

EVELYN TUNNEL

Pound Bend Gold Diversion Tunnel

Place No. 35

ADDRESS Pound Bend Road
Warrandyte

Last Update 23/03/2005

DESCRIPTION

Condition - **Integrity** Not known
Threats **Key elements**
Designer

HISTORY

Evelyn Tunnel, also known as Pound Bend Tunnel, was formed when a tunnel was driven nearly 200 metres through rock at the neck of the Pound Bend peninsula, to divert the river and expose the river bed to extract gold.[1]

An initial survey in 1859 involving John Hutchinson (Warrandyte Pound Keeper) examined the feasibility of cutting a tunnel through the neck of the isthmus.

In 1870 the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Co. started work on the tunnel, completing it within a few months. The venture failed to produce the financial reward anticipated, due to the costs of mining through the deep mud that covered the river-bed. The Company was wound up late in 1872.[2]

In 1884 the idea of using the tunnel to generate electricity was proposed, and by 1888 a company had been formed for the purpose. The Melbourne Water Power Company, aimed to supply power to all of Melbourne from the scheme.[3] The venture did not proceed. Again in the 1920s the idea arose again, this time to supply the Warrandyte community which was not able to fund the provision of power through the SEC; this idea also never proceeded.[4]

The Evelyn Tunnel is one of at least three such tunnels constructed on the Yarra River for the same purpose; the other tunnels are at Big Peninsula (McMahons Creek) probably constructed c.late 1860s - early 1870s, and the 'Pipeline' Tunnel (near Warburton - Woods Point Road).[5]

A mining area which includes battery and crushing sites. Lack of crushing machinery was a problem on the Warrandyte goldfields in the 1860s; at this time there were two machines, one a horse-driven machine and the other a Mr Wilkinson's quartz calcining furnace (which was mainly occupied crushing rock from its owner's mine) [6].

Other sites identified by the Study include:

Evelyn Tunnel 155.60

Water Race 155.61

Grants Battery 155.62

State Battery and Water Wheel 155.63

Ore crusher 175.34

SOURCES

[1] Warrandyte State Park Management Plan, Site H1, p.138

[2] Bruce Bence The Tunnel Pound Bend Warrandyte 1859 1988, Warrandyte Historical Society, n.d.

[3] Victorian Government Gazette 7 Dec. 1888.

[4] Warrandyte Historical Society, undated notes.

[5] Rod Elphinstone Upper Yarra River: Historic Sites Study, unpublished report, 1984, p.23

[6] 'Gold Mining in Warrandte in 1859/1860' Warrandyte Historical Society Newsletter No. 75 Oct. 1990 pp.46, Keogh, p.20

Creation Date c.1870

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

4.01 - Gold mining

STATEMENT OF What is significant?

SIGNIFICANCE The Pound Bend Gold Diversion Tunnel is a diversion which was excavated in 1870 by the Evelyn Tunnelling and Mining Company. The tunnel was used to divert the waters of the Yarra

River effectively cutting off a long section of the original river course. The dry river bed was extensively worked.

How is it significant?

The Pound Bend Gold Diversion Tunnel is of historical, and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Pound Bend Gold Diversion Tunnel is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early 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. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

SOURCE

Victorian Heritage Register On-Line 11 July, 2000 (www.heritage.vic.gov.au)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY