

VICTORIA REEF GOLD WORKINGS

Location

METCALFE-TARADALE ROAD TARADALE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0535

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	Heritage Inventory Interpretation: Standard goldmining site along the Coliban River tributaries.
Hermes Number	8181
Property Number	

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Gold was first discovered in Victoria Gully in June 1860 (Turner, Goldfields Map 1861). The Mining Surveyor's Report of 1860 reports that, "A new field has been opened on the east side of the Coliban River, about half a mile from it, and opposite the town of Taradale. The spot is a narrow gully , perhaps three quarters of a mile in length, running north and south, between schistose ranges. The depth of the sinking varies from 4 to 20 feet, through a yellow clay deposit. About two hundred miners have congregated here." In July 1860 the Mining Surveyor reported that this field had been the chief area of mining in the district during July and that there were three hundred men working here. However, in August 1860 the Mining Surveyor reported that, "Victoria Gully ... It seems is nearly worked out, as not above 50 miners are employed here at

present.." The report of March 1861 stated that, "The alluvial workings in this vicinity are nearly abandoned, but the development of the quartz reefs seems satisfactorily progressing." The report of May 1861 states that only one claim, that of the original prospector, was still being worked. There is no further mention of this reef until September 1866, when the Mining Surveyor reported that it was being worked again after having been deserted for over four years. By March 1867 the reef was again idle, from lack of funds. The reef was again worked briefly in 1888 before being abandoned.

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/>