

SITE NO. & NAME: 67 Royal Saxon Co. Mine

LOCATION: Clarks Reef, Fryerstown

DIRECTIONS: 500m east side of Fryerstown Road. Herons Reef Tourist venture.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Chewton 1:25,000 - 560.881

PARCEL NUMBER: None

MUNICIPALITY: Newstead

LAND STATUS: Freehold

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: National Trust (Victoria) classification

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Herons Reef tourist venture

HISTORY:

7 Dec 1857: New reef discovered near Golden Gully. ¹

May 1859: The prospecting claim of this reef, which was remarkably rich, is now entirely deserted. ²

Dec 1864: Parties crushing quartz: Rowe Brothers. ³

1866: Parties reporting yields from quartz crushings in 1866 - H. White ⁴

Dec 1870: Redhouse and Company, who hold a claim within the above lease, obtained at about 100 feet level 43 ozs. from 40 tons; this was from line of Clark's Reef. ⁵

June 1880: Royal Saxon Company. - The ground taken up by this company under the Leasing Regulations has been previously lying idle for a considerable period. A large body of quartz, about 7 feet in thickness, runs through the centre of the block, and stone is being raised from a depth of 95 feet; 130 tons have been recently crushed, averaging 19 dwts. to the ton. In this mine there is an immense quantity of stone in sight, which can be easily obtained, so that the future prospects of the company may be considered highly satisfactory. The reef intersecting the ground was formerly known as 'Clark's' and many years ago was worked from the surface to a depth of from 30 to 40 feet, with indifferent management and expensive crushing appliances; some splendid returns, however, were realized, viz., from 20 to 30 ozs. to the ton. Several parties have worked this reef at different periods during the past twenty years with more or less profitable results. The present party have simply resumed operations at a point where their predecessors left off, and are extending the workings in a northerly direction; the line of reef is no doubt identical with that running through the Ferron's and English-Australian Company's ground. Several new leases have been recently applied for on ground lying to the north, which includes the line of reef running through the Royal Saxon Company's claim, so that prospecting is now likely to be carried on in an energetic manner, and some important discoveries made ere many months shall have elapsed. ⁶

5 July 1880: Royal Saxon - Abundance of stone available for crushing - the adjoining ground has been taken up by Tolstrup and party and a shaft commenced to get same run as Royal Saxon. ⁷

12 July 1880: North Royal Saxon Co. - This company formed by Tolstrup and Co. - sinking a shaft 100 feet to north of run of stone in Royal Saxon Mine. ⁸

March 1881: The Royal Saxon Company are about erecting machinery on their ground, having a large quantity of stone to operate of, which is expected to pay well, the expense of cartage being done away with. Arrangements are also being made for cutting a water race to supply the engine, &c., from the head of Crocodile Creek. ⁹

18 April 1881: Royal Saxon Co. - have purchased a plant with a 10-head battery. ¹⁰

25 July 1881: North Royal Saxon - Mining Manager's Report - During the past six months I have opened out at the 170 feet level. ¹¹

30 Aug 1881: Royal Saxon Co. - Whim shaft sunk an additional 25ft until all underground work was stopped in order to complete battery. ¹²

Sept 1881: Royal Saxon Company. - ...a fine plant has been erected on the ground, comprising a 24 horse-power steam engine, working 10 heads of stamps, with an unfailling supply of Coliban water... The total cost of the plant is £1,500. ¹³

22 Nov 1881: The Ancient Britain Co., Fryers Creek, north of the Royal Saxon Co., cleaned up a trial crushing of 51 tons for 8 oz 6 dwt. The reef is 3 to 4 ft thick, and looking very well. ¹⁴

Dec 1881: The Royal Saxon Company...The ground occupied by the present company proved highly auriferous in the early days, when Clark and party made their £40 and £50 per week per man by simply scratching the surface. The ground is now being opened out both north and south, with very favorable indications; and the line of reef extending north to Specimen Hill may be said to have a fair chance of being properly tested and opened out during the ensuing twelve months. ¹⁵

9 Jan 1882: North Royal Saxon - Shaft sunk to 216 feet. On the next claim, the Royal Princess, a shaft is being sunk - down 50 feet. ¹⁶

23 Jan 1882: North Royal Saxon - ...the mine has been thoroughly prospected from the surface to the 170 ft level and the result is that a number of leaders have been discovered varying in thickness from a few inches to 6 or 8 ft. Several trial crushings have been taken out yielding 2 to 3 dwts per ton, a yield too low to pay except by having a large crushing plant on the ground. Under the circumstances...directors deemed it most advisable to sink the shaft and search for better stone, and tenders were therefore called for sinking 50ft. That of W. Quick at 19s per foot was accepted ¹⁷

