company has now collapsed, after expending about £3000.<sup>4</sup>

December 1887: "The Mia Mia"--Very good patches of coarse gold found by Chas. Anderson, "who appears to be peculiarly fortunate in his prognostications relating to the existence of gold".<sup>5</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 15.0: Mia Mia Flat

Puddler--Partly quarried 22-ft diameter puddler associated with a small silted dam. The inner mound of the puddler has been removed leaving only a well-defined outer ring. Most of the wash has been quarried.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Poor

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of the site is reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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**Assessor:** David Bannear **Date:** 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> Flett, 1979, p. 256

<sup>2</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>3</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>4</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

<sup>5</sup> Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **16.0 Mia Mia Reef mine**  
                                  **16.1 Chinese Camp Site**

**H No.**                                 **H7623-0267**

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**LOCATION:**                         Mia Mia Reef  
**MUNICIPALITY:**               Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:**                 State Forest (Lillicur Black)

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**HISTORY:**

1857: Diggings at Back Creek and Amherst had nearly junctioned on Daisy Hill Flat, near Mia Mia, and in 1857 the Mysterious Lead, an intricate, winding, deep gutter, was discovered on the flat below the present cemetery.<sup>1</sup>

November 1860: "Several companies are at work on the Mia Mia Reef, most of shafts are 100 feet deep ... I will send you a plan of Mia Mia Flat Diggings, connected with the Hard Hill ... Parts of the flat having been opened at different periods has caused it to possess a variety of names, such as Tick Nickle, the flat supports a settled population of over 300".<sup>2</sup>

December 1872: Steam machinery is now almost complete on Mia Mia Reef.<sup>3</sup>

September 1873: Mia Mia Reef has turned out a complete failure. The company has now collapsed, after expending about £3000.<sup>4</sup>

December 1887: "The Mia Mia"--Very good patches of coarse gold found by Chas. Anderson, "who appears to be peculiarly fortunate in his prognostications relating to the existence of gold".<sup>5</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

The Mia Mia Reef area was the focus of alluvial mining in 1857 when diggers found two shallow leads-- Back Creek and Amherst--junctioned in the area. During the course of the rush alluvial miners discovered a promising reef and by 1860 several parties were at work on Mia Mia Reef. Shafts went down only 100 feet or so. Mia Mia Reef witnessed only one attempt at large scale mining when, in 1872, the Mia Mia Reef Company erected steam machinery. This attempt was a complete failure, with the company expending over £3,000. The reef appears to have been more-or-less abandoned after this.

Site 16.0: Mia Mia Reef mine

Mullock heap--30 metre long intact mullock heap and filled shaft.

Whim platform--Immediately east of the shaft site is an intact circular whim platform.

Water dam--250 metres north-east from the mine is a large silted dam.

Grave--On the north side of the dam is a single grave (marked by quartz pebbles and a white wooden cross). The grave belongs to a man called Baldock who was killed in an accident at the mine. The grave is maintained by local people.

Site 16.1: Chinese camp site

Swampy area covered by high grass. According to local knowledge the area contains garden beds and water races.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**             Site 16.0 has a relatively intact mullock heap and whim platform.  
  Difficult to assess the Chinese camp site because of thick covering  
  of grass. Been some recent prospecting around the mine

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Site 16.0 has:

*Scientific significance*—Contains a range of relics documenting quartz-mining operations carried out on the site. Site includes a grave of a man killed at the mine.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological development of gold mining.

16.1 has:

*Historical significance*—Chinese gold miners were an integral part of historic alluvial gold mining in Victoria.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about Chinese life on the goldfields.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessor: David Bannear            Date: 1998.

