

SITE NO. & NAME: **10. Deadman's Gully adit**
 11..0 Two puddlers and house site
 11.1 Two puddler and small furnace

LOCATION: **Little Quartz Hill/Scotchmans Gully**

DIRECTIONS: Site 10 - Head of Scotchmans Gully
 Site 11.0 & 11.1 - Head of Scotchman's Gully, in the vicinity of North Quartz Hill mine [Site 9.2] About 10m past the turn-off to Quartz Hill the dirt road branches. The track that diverges to the N will take you across Dirty Dicks, Scotchman's gullies, and thence northwards to Moonlight Pine Plantation

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Site 10: Chewton 1:25,000 - 569.945
 Site 11.0 Chewton 1:25,000 - 562.947
 Site 11.1 Chewton 1:25,000 - 560.947

PARCEL NUMBER: P120329

MUNICIPALITY Metcalf

LAND STATUS: Unreserved Crown Land/proposed Castlemaine Historic Reserve

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: None

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: LCC- Rec: Site 10 - J1
 LCC Rec : Site 11 - U1

HISTORY:

c. 1856: Shortly afterwards we sank two other holes; the first on the hill at the head of Scotsman's Gully, where, two years subsequently, we were informed that £1600 worth of gold had been taken out of the quartz near the surface, which we had neglected to prospect sufficiently. ¹

August 1859: 3 registered claims. ²

Dec 1860: Quartz Reefs actually proved to be auriferous: Little Quartz Reef
 No. of claims: 3
 Extent of claim: 560 feet
 No. of men employed: 6
 Extent of Reef prospected: 1,200 feet. ³

June 1869: In Scotchman's Gully two new lodes, from one of which quantities of specimens are obtained; but from these and several others no crushings have yet taken place. ⁴

June 1871: The Little Quartz Hill, the Shicer Reef, the Greaterox Reef, Lady Barkly, and many other of our old reefs are again occupied, and very good prospects being obtained. ⁵

2 Oct 1871: McClelland's Reef - in Scotchman's Gully - may be a continuation of Dead Cat Reef. ⁶

8 Oct 1898: Little Quartz Hill - Many years ago a shaft was sunk at the head of Scotchman's Gully, or as it is now known, Little Quartz Hill (from its close contiguity to the Old Quartz Hill), situate about 3 miles east of Castlemaine, and nearly the same distance from Chewton. The shaft was sunk 60 feet and a drive put in. Good gold was then obtained by those at work, and the story told by some old identities of Chewton is that he claim was compulsorily abandoned in consequence of the underground workings collapsing. Just at about the same time, some copper plates and a billycan of rich specimens were reported as having been stolen from the Crown Nimrod mines and no trace of them could be found. It was generally stated upon the authority of Dame Rumour, that the person or persons who

¹ Gaulton, W. (24 June 1881) in Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers, Rigby Ltd., 1972, pp26-27
² Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
³ Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
⁴ Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
⁵ Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
⁶ Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection

had abstracted the plates and specimens from the Crown Nimrod mine had 'planted' them in the drive of the shaft at Little Quartz Hill, and that it had collapsed before the 'plant' could be again secured by the guilty party. Of course, the story is given for what it is worth; but a singular feature of the present discovery is the unearthing, in the drive, of a couple of copper plates, and how they got there is not very mysterious if credence is to be attached to the foregoing.

The long since abandoned drive was being cleaned out this week by two Chewton miners named Lipplegoes and Strong, when they first found the plates, and then the rich specimens. One of the specimens is believed to contain 2 oz. of gold, and the others are also very rich. It is hoped the find will prove a more permanent one, and that it will afford additional proof of the fact that the old reefs are still auriferous, and will handsomely pay re-working.⁷

10 Oct 1898: Little Quartz Hill: The flat leader struck by Lipplegoes and Strong is so very rich..⁸

20 Oct 1898: Little Quartz Hill: Lipplegoes and Strong, who are working near the Little Quartz Hill, had a crushing of 5 tons for 3 oz. 1 dwt.⁹