28 Feb 1882: Royal Saxon Co. - The machinery is in good working order. A small boiler was procured for exhaust pipe to get hot water to supply engine, thereby saving at least a tone of wood a day. Seeing the cost of water, £12 10s per month, to be a very serious item, your directors are constructing a dam to use the water over again, and had accordingly applied to the Water department to receive half-a-million gallons at half the cost, £6 5s per month. ¹⁸

7 March 1882: Royal Prince[ss?] - shaft is down 90 feet - several leaders passed through - expect to cut North Saxon stone in another 70 feet. ¹⁹

15 Aug 1882: Royal Saxon Co. - Hope to cut the eastern lode and open up new country on the same line as the English Australian Co. and New Era. ²⁰

27 Feb 1883: Royal Saxon Co. - An offer has been received from the adjoining company, North Saxon, proprietors, to amalgamate the two leases, and your directors have for that purpose secured the forfeited shares, and offered 4000 to the shareholders of the North Saxon Company for their lease, which offer as yet has not been accepted ... The ground is broken, and tumbled about, showing similarity to country in view in the New Era and English Australian Mines... The water race has been repaired, preventing leakage to White and Readhouse's claim by putting in boxes round the rocky points about 600 feet. The machinery is in good working order, repairs to piston having been completed. ²¹

27 Aug 1883: Royal Saxon Co. - Your directors have the honour to report that the purchase of the North Saxon lease and plant under offer at last half-yearly meeting has been completed, and part of the ground let on tribute to Wind, Meyer and party, for a term of three years. To facilitate working same direct from the company's shaft, the 130 feet level north has been extended 104 feet, driven by the tributers, and subsidised by the company giving them 5s per foot... A block in the company's ground was let to Wm. Jenkin and party, but after taking out a small crushing it was abandoned. ²²

28 Feb 1884: Royal Saxon Co. - A tribute has been let of the southern portion of your lease to the Royal Saxon No. 2 Tribute Company. ²³

June 1884: The Royal Saxon Company, Clark's Reef...have...been compelled to temporarily stop their works, owing to the unremunerative character of the crushings during the past twelve months. ²⁴

March 1889: Royal Saxon, Clark's Reef. - This reef was remarkably rich during the early days of quartz mining, but the original prospectors (Clark, Featherston, and party) never worked the mine in a *bonâ fide* manner, and they only paid periodical visits when their funds were exhausted. The richer workings were from the surface to a depth of 20

feet, but payable ground extended to a depth of 100 feet. It was a common occurrence to knock out 10 or 12oz. of gold with a hammer from a ton of quartz, previous to the stone being sent to the crushing machine. The reef was first opened out in about 1855 or 1856; but there are no means at the present time of estimating, even approximately, the vast quantity of gold which was obtained by the original prospectors. Since 1867, several parties have taken up the ground, worked it for a certain period, and then abandoned it as not payable. Messrs. Rowe, Conrad Frank, C. Tolstrop, and others, have more or less tested the ground at different levels, viz., 100, 150, 200, and 300 feet, respectively; but the gold has proved, so far, to be very sparingly diffused through the stone and laminae. The strike of the reef is N. 2° 30' W.... The depth of the main shaft is about 300 feet. The yields of gold, as recorded from 1871 to 1884, are as follows:- Surface to 50 feet, 54oz.; to 100 feet, 946oz.; to 150 feet, 286oz.; to 200 feet, 30oz.; to 300 feet, 126 oz. Total number of tons 6,718; average, 4 1/4 dwt. to the ton... The reef has not been abandoned, but is not being worked at the present time; the claim is protected by being held under lease.²⁵

DESCRIPTION

Royal Saxon mine, Clark's Reef. (1880s)

Shaft, small mullock heap, fire place and footings of blacksmith shop, small cluster of shafts, haulage adit, battery sand, stone fire place and another blacksmith shop.

Site descriptions taken from: Milner, P. 1987 The Anglo Australian Mine Site at Fryerstown Report to the Industrial History Committee of the National Trust (Vic) (Technology Citation No. TC 87/7)

PHOTOS: To be taken

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Social Significance | - Part of the Herons Reef Tourist venture |
| Scientific Significance | - Well preserved 1880s mine workings |
| Cumulative Value | - Part of a comprehensive network of quartz and alluvial mining sites associated with Herons, Ferrons and Cattles Reefs, and Golden Gully. (Sites 66, 67, 68, 69, 70.0 to 70.3, and 71.0) |

Significance ranking: Regional significance

CONSERVATION POLICY:

The significance of the site comes from its intactness. The site's significance is enhanced by surrounding sites who, when viewed together, form a network of sites which illustrates the many aspects that characterized the history of mining activity in the Fryerstown area. The key site in this network is the Duke of Cornwall engine house (Site 70.0)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site to be protected

Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1993

SITE NO. & NAME: 68 GOLDEN GULLY

LOCATION: Fryerstown

DIRECTIONS: East side of Fryerstown Road. Herrons Reef Tourist venture.