- 
- 1            Flett, 1979, p. 256
  - 2            Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 3            Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 4            Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 5            Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **17.0: Daisy Creek Lead Puddling Machine No. 1**  
                                  **17.1 Daisy Creek Lead Puddling Machine No. 2**  
                                  **17.2 Big Hill Reef Quartz Blow**

**H No.**                                 **H7623-0268**

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**LOCATION:**                         Big Hill Reef and tributaries to Daisy Hill Creek, 3.2kms south-west of Talbot.  
                                  Site 17.0 is located near Quartz Dam, south of Tyler Track  
                                  Site 17.1 is located to the west of Quartz Track, north-east of Big Hill Reef  
                                  Site 17.2 - Big Hill, junction of Tyler and Quartz tracks

**MUNICIPALITY:**                 Central Goldfields Shire Council

**LAND STATUS:**                 Sites 17.0 and 17.1 - State Forest  
                                  Site 17.2 - Big Hill Geological Reserve

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**HISTORY:**

December 1869: The companies on the Big Reef, near Amherst, have not made progress in the erection of machinery<sup>1</sup>.  
September 1870: Himalaya Co. at the Big Reef, near Amherst which yields nine dwt per ton--company needs capital to erect steam machinery.<sup>2</sup>  
December 1870: Quartz mining in this division does not appear to be well understood, or we should have valuable lodes like Blucher's, White Horse and the Big Reefs, which are known to yield good payable returns, standing idle.<sup>3</sup>  
June 1874: Tara's Hall claim, situated on the continuation of Daisy Hill Lead, has commenced puddling with encouraging prospects.<sup>4</sup>  
September 1884: Tara's Hall Co. (alluvial) also shows an increased yield.<sup>5</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

The Big Reef near Amherst appears to have witnessed only one main period of quartz mining. In 1869 the Himalaya Company were working the reef and trying to raise capital to erect steam machinery. Despite the company's claim of 9-dwts to the ton it was unsuccessful in getting the necessary capital.

17.0: Daisy Hill Creek Lead

Puddler--100 metres west of Quartz dam is a very weathered puddler. No pivot-post or trench-slabbing and most of the wash has been quarried.

Site 17.1: Daisy Hill Creek Lead

Puddler--Large silted dam which has a puddler on the western end of its embankment. The puddler is well defined with a pronounced inner mound and deep, sheer-sided, puddling trench. No pivot-post or side-slabbing. The puddler has been covered by tops of trees discarded after post cutting.

Site 17.2: Big Hill Reef

Adit--Small mullock heap and collapsed/blocked adit.

Air shaft--Small air-shaft on the west side of the quartz reef.

Blow of quartz--Massive blow of quartz, considered to be the largest outcrop of quartz reef in the southern hemisphere.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**             Site 17.0 is in poor condition.  
  Site 17.1 and 17.2 are in good condition.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Site 17.0 Integrity reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

Site 17.1 has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—well-preserved puddler. One of the best examples recorded in the Amherst Mining Division. The puddler is very accessible.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

Site 17.2 has:

*Historical significance*—Big Hill is historically significant as a reference site for the understanding of quartz mining. The focal points of the pioneering years of shallow reef mining (mid to late 1850s) were large surface exposures (called “blows”) of auriferous quartz. These locations, once proven payable, were quickly divided into numerous claims, each worked by a small party of miners. The quartz blows were usually completely quarried away and ended their lives as open pits. The Big Hill quartz blow proved not to be payable, which enabled the outcrop's survival to the present day. It is a rare geological feature which provides a context for an understanding of early quartz mining. The Big Reef near Talbot appears to have been subject to only one main period of quartz mining. In 1869 the Himalaya Company was working the reef and trying to raise capital to erect steam machinery. Despite the company's claim that it was obtaining 9-dwts of gold to the ton, it was unsuccessful in securing the capital to develop the mine.

*Scientific significance*—reputed to have the largest quartz outcrop in the southern hemisphere. Still bears scars of the shafts and adit excavated to investigate the reef for gold.

*Natural value*—classified as a geological reserve.

*Network values*—Big Hill Quartz blow and Daisy Creek Lead puddler.

*Natural values*—already classified as a Geological Reserve.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Site listed Heritage Inventory.

