
HARD HILL WORKINGS

Location

GARDEN GULLY ROAD ARMSTRONG, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0014

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO7

HO114

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 6788

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Gold was first found at Long Gully, near Hard Hill in 1855, and in the following year gold was obtained from the hill itself. The Keogh brothers are credited with the latter discovery, which was to become the first of many finds of gold in high level Tertiary gravels. By this time of the Keogh brothers discovery, there were 2,000 miners reported in the area. Hard Hill contained a lead of Tertiary or older high level gravels which were cemented together into a hard conglomerate. The records show that the mining of the cemented

gravels became the main source of alluvial gold in the Ararat-Great Western region during the 1860s-70s. The cemented gravels were sluiced, with the water brought in by water races. The mining records also show that by 1870s, alluvial mining had become the realm of Chinese miners only; with the European miners being predominantly involved in quartz and deep lead mining. The dating of the workings at Hard Hill to this general period (1860s-70s) is supported by Krauses' Ararat Gold Field Map of 1875 which shows a Chinese camp east of Hard Hill and at the north end of Long Gully. This map also shows a fairly large dam in the position of the existing described below. The archaeological evidence today shows that this dam supplied water for sluicing purposes.

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/>