MAP/GRID REFERENCE: Chewton 1:25,000 - 558.880

PARCEL NUMBER: None

MUNICIPALITY: Newstead

LAND STATUS: Freehold

EXISTING HERITAGE CLASSIFICATION: National Trust (Victoria) classification

PRESENT MANAGEMENT/USE: Herons Reef Tourist Park

HISTORY:

8 March 1852: The Golden Gully is nearly worked out, and the carriage to the Loddon is far more trouble and expense than the general value of the remaining soil warrants. A few holes here, however, do well. ^{xxvi}

1853: Washdirt at Miner's Point realized 4 to 5 ounces per tub. ^{xxvii}

6 June 1853: The Port Philip and Colonial Gold Mining Company have advices from their resident director at Melbourne... He was in negotiation with the Government for the lease of a tract of mineral land at Golden Gully, Fryer's Creek [see also Windlass Hill and Golden Point], under the new regulations which had just been issued, enabling public companies to carry on their operations. ^{xxviii}

12 July 1853: PORT PHILIP AND COLONIAL GOLD COMPANY

SIR, - In your Journal of the 9th inst., there appears what is called a "memorandum" of the Port Philip and Colonial Gold Company; it does not, however, appear to me by any means a satisfactory account of the affairs of the company. The superintendent states, what he terms "the results of six weeks' gold digging, ending the 6th of March;" he says, "an average of 16 Cumberland men produced 175 1/2 ozs., and an average of about 24 Cornishmen gave in 82 ozs.;" he proceeds to say, "that he has no doubt that a considerable amount of gold has been secreted by the latter party" - that is, the Cornishmen; and this, he comfortably assures us, cannot be avoided. I, for one, would like to know the reason why it cannot; and I think it worth a little more trouble to know the why than our worthy superintendent seems to take about it; the difference between the Cumberlandmen and the Cornish secreters (I won't call them "thieves," although I cannot see much difference between the two), is so large as to be worth a very full investigation. For instance, we will suppose the Cumberlandmen to be honest fair workmen, and we will suppose the Cornishmen to be equally clever, and equally well situated for gold finding, the result of the first 16 men is 175 1/2 ozs.; the result of the second gang, of 24 men, by the same rule, ought to be 263 1/4 ozs... On the whole, I consider the account or memorandum (whatever it may be) to be extremely unsatisfactory, and would suggest the following queries for the consideration of the management:- 1. Whether there are no means to detect dishonesty, and no law to punish it when detected. - 2. Whether it is not possible, and much more to the interests of the company, to discharge such men, their produce not being much more than 1/2 oz. per week each man, in all probability less than the wages they are receiving for their labour; and, lastly, whether it would not be possible to employ a quantity of Chinamen, as is done by some other company or companies, at a much cheaper rate, and in lieu of lazy or dishonest Cornishmen... W.P. ^{xxix}

23 July 1853: PORT PHILIP AND COLONIAL GOLD COMPANY

The alluvial washing has been sufficiently proved to pronounce high success upon the removal of certain local and legal difficulties, which compel them to sink fresh pits every 8 ft., instead of pursuing Hopkins's system of cutting a drainage at the dip, and by carrying a broad excavation before them, clearing the whole of the gold from the bed of its deposit.

The gold melting and assay offices are now in full and successful operation, and will doubtless prove a source of great revenue.

The machinery for mining-proper, or crushing, is fixed, and its results will speak for themselves. ^{xxx}

6 Aug 1853 : ...none of the English companies [have] done more than buying gold, excepting the Port Philip Company, which, under the management of Mr Hopkins, has attempted to work alluvial soil. The rate of wages in the colony for both skilled and unskilled labour prevents any successful operations on the part of companies. ^{xxxi}

5 Nov 1853: At Fryer's Creek, Mount Alexander, the miners were petitioning against the lease of land there (worked by 500 persons) to the Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Company; while in summer as many as 1500 persons reside there for the benefit of the water. It is to be feared the miners would offer forcible opposition to the company, and it is evident the authorities will have to be on the alert. xxxii

1853-4: Next day we reached Fryers Creek, and got permission to occupy a hut close to Windlass Hill, the property of the Port Phillip Gold Mining Company. This company was formed of English capitalists who had subscribed £100,000 to work the goldfields of Victoria. The company had camps at Clunes, Fryers and Forest Creeks, and, I believe, other places. They employed men to prospect, many of whom they brought from the old country, giving them 20/- and 30/- per day.

About the time we reached Fryers the camp there was about to be abandoned on account of non-success. The same ill-luck attended the company in their operations elsewhere, and it was only when the whole of the capital was absorbed and orders were on their way from England to abandon all stations and sell everything saleable that gold was got in the quartz at Clunes in payable quantities, which has recouped the shareholders their original outlay, I suppose, fifty-fold. xxxiii

26 Aug 1854: Golden Point and Golden Gully still retain their usual number of inhabitants, and no person seems to be complaining. xxxiv

6 April 1855 : A Monster Nugget - We have for some time been looked upon as an exhausted and impoverished field, but...the finest and most complete nugget of solid gold ever found, has been taken out of an old hole in Golden Gully, Fryer's Creek. ...it weighs 1022 ounces, and is worth about £4000, completely eclipsing all former nuggets. It was found in an old pillar in 20 ft sinking, by two young men named Davis and Harris, who have only been out about eight months... they had offered the hole in the morning for two ounces of gold, but could not sell it... The owners of the nugget, out of courtesy to our worthy Commissioner, Mr Heron, named it the 'Heron nugget'... The place where it was found was turned over very hastily two or three years since, and...there are several pick-marks observable on the nugget... There seems to be a general inclination to try hill sinking in the vicinity and, from what we can gather, all the hills will pay for working, and will, in all probability be opened this winter. xxxv

2 Nov 1855: There are many parties working in Golden Gully, but it is impossible to arrive at anything like an accurate conclusion as to the richness of the claims. xxxvi

29 Feb 1856: Fryer's Town - The Quartz Reefs in the neighbourhood are abandoned... the one which promised so favorably on Golden Gully, is also vacated. xxxvii

13 May 1856: 66.5 oz from a reef on Golden Gully. xxxviii

May 1859: Golden Gully. - Pelcher and party, who have been working quartz-reefs for the last three years with some degree of success, are now erecting an eight horse-power horizontal steam-engine, and to drive 12 heads of stamps, weighting 4 1/2 cwt. each, and three shaking-tables. They will have sufficient power to crush 80 tons of quartz a week, 24 hours a day. This party will be in a position to crush for the public to the extent of 40 tons per week, at the rate of £1 per ton, exclusive of cartage... The prospects of the Golden Gully Reefs [Ferron's, Heron's & Clark's] are not particularly flourishing at the present time. xxxix

June 1859: Pilcher and Co. (16 men in party) - one 18hp expensive steam-engine, 12 heads of stamps; crushes 30 tons in 24 hours. Employing 11 men at average rate £3 per week. Crushed 300 ton in past month. Yield per ton - 5 dwt. Depth from surface - 70 & 100 feet.

Holywell and Co - one horizontal high-pressure engine 10hp engine, 8 stamps, and Chilian mill; crushes 8 tons in 24 hours.

Andrews and Co. (1 in working party) - one 6hp high pressure engine, 4 stamps, crushes 10 tons in 24 hours. Crushed during past month - 70 tons. Yield per ton - 11 dwt. Depth from surface - 25 feet.

Andrews & Co. prospecting an abandoned claim. Crushed 25 ton in past month. 2 1/2 dwt. yield per ton. Depth from surface - 85 feet.

Andrews & Co. employing 14 men by contract, raising stone at 9 shillings per ton. Crushed 20 ton in past month. Yield per ton - 6 1/2 dwt. Depth from surface - 20 feet.

Andrews & Co. Crushed 15 ton in past month. Yield per ton - 3 dwt. Depth from surface - 60 feet.

Pilcher and Co - one 2hp steam engine, 4 stamps; crushes 6 tons (calcined) in 24 hours.

Brown and Co. (5 in the party) - one 5hp portable engine, 4 stamps, crushes 6 tons in 24 hours. Crushed in the past month - 50 tons. Yield per ton - 1/2 oz. Depth from surface - 4, 10 and 30 feet.

Glew & Co. (2 in the party). Crushed 25 ton in past month. Yield per ton - 1 oz. 14 3/4 dwt. Working a surface leader. xl

June 1859: 18 puddling machines operated by 90 non-Chinese
35 non-Chinese involved in ordinary mining
65 non-Chinese involved in quartz mining. xli

July 1860: Golden and Spring Gullies appear at present to be the favoured localities [for puddling], there being scarcely a foot of ground in these places unoccupied. xlii

Dec 1860: Quartz reefs actually proved to be auriferous [include]: Golden Gully (German Reef) - 4 miners employed. xliii

Nov 1861: Tyack and Co. - getting between 4 and 15 pounds per week for the past six months. xliv

Jan 1862: Most puddlers doing exceedingly well; those working with tub and cradle are meeting with very indifferent success. xlv

10 July 1862: Returns from the puddlers now negligible. xlvi

June 1864: Most puddlers making good wages. xlvii

June 1865: Puddlers able to work making good wages. xlviii

June 1866: Adequate supply of water now for puddling. xlix

March 1867: These gullies have ever been remarkable for apparently inexhaustible mineral wealth. Alluvial mining operations are, as heretofore, confined to puddling. The claims have been in work for some years, and from the systematic and energetic manner in which the operations were conducted, the permanent dwellings erected, and the blocks of ground cultivated, it is not unreasonable to suppose the average earnings of the puddlers are satisfactory.¹

March 1867: Stevens and Company, Golden Gully, are erecting a 10-horse power engine, with 8 heads of stamps. This having proved one of the best paying claims in the neighbourhood, it seems worthy of remark, that this will be the third engine erected upon the same site, for crushing purposes, during the past few years. li

June 1867: The only changes or addition in machinery consist in the erection of a new engine by the Free Italian Company, Guildford, and another by Stevens and Davis of Golden Gully; the latter has been well employed during the past two months, to the benefit both of owners and quartz miners in the locality. lii

June 1867: In the neighborhood of Golden and Spring Gullies, places which have been most prospected, from time to time veins or spurs have been struck which for a short period have paid well, but ultimately had to be abandoned.

The ranges between and on either side of these gullies are intersected by innumerable quartz veins, apparently almost at equal distances apart. It is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when prospecting at a great depth will be carried on with energy and spirit; previous returns establish the fact that nearly all our best crushings have resulted from the deeper workings. liii

Sept 1867: The Golden Gully reefs have now been worked successfully for the past ten years, to a depth not exceeding 100 feet; several distinct lodes running parallel and nearly coincident with the magnetic meridian, have been traced and found richly impregnated with gold. One of these lodes [Cattle's Reef], now being worked by Mills, Hilton, and Company, is yielding brilliantly. The quartz veins in this part of the district have never been fairly tested below the water level. The want of powerful machinery and lack of mining enterprise has hitherto prevented the solution of a problem which has been solved in other districts with astonishing effects. liv

1867: Parties reporting yields from quartz crushings in 1867 - Rowe and Company, Cattle and Company, Stevens and Company, Little and Davis lv

March 1868: During the past three months the returns show an improvement in this branch of mining, more particularly on Cattle's Reef and Ferron's Reef, Golden Gully. Messrs. Rowe give an average of 9 dwts. to the ton, while Stevens and Co. have realised 1 1/4 oz. to the ton. Mills and Co., who occupy the adjoining claim to Messrs. Rowe have been principally engaged sinking a new shaft during the past two months, with the view of striking the reef below the hill, and so trace the main lode intersecting Commissioner's Flat. lvi

June 1868: Messrs. Mills, Hilton and Co., who occupy a claim about 200 feet to the south of the Duke of Cornwall, have already sunk a shaft to a depth of 140 feet, and 76 feet below the water level ^{lvii}

Dec 1868: A reef or lode (in continuation of Clark's or Ferron's) has been struck in Golden Gully, which yielded 7 dwts. to the ton; there is a good body of stone, and the quartz now being raised looks well. ^{lviii}

1868: Parties reporting yields from quartz crushings in 1868 - Rowe and Company, Stevens and Company, Cattle and Company, Mills and Company ^{lix}

4 Jan 1871: The Fryer's Creek Reefs - On Monday last I made a tour of inspection of the Fryer's Creek mines, and returned highly pleased with the result of my inspection. The first mine I visited was the northern one of the Anglo-Australian, an English proprietary; this claim is managed and supervised by J. Lamb, Esq., an English gentleman of easy manners, and who did the agreeable on the occasion of my visit. This company is erecting a beam engine of about 100-horse power, which is in an advanced state of completion and the prospects of the company I should consider are very fair, judging from some of the stone shown me, taken from a leader struck in the cross-cut. They have a large number of men employed on the works, and are building their own boiler on the ground, for the which Vivian and Co., of Castlemaine are the contractors and all on this claim is bustle and activity.

South-east of the Anglo is the claim of Stephens and Company, on the Ferron's reef. The yields from this claim are very irregular, sometimes paying handsome dividends to the shareholders. Latterly the yields have declined, but never below the wages point. One year since this was one of the first claims in the district, and I doubt not before long it will be up the front again. And then passing over a few small claims of lesser note we come to that of the Australian United. This also is an English company under the directorship of R.L.M. Kitto, Esq., M.P. On this is erected a beam engine, a horizontal engine, and a small winding engine. The stone now being crushed from the claim is of good quality, and at the south-east boundary of this claim a downright shaft sunk to the depth of 300 feet would strike the large body of stone now being worked by Rowe Bros. with such brilliant results. This claim if persistently worked cannot fail to yield handsome returns, and will repay the large outlay invested. Next south of the slide comes the claim of Cattle and Co. This claim has been famous for its steady yields, and still continues to give very fair returns whenever they are working in quartz, but being so near the slide the lode is rather abrupt and broken. This party have called in the aid of a few other working men; they are now sinking adownright shaft to intercept the eastern reef, worked by Rowe Bros., which they expect to strike at a depth of 250 feet.

Next south in a direct line is the famous claim of Rowe Bros, the yields from which are so well known I need not recapitulate them here. This much I may state, it is challenged to be the first claim of the colony, i.e. for durability, extent of stone, and average yield, and I think it would carry off the palm.

Then I must say south-west from Rowe Bros. (for here south-east comes in another chain) comes the rich claim of Hilton, Mills, and Co., from which at a very recent date there was exhibited in the window of a storekeeper at Fryer's Creek two tin dishes of stone valued at £600 sterling, and only a few days since there were taken from the claim lumps of gold weighing nine, six, and three ounces respectively. Intersecting, or dividing this claim east and west is the road-claim of 99 feet from north to south of Rowe, Kitto and Co. The average yield from this claim has been over one ounce per ton with 99 feet of stone. They are now sinking a downright east of their present shaft to strike the lode of Gill and Co. This claim, on the private property of C.L. Cartheries, quite of recent date, and considered by men well up in mining to be outside the line altogether, has turned out very good yields. They struck the eastern lode at a depth of 120 feet, nine feet rise, underlay east, easy to break, and the yield fully up to one ounce per ton. This lode traverses the road-claim of Rowe, Kitto and Co., then into the southern portion of Hilton, Mills and Co.'s claim, and then into the large claim of the Fryer's Company. This claim is under the limited liability act, launched on the Ballarat and Castlemaine markets about twelve months since; the proprietary are of Castlemaine and Ballarat. They have commenced work on this mine with something like system, sinking a downright 300 feet, and then extending cross-cuts east and west at the several levels; they have a large area of ground on the line of the eastern and western lodes. About 20 days since some very good stone was struck at the 180 feet cross-cut west with gold throughout the entire stone. The stone thus struck is precisely similar in appearance to that of Rowe Brothers, Small and party, and Hilton, Mills and Co. Stone that in any other part of the Castlemaine district would be considered worthless is on the line of reef gold bearing. They are still continuing the cross-cut west to intersect the lode worked by Small and Co., whose claim adjoins them on the west. Taking all the circumstances of this company into consideration, with gold surrounding them at every point, I have no hesitation in saying that eventually, and not very far distant, this claim will excel any claim within a radius of many miles held by a public company. In taking a casual survey of the eastern line of lode from the claim of Gill and Co., through that of Hilton, Mills and Co., to that of the Fryer's Company I should say this company would strike the eastern lode at about 150 feet cross-cut. At the 180 feet level, then supposing the underlie to continue the same as that in the claim of Gill and Co., I am of opinion this claim will give a healthy and enduring impetus to mining by public company in this district and will tend to disperse the fallacy that in Castlemaine we have no reefs of any note.

Small and Co.'s claim is to the west of the Fryers Co., and do not embrace any portion of the eastern reef. Notwithstanding they have a rich claim, a steady yield, a large body of stone, and easy of access, and a splendid battery of their own to boot, all of which has been erected out of the profits of their mine during the last fifteen months. In fact the whole of Commissioner's Flat is studded with lodes of more or less richness, and all are paying well for being worked. Next, south-east of the Fryers Co., is the

claim known as the Black Hawk, held by Kitto, Lamb and Co. They are not sufficiently deep in this mine to intersect any of the lodes in the foregoing claims.

West of the Black Hawk is the claim of the Cumberland Co. I have not yet inspected this claim, but will write of it anon.

As I have enumerated all the claims on this line of reef, I must wind up by saying I was never more prepossessed in favour of a reef than that of the Commissioner's Flat line at Fryer's Creek. This lode is durable, and of great thickness, inexpensive to work, and the average yield is excellent. ^{lx}

1872-5: Between 1872 and 1875 Neilson and Company removed almost 13,000 tons of material for a return of about 230 oz. of gold. Their operations seem to have been hampered by the lack of an adequate source of cheap water. ^{lxi}

March 1873: Little alluvial mining at Golden Gully. ^{lxii}

Dec 1877: Duke and Duchess United, Golden Gully. - This company has been a long time working with considerable spirit and energy, and payable gold has been struck. ^{lxiii}