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 1 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 2 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 4 Mining Surveyors' Report
- 5 Mining Surveyors' Report

**PLACE NO. & NAME: 18.0 Stewart and Farnsworth's reservoir and water race**

**H No. H7263-0269**

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LOCATION: Talbot Reservoir, Stony Creek, Evansford  
MUNICIPALITY: Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND STATUS: Water reserve

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Talbot Reservoir, water race and standpipes. Schedule One: Buildings recommended for inclusion or retention in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Interim Development Order. The Talbot Reservoir is a vital and early reminder of the importance of water to the central goldfields area, both for domestic supply and mining. This site is complemented by the intact off-take on McCallum's Creek and the standpipes in their original locations at Talbot.

**INTERPRETATION:**

This is one of the three major reservoirs which served the Shire (the others being at Bullarook) and Amherst). All these sites are complemented by a linear network of water races and this reservoir is of especially [sic] significance due to its intact off-take on McCallum's Creek and the early standpipes in Talbot (p.196).

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

This reservoir is still in use as part of the main domestic supply to Talbot. It has been progressively modified although the essential features of the original sites are presumably still those on site. The off-take on McCallum's Creek is still intact (p.196).

**SOURCES:** Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

June 1871: The reservoir and races of Messrs Stewart and Farnsworth:

Reservoir	.....	Cost £4,500
11 miles of head races, capable of carrying 70 sluice heads of water at 20s. per chain	.....	Cost £880
85 miles of supply races capable of carrying 20 sluice heads at 7s 6d. per chain	.....	Cost £2,550
150 miles of distribution races, about 50 miles of which are now in use, and about 100 miles which can be brought into use if required, the whole valued at about 2s. per chain	.....	Cost £1,200
About 100 miles of distribution races which Mr. Stewart considers as abandoned.	.....	Cost Nil. <sup>1</sup>

Sept 1871: Alluvial mining--There is a falling off in the numbers employed, and also total yield of gold. This is owing to our shallow workings being nearly exhausted, which will not give a living except for sluicing with hose and high pressure water; therefore, all those miners who have been in the position to move, have departed for other goldfields, those left behind being, for the most part, married men with families who have blocks of ground under the recent Land Acts.

The reservoir and races of Messrs Stewart and Farnsworth will be the same as my former returns.<sup>2</sup>

December 1871: The construction of reservoir, length and cost of water races, will be the same as for Sept 1871--six sluicing parties, two sluice heads each, at 40s. per week, for 12 weeks, £144, and five puddling machines, one sluice head each, at 20s. per week, £60.<sup>3</sup>

1975: The main water scheme at Back Creek was a reservoir, built by Stewart and Farnsworth on Stony Creek with a head race from McCallum's Creek. It cost £10,000 and began by serving sluicing parties on Ballaarat Hill and Hard (White) Hill, but served a number of localities soon after. The charge for water was £9 per day, but despite this the diggers made £20 per week. The scheme began in June 1858.<sup>4</sup>

1875: Dissatisfaction with the Amherst Reservoir led to the purchase of Talbot Reservoir by the Borough of Amherst in July 1875 for £3500.<sup>5</sup>

1876-1878: On 13 December 1876 the council decided to call tenders for raising the reservoir wall and after several problems with tenders and contracts, the price of Isaac Meadows of £3551 2s 11d was recommended to the Government for acceptance. This work was completed by October 1877 and a contract had been let with Blyth and Co. for water pipes to reticulate Talbot in June 1877. Further tenders in connection with the scheme were let; settling ponds on the land of a Mr Jackson (W. Phelan, £1350 14s 11d); repairs to water race from Stony Creek to settling ponds site (Peter MacLeod); and standpipes in Argyle and Oxford Streets were erected by a Mr Hawkins in October 1878. Reticulation of Talbot was extended gradually as the need arose, and both the railways and gardeners were large consumers. The railway used 12,000 gallons a day (charge 1/6 per locomotive) and irrigation for gardens consumed 15,000 gallons during the day and 50,000 gallons at night.<sup>6</sup>

