

BLACK FLAT MINING AREA

-		Place No.	58
ADDRESS	- Tills Drive Warrandyte	Last Update	
DESCRIPTION	-		
	Condition -	Integrity	Not known
	Threats	Key elements	
	Designer		
HISTORY	The Black Flat Mining Area contains a number of individual sites and remains; each is described below. The significance of the area however, has been assessed as a whole.		
	The evidence of gold mining visible today in the Black Flat area is quite diverse. Some features are easy to discern such as the foundations of a cottage, while others (such as some earthen channels) are more subtle and it is difficult to determine their age or purpose.		
	The Black Flat area was worked for gold from the 1870s. There were a number of mining operations, most of which are now located within the Warrandyte State Park; a few sites are on private land in Tills Road.		
	Each of the sites and features known to remain within the Warrandyte State Park are described briefly below:		
	The Dyke (156.03) This extensive working followed a vein of decomposed rock. The Warrandyte Freehold Goldmining Company was formed in 1876 to work the diorite dykes (a geological formation containing decomposed rock), on the Elliott Freehold Estate, (the area owned by Captain Selby after 1883). Nearly half the gold in Warrandyte was found in this property. [24] The tunnel collapsed many years ago and can now be seen as a deep cleft in the ground. [25]		
	Cottage (156.04) The stone foundations of a small cottage remain within the Park, near the entry from Tills Drive. The cottage was destroyed in the 1962 fires. [26]		
	Puddling Machine (156.05) Driven by a horse walking in a circle, this equipment was used to 'puddle' or sluice the ore with water to separate the gold. This technique was often used where the workings were not next to a stream that could be diverted to wash the material through other forms of sluicing devices.		
	In 1859/60 there were two puddling machines on the Warrandyte goldfields, a horse operated machine (owned by McDonald & Cameron, location not known) and a steam driven machine (Dr. Owen, a member of state parliament [27]). Dr Owen's 'Patented Puddling Machine' was operated by the Yarra Yarra Steam Puddling Co. in Whipstick Gully around 1859/60, but insufficient gold combined with inadequate drainage lead to its quick closure [28]. It is not known if any evidence remains of this works.		
	The circular puddling machine at Black Flat remains within the State Park.		
	A number of mining features remain on private land, especially on properties that front Tills Drive; these are briefly described below:		
	Black Swan Mine (155.55) The site of the Black Swan mine is marked by a group of trees.		
	Caledonia Mine (155.56) The Caledonia Mine was operated from c1904/5 to 1910 by Mr Till employing up to 250 men at a time when Warrandyte mining was in decline.[29] It was first worked under the name New Haven (c1903). [30]		

After the closure of the mine, Till became an orchardist and built a house in what is now Tills Drive (see site no. 155.48, in Theme 5.02).

The Caledonia Mine was the richest mine in Warrandyte. The main shaft was sunk to 620 feet, with drives on a number of levens [31]. It produced \$102,178 worth of gold and paid dividends of \$25,166 on a capital of \$12,500. In 1905 a crushing from the Caledonia Mine in a bend of the river east of the 'Island', yielded 145 ounces of gold from 80 tons of quartz. The mine gave good returns until 1908 when it was hampered by too much water seepage. [32]

Assistance from the government in 1909 was to no avail and the machinery and equipment was sold that April. Its closure meant the end of large scale gold mining in Warrandyte.

The evidence remaining from Caledonia Mine includes a machine bed and mullock heaps, and a boiler (moved from site), each now on separate properties. It was the last of Warrandyte's major and highly successful mines.

Yarra Tunnel (grants) (155.57)

In 1869 Lewis Grant (who introduced a water powered stamping battery c1868), formed the Yarra Tunnelling Co. to work a claim just upstream from the 'Island'. Although the Tunnel was 70 feet beneath the river with shafts extending to both banks, it did not suffer too much water seepage; and effective pumping kept the water down. He operated the mine until 1874 when he sold out to David Mitchell. It was reopened in 1884 and produced good returns, closing down again in 1888. [33].

A mullock heap near the river bank within a Tills Drive property indicates the approximate location of the mine.

Creation Date

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Captain Selby; McDonald & Cameron; D

4.01 - Gold mining

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Black Flat Mining Area is of regional significance providing evidence of gold mining in Warrandyte from the 1870s to around 1910; the evidence includes the site of Warrandyte's last major mine.

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 [24] Cranfield, pp.60 & 62
 [25] Warrandyte State Park Management Plan, Site H25, p.140
 [26] Shirley Rotherham, pers. comm.

- [27] Cranfield, p. 37
- [28] Keogh, p.37
- [29] Cranfield, p.98
- [30] Cranfield, p. 99
- [31] Cranfield, p. 100
- [32] Keogh, p.39
- [33] Cranfield, pp. 51,66