June 1885: New Era Gold Mining Company, Golden Gully ^{lxiv}

11 May 1889: If any of the people, who at one time, not many years back, were to visit Fryerstown at present, they, no doubt, would be very much surprised to see the condition of the mining industry at that place. What was once a long line of reef, employing large numbers of men, is now one succession of idle machinery and solitary chimney stacks. At the most southern end of the line is the Burdett-Coutts Company, which swallowed up a large sum of money. A little further north is the Golden Eagle mine, with two engines, one for crushing, and one for winding, both standing idle. Continuing north is the old Cumberland mine, from which the machinery was recently removed to Newstead; adjoining, is the Hope Tribute Co., from which two or three good yields were obtained, and about two years ago was partly purchased by a Melbourne syndicate. Then there is the Fryers Company's claim, upon which many thousands of pounds were expended. Almost alongside of the Fryers is the site of Small's plant, but latterly called the Enterprise, which yielded a large amount of gold. Then comes the New Perseverance Tribute Gold-Mining Company, which has only recently suspended operations, and on which there are most powerful winding, crushing, and pumping engines. Opposite the Perseverance is the famous Mosquito mine of Rowe Brothers, from which tons of gold have been obtained, and there is no doubt if sufficient capital was judiciously expended, the Mosquito would yield up its wealth as of yore. On the top of the hill, over the Mosquito is a powerful winding engine. Continuing south is the famous Duke of Cornwall mine, with one of the most powerful engines in the colony upon it, capable of pumping and hauling from almost any depth. On the same lease is another winding engine, but which has been idle for many years. Northward again, alongside of the main road, is a large brick stack, which marks the site of the Duchess mine. A little eastward of this are the remains of what was once the Ferron's Reef Company, and is the property of Rowe Brothers. Then we come to the New Era, which was the pride and hope of Fryerstown, and also of the whole of the Castlemaine district, but which decided a couple of weeks ago to suspend operations, and they are now engaged drawing the pumps and other movables out of the mine preparatory to winding up the affairs of the company. Upon it there is a most complete and powerful plant, capable of doing any work. Adjoining the New Era lease is that of the Fryers Creek Gold Mining Company, but which is mostly called by its old name as the Anglo. This is the most northernmost claim on the line of reef that is working, and it is to be hoped that the shareholders, who reside in England, will ere long be repaid for the large amount of capital they have expended on the mine. Consequently, on the suspension of work in the mines the miners have been obliged to seek work elsewhere, which, of course, tends to draw the population away from the district. ^{lxv}

March 1898: Sanger and Party (sluicing): 94oz gold ^{lxvi}

June 1898: Sanger and Party (sluicing): 5oz gold ^{lxvii}

1903: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating ^{lxviii}

1904-14 : In 1904 the Golden Gully Hydraulic Sluicing Company began pumped sluicing operations. This was a co-operative party of 13 working shareholders who used gravity feed of water to their nozzle from a raceway constructed along the western side of the gully, and then pumped the resulting slurries over the sluices with an 8 inch gravel pump driven by a 20 horsepower portable steam engine. To the end of 1914 they treated well over 14 acres of ground... The return was just over 3,700 ounces of gold. ^{lxix}

1904: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: Pumped sluicing plant operating at Fryer's Creek (also at Campbell's Creek).^{lxx}

1904: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating^{lxxi}

Dec 1904: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 106oz gold^{lxxii}

1905: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating. ^{lxxiii}

1905: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: Pumped sluicing plant operating at Fryer's Creek and Campbell's Creek^{lxxiv}

Jan 1905: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: 184oz gold ^{lxxv}

Feb 1905: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 63oz gold ^{lxxvi}

1906: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating.^{lxxvii}

1906: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: Pumped sluicing plant operating at Fryer's Creek and Campbell's Creek.^{lxxviii}

1907: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating: gravity feed of water, 8 inch gravel pump, 20 horsepower portable engine ^{lxxix}

1908: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating .^{lxxx}

1909: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: Pumped sluicing plant operating . ^{lxxxi}

June 1909: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 16oz gold ^{lxxxii}

June 1909: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: 30oz gold ^{lxxxiii}

March 1910: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 88oz gold ^{lxxxiv}

March 1910: Ford's Dredge or Ford Brothers: 32oz gold ^{lxxxv}

Sept 1910: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 128oz gold ^{lxxxvi}

Sept 1911: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 177oz gold ^{lxxxvii}

June 1913: Golde: Gully Hydraulic Co.: 77oz gold ^{lxxxviii}

Sept 1913: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 60oz gold ^{lxxxix}

Dec 1913: Golden Gully Hydraulic Co.: 78oz gold ^{xc}

1990: Site of Heron's nugget find - on western side of Chewton-Fryerstown Road, opposite southern boundary fence of property on south corner of Taradale Road intersection... Dad showed me the spot when I was a boy and his dad showed him...my grandfather saw the actual nugget when it was found.