1881: Difficulty with the supply was caused by the off-take at McCallum's Creek, which had become defective since the original construction by Stewart and Farnsworth.<sup>7</sup>

1882: The council accepted the tender of Jones and Crabb (£196 16s 6d) on 17 April 1882 although much heartache was caused by rival Lexton Shire Council's decision to rate the land on which the off-take weir was situated.<sup>8</sup>

1883-1885: The Talbot reservoir was surveyed in August 1884 by Batson prior to fencing and this was undertaken by a Mr Douglas in September 1885. Boating and fishing at the reservoir was subject to much discussion and in 1883 the Victorian Human Society had provided a life buoy in case of boating accidents.<sup>9</sup>

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#### DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:

##### Site 18.0: Messrs Stewart and Farnsworth Reservoir:

Now site of Talbot Reservoir. According to local information large sections of the original water races still survive including the weir where the water race commences. Further research required.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:            Good

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#### CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has:

*Historical significance*— Stewart and Farnsworth's reservoir and water race is historically significant as a characteristic and well-preserved 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, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing and engineering industries. Stewart and Farnsworth's reservoir and water race appears to have been the largest privately constructed, gold-related water scheme in the State's history.

*Scientific significance*— Sections of Stewart and Farnsworth's reservoir and water race are well preserved and would require a major survey project to document it properly.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:            Site listed Heritage Inventory.

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Assessor: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

- 
- 1 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 2 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 3 Mining Surveyors' Report
  - 4 Flett, Maryborough, 1975, p.68
  - 5 Borough of Amherst minutes, as summarised by Ron Pryor, 14 July 1875
  - 6 Ibid, 13 December 1876; 7 March 1876; 13 June 1877; 5 Sept 1877; 17 Oct 1877; 28 Nov 1877; 2 Oct 1878; 21 Jan 1880.
  - 7 Talbot Leader, 11 March 1881
  - 8 Borough of Amherst minutes, 17 April 1882
  - 9 Borough of Amherst minutes, 27 August 1884; 28 March 1883; 23 September 1885.



**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 19.0 Amherst Reservoir alluvial workings

**H No.** H7623-0270

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**LOCATION:** Amherst Flat, Amherst  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:** Crown land

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**EXISTING HERITAGE LISTING:**

Amherst Reservoir, off Talbot-Avoca Road, Amherst: Schedule One: Buildings recommended for inclusion or retention in the Shire of Talbot and Clunes Interim Development Order. The Amherst reservoir is a vital and early reminder of the importance of water to the central goldfields area, both for domestic supply and mining. The site is enhanced by the proximity of early shallow alluvial gold workings (p.191).

**INTERPRETATION:**

This is one of three major reservoirs which served the shire (the others being at Evansford and Bullarook). All these sites are complemented by a linear network of water races (p.191).

**EXTANT REMAINS:**

This reservoir is still full but not used for domestic supply. The reservoir is located in a forest setting and remnants of shallow alluvial diggings are located in the reserve (p.191).

**SOURCES:** Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Richard Aitken, 1988.

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**HISTORY:**

April 1861: Extensive rush set in near the head of Amherst Flat, about 1¼ miles distant from Amherst township, and which owes its existence to the reservoir now being constructed there--excavation to bedrock across the flat from range to range. The rush at present is extending down the flat towards the old lead, which was lost some years ago, a little above the township of Amherst.<sup>1</sup>

May 1861: Reservoir Rush is declining. At one time there was 3,000 miners on the ground, but as the lead proved to be a very narrow one there was not sufficient room, now about 1500 on the lead.<sup>2</sup>

June 1869: The Amherst Reservoir was leased to the "Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Amherst" for 99 years at £1 per annum. The lease was apparently forfeited in October 1874 and the reservoir was described as "useless" in the council minutes. It was at this stage that the council sought to purchase the Talbot Reservoir at Evansford.<sup>3</sup>

1885: The manager of the Talbot and Amherst Gold fields' Common, applied for a permanent reservation of the dam as a site for water supply purposes and temporary reservation was granted on 11 May 1886. However in 1918 the purpose of "water supply" was augmented by inclusion of "recreation purposes" in the temporary reservation.<sup>4</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 19.0: Amherst Reservoir  
Alluvial workings--small patch of shallow sinkings

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Poor

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Integrity of gold workings reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory.

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**Assessor:** David Bannear **Date:** 1998.

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- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1861
  - 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1861
  - 3 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, File Rs 1632; Borough of Amherst minutes, 21 October 1874.
  - 4 Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, File Rs 1632

**PLACE NO. & NAME:**     **20.0 Eucalyptus distilling plant**  
                                  **20.1 Shallow alluvial workings**

**H No.**                                 **H7623-0271**

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**LOCATION:**                         Site 20.0: Old Plant Dam, Blacksmith's Gully, Amherst  
**MUNICIPALITY:**                 Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND STATUS:**                 State Forest (Daisy Hill Block)

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**HISTORY:**

1852: The first important rush to Daisy Hill started, following the discovery of gold in Blacksmith's Gully in December 1852. The locality was about a mile east of the later town, and was known as Cowley's Rush.<sup>1</sup>

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**DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION:**

Site 20.0: Old Plant Dam

Eucalyptus Distillery--four, 6-1/2ft diameter vats and water dam. The lower sections of the vats are brick, the upper portions are constructed of sections cast iron boilers. Some of the concrete condensing channel survives, the boiler setting and chimney stack have been demolished.

Puddler--Mounds of alluvial wash near the southern end of the dam suggests the dam was a favoured puddling location.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:**         Poor

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**         Integrity of the site so reduced as to have very little interpretive value.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:**         Site listed Heritage Inventory

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**Assessor:** David Bannear             **Date:** 1998.

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<sup>1</sup>             Flett, 1979, p 254

**PLACE NO. & NAME: 21.0 Workhouse Gully Alluvial Mining Precinct**

**H No. H7623-0272**

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LOCATION: 4.2kms north-east of Amherst, east of Ballarat-Maryborough Road,  
Workhouse Gully  
MUNICIPALITY: Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND USE/STATUS: State Forest

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SITE HISTORY:  
No history found

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION OF FEATURES:**

Stone outlines, 7623-4-2:410.869--Four stone arrangements contained in an area of approximately 50 square metres. Three of the arrangements are relatively undisturbed and consist of an oval-shaped, solid infill of conglomerate and quartz pebbles, measuring 10ft x 5ft; a rectangular, solid infill of quartz pebbles measuring 9½ft x 7½ft, which is edged with larger pebbles, also has what appears to be a small “headstone”, and a large rectangular outline, edged with quartz and conglomerate pebbles, measuring 43ft x 9½ft, with three “headstones”. A bush track runs over the fourth stone arrangement.

Puddler: 7623-4-2: 408.866--Relatively undisturbed 22ft diameter puddler which is just beginning to weather: the inner mound and puddling trench beginning to merge. No pivot-post or slabbing present, most of the wash has been quarried. The puddler is quite visible, little regrowth. In the gully below the puddler's outlet channel is a well-preserved pond of slum.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION Good. No recent disturbance

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The precinct has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—Site contains a range of well preserved gold mining relics documenting the operation of a puddling machine.

*Archaeological potential*—possible cemetery site of an unknown age. Has high potential to yield artefacts which could help date and interpret the site.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

**PLACE NO. & NAME:** 22.0 Possum Gully Mining Precinct

**H No.** H7623-0273

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**LOCATION:** Possum Gully, 4.7 km north of Amherst, west of Wattle Track  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND USE/STATUS:** State Forest

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**SITE HISTORY:**  
No historical information found

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:**

Local opinion on the site ranges differs on the site. Some say it is a cemetery, others that the stone outlines are garden beds. There is no dispute about the association with alluvial mining relics.

