

Heritage Inventory No: **H 7 6 2 2 - 0 4 5 1**

Heritage Inventory Site Card

Site Card must be completed in conjunction with the *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

1. Place

Name **Mount Clear Horse Puddler**

Other/former names

Current site description

Donut shape ground structure. Approximately 10 meters across and 40 cm in depth. .

2. Current statutory listing

☐ Victorian Heritage Register Number☐ Heritage Overlay Number

3. Suggested protection

☒ Victorian Heritage Register☒ Heritage Overlay, Local Planning Scheme

4. Archaeological description

☒ Surface cultural material☒ Features☐ Artefacts / Artefact scatter☐ Sub-surface cultural deposits☐ Disturbance☐ Archaeological potential

5. Archaeological significance

☐ High☒ Medium☐ Low☐ None☐ Unknown

6. Location

Site location (where known)

Street number **44** Street **Lavery Street**Suburb **Mount Clear** State **VIC** Postcode **3350**Local Government Area **Ballarat**

Full AMG co-ordinates (must be AGD 66) Easting Northing

Mapsheets name and number (1:100,000 only) **Ballarat 7622 N**

7. Cadastral location

County Parish **Ballarat** Township **Mount Clear**Section **Sec 2** Allotment **18A** SPI **PFI: 123366984**

8. Indigenous values

☐ Site has known Indigenous values Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register Number

9. Associated sites (Inventory, VHR, HO or other)

10. Keywords

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 19 th century | <input type="checkbox"/> urban | <input type="checkbox"/> pastoral | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mid 19 th century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> outside urban | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> late 19 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> timber | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> early 20 th century | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mining | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> transport | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime infrastructure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mid-late 20 th century | | <input type="checkbox"/> communication | <input type="checkbox"/> civic |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
-

11. Plan of site **Please attach separate plan.** All features on the plan must be labelled and scale noted (eg 1:100,000).

12. Place history (attach sheet if necessary)

The first era of gold mining in the area (Canadian Gully along the White Horse Range to Mount Clear) was from 1851 to 1852 where at the peak of the gold mining there were 20,000 diggers working the shallow alluvial deposits.

A figure in the landscape of gold mining was the horse puddler, a donut shaped structure dug into the ground, usually 7 meters in diameter with a hole in the centre about 1 meter wide. The centre was built up and, had a large wooden pole erected vertically and another wooden pole that was horizontal which attached to a metal rake. A horse was harnessed to the rake which, was designed to rake and break up the gold bearing dirt and, walked around the outside of the puddler (Gold Net Australia 2011).

☐ Scientific significance

N/A

☐ Aesthetic significance

N/A

☐ Social or spiritual significance

N/A

13. Interpretation of site (Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented)

The site dates from approximately the 1850s. The site developed with the increase of gold mining in the Ballarat area. High rainfall and gently sloping hills made gold extraction easy and was possible with little more than a pick, shovel, gold pan and handmade cradle. Early discoveries were dug up from a very shallow depth with mining by techniques associated with placer mining such as panning and sluice boxing..

Strange, A.W. 1971. Ballarat – A Brief History. Lowden Publishing Co. Kilmore, Victoria.

A figure in the landscape of gold mining was the horse puddler, a donut shaped structure dug into the ground, usually 7 meters in diameter with a hole in the centre about 1 meter wide (Figure 1). The centre was built up and, had a large wooden pole erected vertically and another wooden pole that was horizontal which attached to a metal rake. A horse was harnessed to the rake which, was designed to rake and break up the gold bearing dirt and, walked around the outside of the puddler

Gold Net Australia. 2011. Glossary of Gold Terms. Available from URL: <http://www.gold-net.com.au/education.html>. Accessed 18 March 2011.

14. Assessment of archaeological significance

The significance is MEDIUM;

The context of the site includes the period of gold mining in the Mount Clear area and Ballarat in general. There is no archaeological content other than the feature itself. The integrity of the site is high. The overall puddler form has survived and is clearly seen in attached photos. Representativeness in the Ballarat area is rare, a search on the HV register shows only six puddlers registered. Research potential for mining in the Mount Clear area is medium, although there is no artefactual archeology identified with the site.

15. Assessment of cultural heritage significance

☐ Statement of Significance attached

☒ Historical significance

This site has historical significance to the mining period of Mount Clear and the Ballarat area. The setting is relatively intact.

16. Present use

The land is privately owned and unused

17. Threats

This site has been recorded in relationship to a housing development / the housing development plan was changed to incorporate the protection of the puddler. Threats would be vandalism and surrounding development implementation.

18 References/ Informants

National Gallery of Australia 2011. S.T. Gill: Horse Puddling Machine, Forest Creek. 1855-56. Available from URL: <http://artsearch.nga.gov.au/Detail.cfm?IRN=145234&PICTAUS=TRUE>. Accessed 18 March 2011.

Strange, A.W. 1971. Ballarat – A Brief History. Lowden Publishing Co. Kilmore, Victoria.

Gold Net Australia. 2011. Glossary of Gold Terms. Available from URL: <http://www.gold-net.com.au/education.html>. Accessed 18 March 2011.

19. Photographs of site

Please attach as separate sheet.

20. Map showing location of site

Please attach separate plan.

Map must clearly identify assessed area and include any street addresses (eg excerpt from Melway and its reference numbers.)

Describe in detail directions to locate the site in the future

Travel North from the intersection of Geelong Road and Whitehorse Road Mount Clear for approximately 1 km. Turn Right into Hocking Avenue travel approximately 500 m. Turn Right into Lavery Ave travel approximately 600 m. The horse puddler is found on the other side of the creek.

21. Owner & Occupier Details

Agency **Charles Ioyd Property Group Pty Ltd**

Owner's name

Contact name **Tony Bevacqua**

Postal address **Suite 3 / 82 Lorimer Street DOCKLANDS VIC 3008**

Telephone **03 9647 8200** Facsimile **03 9646 1299**

Email address **tony@charleslloyd.com.au**

Occupier's name

Postal address

Telephone Facsimile

Email address

Recording Archaeologist **Alandra K. Tasire**

Company name **Ecology and Heritage Partners Pty Ltd** Date recorded **26 October 2010**
(Day/Month/Year)

Other Comments:

Return completed Site Cards to Heritage Victoria via email at archaeology.admin@dpcd.vic.gov.au or Heritage Victoria, PO Box 2392, Melbourne 3001

Office Use Only

Report Numbers..... Associated Consent numbers

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Notwithstanding the above, please note that information provided to enable the administration of the Heritage Act 1995 may be disclosed to persons with an interest in the heritage place or object particularly, and information provided as part of a permit application may be made available on-line where the application has been publicly advertised under section 68 of the Heritage Act 1995.

Appendix 2:

Photographs - Mount Clear Horse Puddler



Plate 1: View of Mount Clear Horse Puddler facing north.



Plate 2: View of Activity Area facing south.



Plate 3: View of Activity Area facing north.