Duchess of Cornwall - west side of road, near the Duke of Cornwall - they never went very deep there. ^{xc}

DESCRIPTION

Golden Gully - Gully first rushed in 1851. Reworked on numerous occasions after this time. Extensively sluiced in the late 1890s to c.1914)

Hydraulic sluicing. Extensive operations, deep sluiced banks up to 20 feet. [Chewton 1:25,000 - 558880]

Ground sluicing. Parallel channels and assoc. small paddocks.

Quartz mining/residential. Battery sand, traces of roadway, several stone fireplaces [Chewton 1:25,000 - 808765]
 Residential. Several fireplaces, one single room house (still standing); stone walled paddock, fruit trees, dam, several small water races. [Chewton 1:25,000 - 561875]
 Site descriptions taken from: Milner, P. 1987 The Anglo Australian Mine Site at Fryerstown Report to the Industrial History Committee of the National Trust (Vic) (Technology Citation No. TC 87/7)

PHOTOS: None taken

ARTEFACTS: None visible

INTEGRITY/CONDITION: Good

THREATS:

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The site has:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Historical Significance | - The first and richest of the alluvial gullies to be worked in the Fryers creek Mining Division |
| Social Significance | - Intrical part of the Herons Reef Tourist venture |
| Scientific Significance | - Place contains a comprehensive range of alluvial mining relics. Many of the sites (eg. remains of houses) have high archaeological value. |
| Cumulative Value | - Part of a comprehensive network of quartz and alluvial mining sites associated with Herons, Ferrons and Cattles Reefs, and Golden Gully. (Sites 66, 67, 68, 69, 70.0 to 70.3, and 71.0) |

Significance ranking: Regional

The significance of the place comes from the survival of a comprehensive range of alluvial mining relics. The significance of the place is enhanced by surrounding sites who, when viewed together, form a network of sites which illustrates the many aspects that characterized the history of mining activity in the Fryerstown area. The key site in this network is the Duke of Cornwall engine house (Site 70.0)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

Site to be protected

Assessor: David Bannear Date: 1993

- 1 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 2 Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
- 3 Mining Surveyors' quarterly 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 Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
- 7 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 8 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 9 Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
- 10 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 11 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 12 Mount Alexander Mail, as summarized in Clive Willman collection
- 13 Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions

14	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
15	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
16	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
17	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
18	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
19	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
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21	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
22	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
23	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
24	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
25	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xxvi	<u>Argus</u> (newspaper), Melbourne, 8/3/1852,p.2
xxvii	Milner, P. 1989 <u>Mining Sites in Specimen Hill Area</u> , for Newmont
xxviii	The Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette, London,20/8/1853, p.513
xxix	The Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette, London,16/7/1853,p.428
xxx	The Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette, London,23/7/1853, p.445
xxxi	The Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette, London,6/8/1853, p.481
xxxii	The Mining Journal, Railway and Commercial Gazette, London, 28/11/1854, p.56
xxxiii	Mitchell, R. (30 June 1882) in <u>Records of the Castlemaine Pioneers</u> , Rigby Ltd., 1972, pp37-38
xxxiv	Mount Alexander Mail, p.4
xxxv	Mount Alexander Mail, p.2
xxxvi	Mount Alexander Mail, p.2
xxxvii	Mount Alexander Mail, p.4
xxxviii	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
xxxix	Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xl	Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xli	Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xlII	Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xlIII	Mining Surveyors' monthly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xliv	Department of Mines, Mining Surveyor's/Registrar's Reports, as summarized by P. Milner
xlv	Department of Mines, Mining Surveyor's/Registrar's Reports, as summarized by P. Milner
xlvi	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized by Milner
xlvii	Department of Mines, Mining Surveyor's/Registrar's Reports, as summarized by P. Milner
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liii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
liv	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lv	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lvi	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lvii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lviii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lix	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lx	<u>Mount Alexander Mail</u> , as summarized in Clive Willman collection
lxi	Milner, P. 1989 <u>Mining Sites in Specimen Hill Area</u> , for Newmont, p.43
lxii	Department of Mines, Mining Surveyor's/Registrar's Reports, as summarized by P. Milner
lxiii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions

lxiv	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
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lxvi	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxvii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxviii	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989)
lxix	Milner, P. 1989 <u>Mining Sites in Specimen Hill Area</u> , for Newmont, p.43
lxx	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),p.53
lxxi	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxiii	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxiv	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxv	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxvi	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxvii	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxviii	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxix	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989), p112
lxxx	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989),
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lxxxi	Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria (as summarised in P. Milner, <u>On Mining Machinery Sites in the Castlemaine and Fryers Creek Divisions</u> , November 1989), p106
lxxxii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxxiii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxxiv	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
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lxxxvi	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
lxxxvii	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
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lxxxix	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xc	Mining Surveyors' quarterly reports, Castlemaine and Fryer's Creek Divisions
xcı	George O. Brown/David Bannear March 1991- Preliminary field notes