*Stone outlines*-Possible cemetery or garden beds. Nine adult-sized and one child-size outline with lumps of quartz. The child-size and six of the adult-sized outlines adjoin one another. The outlines each have a lump of local rock as head stones. There are other small headstones near the outlines. The locals have cleared the wattle regrowth and planted several fruit trees near the outlines.

*Puddler* - Immediately north of the stone outlines is the start of a large breached embankment. On the other side of the gully, north end of the embankment, is a well defined 20-ft diameter puddler and a massive unquarried bank of wash. No pivot-post or slabbing survives, but the puddler has a well defined outlet.

*Puddlers:* 7623-4-1: 359.901--On the opposite side of the gully to the cemetery, and upstream, is a very 22-ft weathered puddler. No pivot-post or slabbing survives and no trace of any wash. There is another puddler (similar condition and size) located 50 metres to the north. This puddler is connected to a small dry dam. Like its neighbour, this puddler has no real trace of wash.

*Possible grave:* 7623-4-1: 361.905--At the junction of the track leading to the puddlers and Wattle Track is a single grave marked by an elongated oval (8ft x 4ft) filled with lumps of ironstone and quartz. Locals have erected a white post to mark (protect) the grave site.

*Surfacing*--The gully has been extensively surfaced.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** The site has been “cleaned-up” by the local community. The alluvial workings are relatively undisturbed.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The precinct has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance* —Site contains a range of well preserved gold mining relics documenting the operation of a puddling machine.

*Archaeological potential*—possible cemetery site of an unknown age. Has high potential to yield artefacts which could help date and interpret the site.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

**PLACE NO & NAME**      **23.0 POSSUM GULLY CEMENT WORKINGS**

**H No.**                                      **H7623-0274**

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LOCATION:                                      Possum Gully, 4.2 km north-north-east of Amherst, north of Reed Track  
MUNICIPALITY:                              Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND USE/STATUS:                              State Forest

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SITE HISTORY:  
No information found

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:**

Cement lead workings--The workings along this lead run for approximately 1.0kms. The workings run in a north-easterly direction along the southern side of the gully. In some places, the sinkings through the cement cap are still quite distinct and are a mixture of narrow rectangular and circular shafts. The north-eastern end of the lead appears to have witnessed the most intensive mining, including open cutting, tunnelling and shaft sinking.

Puddling dams--There are at least three silted puddling dams connected with the cemented lead workings. Only one puddler survives, the rest have been quarried.

Puddler--In the gully, to the north of the north-eastern end of the cemented lead workings, is a undisturbed, but very weathered 22-ft diameter puddler. No pivot-post or trench-slabbing survives. The puddler is still ringed by a wide (partly quarried) band of wash and is obscured by thick regrowth.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION:                      Some damage by recent fossicking.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The precinct has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—Contains a range of relics documenting alluvial mining operations carried out on the site.

*Archaeological significance*—The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the technological history of gold mining.

*Network values*—Possum Gully cemetery and puddlers and Possum Gully cement workings.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:                      Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

*Date:* 1998.

**PLACE NO. & NAME: 24.0 BROGAN'S HUT AND PADDOCK**

**H No. H7623-0275**

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LOCATION: Mud brick hut: Kangaroo Gully, 2.1kms north of Amherst, east of Possum Gully Track  
MUNICIPALITY: Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND USE/STATUS: State Forest

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**SITE HISTORY:**

Mud brick wall with two-roomed mud brick house, last occupied by Mr C. Toll of Talbot in the early 1940s. Prior to that Mr Jim Brogan and his wife, Harriet, raised their family there.

*References* Newspaper cutting book, Talbot Historical Museum.

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:**

Residence--Remains of an adobe-walled 120-ft square paddock and small hut--the walls of paddock are 1-ft thick and still stand to a height of 3ft, and the hut measures 18-ft x 10-ft. There is a clump of almond trees growing in the south-east corner of the paddock.