5 Dec 1898: Prince of Wales Birthday syndicate are sinking at Little Quartz Hill.¹⁰

26 Dec 1898: Little Quartz Hill - Strong and party - 12 tons yielded 15-3/4 oz.¹¹

March 1990 : Driving from Welsh Village to Burns Hill line of working. Head of Scotchman's Gully - Great Ox tunnel, and a house site.¹²

March 1990 : Scotchman's Gully - not much in this gully. It has been sluiced. There is the site of the North Quartz Hill mine...little remains here except mullock and site of shaft. Little Quartz Hill - has been pushed around by recent bulldozing.¹³

DESCRIPTION

The records are not very illuminating regarding alluvial mining in this area, but one would expect the puddling machines to date from c. 1855-70.

The puddling site and adjacent furnace are probably contemporary, the furnace designed to melt down specimens into a large parcel for more convenient handling.

The tunnel at the head of Deadman's Gully would date from the mid 1850s until late 1890s.

Site 10 - At the head of Deadman's Gully is a tunnel driven W into Little Quartz Hill. There is a mullock paddock and a loading bay in front of the tunnel. A patch of workings, mainly open-cutting, survives on the slope above the tunnel..

Site 11.0 - On the N side of Scotchman's Gully are the remains of a stone building, and 23m to the W of the house is a puddling machine site. The puddling machine site has several trees growing out of the central mound. The puddling trough is about 1.7m wide and about 50cm deep. The inner mound has a diameter of 2.8m, and outer mound is about 1.5m wide. Total diameter is 9.2m. Of the stone building, only a small section of the fireplace survives. 100m to the east of the house site, south side of the gully, is the remains of another weathered pudler. Only half of the pudler survives, the other half has been sluiced away.

Site 11.1 - On the S side of the road, opposite the site of the North Quartz Hill mine, on a small 'island' which escaped sluicing, are the remains of a puddling machine sites and a small furnace. The small furnace is constructed from stone and clay mortar. It is situated under a trunk of a eucalypt and stands to a height of 70cm. The furnace is 80cm wide, has a hearth area of 30cm square and a small chimney stack.

4m N of the furnace is a puddling machine site. The northern half of the machine has been sluiced away. The inner mound would have had a diameter of 2.8m, the puddling channel is 1.4m wide and 35cm deep. In the section left by the sluicing is the outline of the post, showing it had a diameter of about 25cm. Outer mound over 2m wide. Total diameter approx 9.6m. Another pudler lies 100 metres to the east, located on the verge of the main track.

PHOTOS: Black and White

ARTEFACTS: None visible

⁷ [Mount Alexander Mail](#), as summarized in Clive Willman collection
⁸ [Mount Alexander Mail](#), as summarized in Clive Willman collection
⁹ [Mount Alexander Mail](#), as summarized in Clive Willman collection
¹⁰ [Mount Alexander Mail](#), as summarized in Clive Willman collection
¹¹ [Mount Alexander Mail](#), as summarized in Clive Willman collection
¹² Doug Ralph/David Bannear March 1990 - Preliminary field notes
¹³ Doug Ralph/David Bannear March 1990 - Preliminary field notes

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Poor

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Site 10 has:

- Scientific Significance - The adit and associated features are relatively intact.

Sites 11.0 and 11.1 have

- Scientific Significance - The puddling machine sites and small furnace in Scotchman's Gully hold some historic significance because of their relative rarity.

- Cumulative Value - The place has considerable scientific value. One of the most enduring forms of alluvial mining technology employed on Central Victorian goldfields was puddling. Puddlers were consistently grouped in 'communities' at the heads and sides of gullies. The four puddlers found in the gully are rare surviving example of the intensive distribution of puddlers.

Significance ranking	Site 10	Local Significance
	Sites 11.0 and 11.1	Regional Significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of Sites 11.0 and 11.1 come from the relics ability to illustrate the nature of alluvial puddling

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Sites 11.0 and 11.1 be protected.

Assessor: David Bannear **Date: 1993**
