

# YARRA RIVER SITES

Place No. 56

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**ADDRESS** 111-117 Yarra Street (rear of fmr Post Office)  
Warrandyte **Last Update**

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**DESCRIPTION** -

**Condition** - **Integrity** Not known  
**Threats** **Key elements** Ruins/remnants  
**Designer**

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**HISTORY** Coffor dams were constructed as early as c1856. An 1857 report from a member of the government's Gold Complaints Committee, William Westgarth, reported on the use of coffer dams on the river, a technique he noted as being unusual compared to other fields.[56]

Coffor dams or paddocks were made by damming off sections of the river bed by driving wooden piles into the bed to form fences then washing for gold.[57] Today a line of wooden stakes can still be seen when the river level is low.

This process of mining severely damaged the river's banks.[58] The practice was revived in the 1930s, and this example may date from the Depression.

**Creation Date** **Change Dates**  
**Associations** **Local Themes**

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4.01 - Gold mining

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** Of regional significance as a rare and fragile remnant of the use of coffer dams to enable mining of the river bed.

**LEVEL**

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Heritage Register Listings**

<b>Register</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Status</b>
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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**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** [56] Westgarth, quoted in Keogh, p.18  
[57] Warrandyte State Park Management Plan, Site H17 p.139  
[58] Photograph, Keogh, p.15