Dam--The northern wall of the paddock forms part of a small dry dam.

Mud brick hut and associated paddock (According to the locals this was a mine manager's residence, the hut was roofed with galvanised iron, and the paddock once contained fruit trees. The house was lived in by Jim and Harriet Brogan, and also Mr. C Toll).

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good, considering the nature of the building. The adobe paddock and hut are still quite discernible but are weathering. No recent disturbance.

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The site has:

*Scientific significance*—well preserved remains of a miner's hut and associated garden paddock.

*Social value*—local tourist destination.

*Archaeological potential*— The site has the potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the inhabitants.

*Network values*—Brogan's hut and paddock and Kangaroo Gully puddler.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

**SITE NO. & NAME:** 25.0 KANGAROO PUDDLING MACHINE

**H No.** H7623-0276

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**LOCATION:** Kangaroo Gully, 2.0kms north-north-east of Amherst, immediately west of Possum Gully Road. The dam is located down from Deep Dam  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Central Goldfields Shire Council  
**LAND USE/STATUS:** State Forest

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**SITE HISTORY:**  
No history found

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**DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:**

Large dam--The dam above the charcoal kilns has a well preserved stone by-pass on the southern end of its embankment.

Water race--A water race runs from the southern end of the large dam to a smaller, silted dam. The small dam has an undisturbed, but fairly weathered 18-ft diameter puddler on its embankment. No pivot-post or trench-slabbing survives. The puddler is ringed by a 20-ft wide, relatively unquarried, bank of wash. The wash is approximately 4-ft thick. The puddler is only 30 metres from Possum Gully Road.

**INTEGRITY/CONDITION:** Good

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**CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The site has:

*Historical significance*—Puddling machine technology is particularly important in the history of Victorian gold mining as the only technology developed entirely on Victorian goldfields. The site has a well-preserved puddling machine site.

*Scientific significance*—a well-preserved puddler associated with two dams. The significance of the puddler comes from its intactness, rarity, accessibility and ability to demonstrate puddling technology.

*Network values*—Brogan's hut and paddock and Kangaroo Gully puddler.

**SIGNIFICANCE RANKING:** Site listed Heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.



**SITE NO. & NAME: 26.0 STONY CREEK SCHOOL**

**H No. H7623-0277**

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LOCATION: 6.8kms south-south-west of Talbot, head of Kangaroo Gully, south of Caralulup Track  
MUNICIPALITY: Central Goldfields Shire Council  
LAND USE/STATUS: State Forest

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**SITE HISTORY:**

886 Stony Creek: formerly Kangaroo Gully

This school was about 6 miles south of Talbot. In 1865 local residents erected a school 24-ft x 14-ft by public subscription, for £35, and appointed an itinerant teacher. In 1866 W.W.Walker, on behalf of the Committee, applied for aid by way of salary, and for a grant of £70 to extend the building, with a view to vesting it with the Board of Education. The grant did not materialise as the building could not be considered suitable to be vested, but salary was granted as from 15 July 1867, the HT then being James Knight. In 1867 the building was enlarged to 36-ft x 14-ft x 11-ft the NE then being 37. A new brick school, erected in 1869, cost £243, and being on a site already gazetted as a school reserve, it became automatically vested with the Minister of Public Instructions. The old school made a useful three-room residence. In 1876 a "rush" in the vicinity of the school gave it new life resulting in the reserve being fenced much sooner than might normally be expected, but by 1893 consideration was given to closing the school. By 1902 the NE had fallen to 10 and the DI recommended the school should be worked part-time with 850 Red Lion. The school closed in 1916.<sup>1</sup>

***A monument in the bush survives fires.***

Tucked away in the heart of the forest in Talbot are the remains of the Stony Creek School. Although the fires of January 21 burned to within a couple of kilometres, the remains of the once lovely rock gardens a large map of Australia created out of rocks by a painstaking teacher to instruct her classes in geography are still intact.

