

Place No. 69 Weerianna Gold Mine



Remains of stamp at Weerianna Gold Mine, 2012

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Weerianna Gold Mine
Other Name (1)	Hillside Mine
Other Name (2)	Weeriana Gold Mine
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	
Other Locational descriptor (text)	Northern edge of Mt Welcome Range 511459 mE, 7704106 mN (MGA94 Zone 50) Longitude: 117.1101 Latitude: -20.7627

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner	Address	Phone/fax	Status	Item No.
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	Item No.

LISTING AND ASSESSMENT	
HCWA Reference Number	NEW ENTRY
State Register of Heritage Places:(Y/N)	No
Classified by the National Trust (Y/N)	No
Register of the National Estate (Y/N)	No
Local Town Planning Scheme (Y/N)	No
Management Category	C

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1896
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Historic Site

Use(s) of Place	
<i>Original</i>	MINING: Mine Office Assay Office Mining Battery
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
Construction Materials:	
<i>Walls</i>	
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Unknown
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Elements such as the shafts and spoil heaps are largely intact, while partial footings of the mine's battery remain.
Physical Description	
<p>This goldmining centre is located two miles west of Roebourne on the northern edge of Mount Welcome, within the West Pilbara Goldfield, which was proclaimed in 1895. Shafts and a 10-head battery were established on the site and several large surface outcrops were utilised during the exploitation of the goldfield.</p> <p>Today the site is located off the highway, just outside of Roebourne. The site is easily accessed by a dirt track. The various spoil heaps indicating mined materials are present, as is an open shaft. The footings of the battery stamp are present, as are rubbish heaps from various phases of occupation by the miners.</p>	
History	
<p>Gold was first discovered in 1896, however little work was done initially due to the lack of available crushing facilities. Some rich parcels of stone were sent away for treatment to extract gold.</p> <p>In 1907, the leases were taken up by Melbourne company, Roebourne Copper and Gold Mines of WA, NL, who also owned Carlow Castle at Glenroebourne. With mortgage assistance from the government, the company erected a 10-head battery with gas engine to process the ore on site. Despite a return of 273.5 ounces of fine gold from 713 tons of stone, the lease was unprofitable, and the leases and plant were surrendered to the government. In 1909, a working party obtained the lease of a portion of this area and the plan, which was worked under the title of Hillside Leases.</p> <p>In addition to gold, the centre also produced copper ore, most successfully from the Lilly Blanche mine.</p> <p>The Weerianna centre continued to produce ore up until at least 1938, although a Roebourne newspaper clipping suggests the 'Weiriana Mine' itself ceased operations some time before 1926.</p>	
Archaeology	
<p>There is some potential for archaeological remains within the Weerianna Gold Mine centre, to reveal further details of the mining activities. Archaeological remains comprise surface finds associated with mining and subsistence, and subsurface remains within the collapsed shaft.</p>	

SIGNIFICANCE	
Historic theme (s)	1. DEMOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENT & MOBILITY 110 Resource exploitation & depletion 3.OCCUPATIONS 303 Mining (incl. mineral processing)
Statement of Significance:	

The Weerianna Gold Mine centre has historical and social significance for its association with the early gold and copper mining industries of the Roebourne region. The site represents the development of the region as a result of the mining industry and the continued richness of the region with regard to mineral resources. The preservation of shafts, infrastructure and evidence of occupation indicates potential for scientific research into gold mining.

ASSOCIATIONS

Architect/Designer (1)

Architect/Designer (2)

Other Associated Person(s)

OTHER**References**

De Havelland, DW, 1985 *Gold & ghosts: A prospectors guide to metal detecting and history of the Australian goldfields* Carlisle, W.A : Hesperian Press.

(Held by Karratha Community Library – VF00073).

Finucane, KJ, Jones, FH, & Telford, RJ 'The Weerianna, Nichol Bay and Glenroebourne mining centres, Pilbara Goldfield' *Aerial, Geological and Geophysical Survey of Northern Australia – Report Western Australian No. 51*. Government Printer, Perth

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Woodward, HP 1911, 'The Geology and Ore Deposits of the West Pilbara Goldfield', *Geological Survey Western Australia Bulletin 41*, Government Printer, Perth.

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NOTES

MHI 1996

Identified on Review List

MHI Review 2012

Entry updated



Aerial image of Weerianna Gold Mine