

# HERONS REEF HISTORIC GOLD DIGGINGS



1 herons reef tourist mine wall



herons reef plan



Herons Reef Tourist Mine Plan

## Location

VAUGHAN-CHEWTON ROAD FRYERSTOWN, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1323

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO968

## VHR Registration

June 19, 1997

## Amendment to Registration

June 14, 2001

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 18, 2000

What is significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings takes in a tangle of gullies at the head of Golden Gully and possesses a comprehensive range of gold mining relics, habitation sites and blacksmith forges. The area was first important for alluvial gold, with Golden Gully rushed in early 1852. From 1859 the mining focus shifted to the various reefs that crossed the gully. The main quartz mine was operated by the Anglo Australian Company (later known as Fryers Creek Gold Mining Company) from 1869-90. Golden Gully was hydraulically sluiced at the turn of the century, and appears to have been a favoured ground sluicing locality during the 1930s.

How is it significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved mining landscape which possesses examples of many forms of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. The mining relics at the Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings are important in illustrating the ongoing and changing nature of gold mining, and how the gold miners lived and repaired their mining equipment.

The Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves. This significance is enhanced due to the protection the place by the owner from 'treasure hunting'.

### Permit Exemptions

#### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below.

Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

No permits are required for the following classes of works:

- \* future Landcare, including noxious weed and vermin control, erosion and salinity.
- \* operation of the owner's gold mining tours.
- \* controlling access to the mining relics, including the erection of signs and fencing.
- \* protective works to ensure visitors to the mining relics are not put at risk.
- \* erection of on-site interpretive boards.

Construction dates	1852,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological place,
Other Names	HERONS REEF TOURIST GOLD MINE, ANGLO AUSTRALIAN MINE SITE,
Hermes Number	11555
Property Number	

### Extent of Registration

#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1323 in the category described as a Heritage place, Archaeological place is now described as:

Herons Reef Historic Gold Diggings, Chewton-Fryerstown Road, Fryerstown, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. All the land including the remnants of buildings, forges, dams, ground sluices, mullock heaps, mining machinery foundations, water races and any other archaeological relics and deposits, marked L1, L2, and L3 on Diagram 607521 held by the Executive Director, being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 9506,

Fol 324 and all the land described in Certificate of Title Vol 790 Fol 889 and Vol 721, Fol 087.

Dated 12 June 2001

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 24 14 June 2001 1280-1281]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*