It is with surprise that one comes across remains of the gardens built in the shape of Australia with rock and quartz; a circular garden with star inside, and many other rock gardens of varying shapes and sizes. These relics are all that remain of Stony Creek School No. 886.

In 1909 School Inspector Saxton made the following report: "Hidden away in the heart of the forest, used only for mining timber purposes, this nice bush school presents, by reason of its tastefully improved grounds, quite a pleasing spectacle ... A three-railed fence, wire netting to the top, surrounds the grounds. They have been absolutely cleared while garden plots in excellent order, the property of individual children, all enclosed by a high wire netting, give an atmosphere of home to the place ... Neat rockeries with climbing plants, an excellent summer house, with pot plants, a wire netting approach to the porch, hung with creepers and assisted by a fine array of plants in pots assist in increasing the excellent effect ... In this respect it is the best school I have met."

Between 1904 and 1916 the pupil's register shows that the occupation of parents of guardians of the children enrolled were sleeper cutters, miners, surveyors, farmers and domestic duties.

In 1905, Mr A Dean, Inspector, complimented the then head teacher, Miss Elizabeth James, on the manner in which she had redecorated the interior of the school buildings.

Miss James was again complimented in 1906, but this time for the gardens. Mr Dean noted that a flower-house has been erected.

On July 26 1907 the Inspector wrote "Grounds. In excellent order. The boys have cleared the ground of some old stumps; they have also carried a good deal of soil and gravel to the garden. On Arbor Day 15 trees were planted; many of the parents attending.

Records show that Miss James was head teacher in 1905 until 1913 when Miss Ann Weir became head teacher.

The late Mr R G Hull, of Dunach, remembered attending a farewell concert to Miss James at the Stony Creek School. Miss James left Stony Creek and went to teach and live at Clunes. Many of her old pupils are still alive and remember her with great affection. Her interest in horticulture continued and her Clunes garden became as well-known as the Stony Creek rockeries. Every entry in the Inspector's Report Book compliment her. Her work with the community was praised; her teaching methods; her school grounds and in particular the gardens and "flower-house"; the school buildings and their interior

decor. Even after she left the little school in the forest, her work was praised by an Inspector when he said the foundations she had laid were very good. The memory of the Stony Creek School lives on today because of the love and care lavished upon it by one woman. But the only monuments to her memory are the lonely remnants of rock gardens deep in the Australian bush.<sup>1</sup>

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DESCRIPTION & INTERPRETATION:

Stony Creek School

Remains of the Stony Creek School include the foundations and debris from the demolished school building, several stone arrangements and garden beds. Stone arrangements include a map of Australia (five states and northern territory), measuring 31-ft x 22-ft; a five pointed star contained within a 20-ft diameter circle; and another circular arrangement which locals refer to as a sundial. The garden beds are a mixture of pathways, triangles, squares and circles. The school grounds also have some exotic trees, including sugar-gums, pines and wattles.

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good

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CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has:

*Historical significance*— The Stony Creek School site is historically significant as a characteristic and well preserved example of a site representing the strong ideal of school education that was an integral part of goldfield communities in Victoria. The surviving garden rockeries are testimony to the strong influence of one of its head teachers, Miss Elizabeth James. A keen gardener, Miss James created an arrangement of rockeries whose various shapes helped educate her students in geometry, the geography of Federation Australia and the aims of Arbor Day, to protect and care for trees.

*Archaeological potential*— The Stony Creek School site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about school life from gold rush days to the first decade of Federation.

*Natural values*— The abandoned school grounds in the heart of a Box and Ironbark forest are important for the evocation of the isolation that was part of rural community life.

SIGNIFICANCE RANKING: Site listed heritage Inventory

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Assessed by: David Bannear

Date: 1998.

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<sup>1</sup> A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria, Vol 2, Education Department, 1973, p.704-705

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<sup>1</sup> Undated newspaper cutting obtained from the Talbot Historical Museum

