

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

PETER THE GREAT GULLY (RIGHT HAND BRANCH) MINE, DAM AND ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Other Names

Location Parcel No. P127153, State Forest, south-west of junction of Neilborough Road and Naughton Track, Peter the Great Gully, Whipstick

Map Reference Epsom 1 :25,000 - BV563.354

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description Towards the head of the gully there is a shallow dam which still retains water. The nearby puddling machine site has almost vanished, but in the gully downstream from the dam there is a band of shallow alluvial workings. Further upstream, at the junction of Peter the Great and Blue Jacket gullies, are twelve small mullock heaps, partially bulldozed to fill the shafts of some shallow reef workings. The largest of the heaps has a radius of 20 metres and stands 5 metres high. There are no machinery footings associated with this heap.

History Period of activity: 1856-1866

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples Within the study area there are at least seventeen dams constructed to provide water for mining purposes. These are: Peter the Great Dam (right hand branch)(1856), Wallace Reef (1856), Flagstaff Hill (by 1857), Iron's Dam (1858), Old Tom Reef (1860), No.7 Reservoir (1861), Frederick the Great (1865), Raywood Reservoir (1865), Frühling Reef (1871), Liddell's (probably 1876), at least one at Fiddler's Green (by 1879), Elliott's Reef (by 1887), Christoff Reef (1895), Wilson's Hill (by 1896), Lightning Hill (by 1903), on the ridge above the Lancashire Reef workings (by 1908) and New Moon Consolidated (by 1910). Several of these dams are still serviceable and at least three are still in use. These three are Flagstaff Hill (by 1857), Iron's Dam (1858) and No.7 Reservoir (by 1861). This dam would appear to be the oldest, if indeed it was associated with the shallow alluvial workings extending downstream for several hundred metres.

This site is one of a number of shallow alluvial workings identified within the study area. Some of the other equally significant early sites are: Myers Creek (1852), Fiddlers Green (1852), Peter the Great (1856), Elysian Lead (1857) and Phillips Gully (1857). The rush to Myers Creek was more extensive and involved more miners.

Within the study area at least sixteen puddling machine sites have been identified. These are: Peter the Great Gully (right hand branch)(by 1856?), Iron's Dam (2)(1858), Fiddlers Green (by 1879), Marong Deep Lead (1905), Jib Horse Gully (22 feet)(after 1930?), Old Tom Reef (20 feet)(after 1930), Phillips Gully (2)(after 1930?), Peter the Great Gully (left hand branch)(4)(after 1930?), Splitter's Gully (2)(22 feet)(after 1930?) and White Jacket Gully.

Nineteenth century puddling machines are extremely rare and their provenance cannot usually be confirmed from such documentary evidence as has normally survived about mining in Victoria. The only site within the study area where this has been possible is at Iron's Dam, but then only by a process of elimination.

That is, from documentary evidence, it is known that there were two puddling machines in the vicinity of the dam in 1858. The remains of two, and only two, puddling machines were identified at the site in 1992, so these must be the original ones..Whilst there are puddling machines at other sites (for example, Peter the Great (by 1856), Old Tom Reef (by 1857) and Splitter's Gully (by 1865) these are either associated with later phases of mining (reef workings or hydraulic sluicing) and/or do not exhibit extensive weathering and therefore, on these grounds, they cannot be regarded unequivocally as nineteenth century artefacts.

Statement of Significance The site has a representative sample of shallow alluvial and reef workings (criterion C). It contains what is probably the oldest mining dam in the Bendigo region and an early, relatively intact and representative area of shallow alluvial workings which has potential for education and interpretation (criterion A and criterion D).

Level of Significance Regional

Recommendation The site should be protected under the heritage overlay of the Great Bendigo Planning Scheme, by registration with the Victorian Heritage Council, in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites, and should be included as a significant sub-area within the Blue Jacket Reef Mining Heritage Area..

Heritage Boundaries The Blue Jacket Reef Mining Heritage Area is bounded on the west by Lennon Road between Prowse Road and the junction of One Eye Gully and Opossum Gully, on the south by an eastern branch of One Eye Gully, on the east by a line 75 metres east of the reef workings in one of the northern branches of One Eye Gully, extending northwards to the reef workings in Blue Jacket Gully and then further north and east at the same distance along Blue Jacket Gully and Peter the Great Gully to a cross track between the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road and Whipstick Road, on the north by this cross track, on the north west by a line 75 metres north west of Peter the Great Gully and Mosquito Gully to a point on the line of Lennon Road extended.

References

1. J. Flett, "The history of gold discovery in Victoria." Melbourne, Hawthorn Press, 1979, 495pp.
2. "Bendigo, 27 April 1856." The Age, Wednesday, 30 April 1856, 3.
3. Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.

Notes

Assessed by David Bannear in February 1992 and reviewed by Peter Milner in June 1998

Chronology

15. 08.1856 I have not thought it necessary to notice the diggings on the south-eastern extremity of the Whipstick, such as Peter the Great, One-Eye, Blue Jacket etc, as the public are already familiar with these places through the reports of your special correspondent. [3]

1856 Whipstick - Early in 1856 Myer's Flat had been rushed, Wellington Gully was opened and there was a rush to Adelaide Hill in the Whipstick. ... In April 1856 'a new gully in the Whipstick' was discovered and 600 men were there in a few days. The chief places worked at that time were on the Whipstick verge, at Red Jacket and Blue Jacket Gullies, German Gully and One-Eye, where a one-eyed man got twenty-seven ounces of gold in a patch. In May 1856 surfacing on Canadian Hill was opened up, and a few weeks later Dead Horse Gully, Centipede and Sydney Flat depopulated the other places round about, and there was a rush of about 3000 men. In July 1856 Peter the Great's Gully and Opossum Gully were opened, and the following December there was a large rush near Wood's Pick and Shovel Hotel ...[1.246]

09.1864 Peter the Great Reef: 2 reef miners at work. [3.37-40]

- 12.1864□Peter the Great Reef: 4 reef miners at work. [3.39-42]
- 03.1865□Peter the Great: 4 reef miners at work. [3.42-44]
- 06.1865□Peter the Great Reef: 4 reef miners at work. [3.43-44]
- 09.1865□Peter the Great Reef: 4 reef miners at work. [3.47-49]
- 12.1865□Peter the Great Reef: 6 reef miners at work. [3.45-46]
- 03.1866□Peter the Great Reef: 8 reef miners at work. [3.44-45]
- 06.1866□Peter the Great Reef: 4 reef miners at work. [3.41-43]
- 09.1866□Peter the Great Reef: 2 reef miners at work. [3.43-45]