

## Place No. 38 Nicol Goldfield



Ruined structures at Nicol Goldfield

LOCATION	
Name of Place	Nicol Goldfield
Other Name (1)	(Upper) (Lower) Nichol Goldfields
Other Name (2)	The Nicol, 'Radleys'
Location/Address	
Street Number	
Street Name	
Suburb/Town	
Other Locational descriptor (text)	Nicol River, approximately 16km west of Roebourne; 495941 mE, 7764134 mN (MGA94, Zone 50) Longitude 116.9611 Latitude -20.2203

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

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
<b>Management Category</b>	<b>C</b>

DESCRIPTION	
Construction Date (1)	1890
Construction Date (2)	
Site Type (Place Type)	Historic Site
<b>Use(s) of Place</b>	

<i>Original</i>	MINING: Mine Office Assay Office Housing or Quarters Mining Battery Other
<i>Present</i>	VACANT/UNUSED: Vacant/Unused
<i>Other</i>	
<b>Construction Materials:</b>	
<i>Walls</i>	
<i>Roof</i>	
<i>Other</i>	
Condition	Unknown
Integrity (how much of the original fabric is intact?):	Unknown
<b>Physical Description</b>	
<p>The site is located within an area of one square mile, located outside the Pilbara Goldfield. It lies adjacent to the highway and site elements are visible from the road.</p> <p>The workings consisted of shallow pits in auriferous quartz veins. The principal mine is approximately 20 m deep and is an open cut mine. Adjacent to the mine are remains of machinery related to ore crushing.</p> <p>The fields are extensively worked and large mounds of mined earth characterise the site today.</p>	
<b>History</b>	
<p>Early in 1890 gold was found on a small river called the Nicol, about 14 miles west of Roebourne, by some men engaged in sinking post holes for a fence. The gold occurred near the surface and was, at first, easily and cheaply obtained. However, later on, when the lead was traced down into the flat, more work had to be done to gain it. This small patch of country (gold-bearing) is so little above the sea-level that no deep sinking was possible owing to the vast volumes of water encountered, but it was considered highly probable the deep ground carried gold. No further work was undertaken while several old diggers lived on the site.</p> <p>This area was proclaimed the Nicol Goldfield. Encompassing the areas known as Upper and Lower Nicol Goldfields (and alternative spellings) the goldfield was cancelled and proclaimed incorporated into the West Pilbara Goldfield on 1 November 1895.</p> <p>Copper was also recorded in the vicinity.</p> <p>Mining activities continue to the present. Late twentieth century activities saw infrastructure at the site around an artificial earth mound. Today gold prospectors are still active and locate gold at the site.</p>	
<b>Archaeology</b>	
<p>There is some potential for archaeological remains associated with the mining activities to exist within the Nicol Goldfields. Archaeological remains may comprise surface finds and subsurface remains within the collapsed shaft. There is over a century of relics of mining related activities distributed across the field.</p>	

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

The Nicol Goldfield is associated with the early gold mining industry of the Roebourne region, and is part of a larger story of gold mining in Western Australia in the late 1800s. The site is associated with the development of the region as a result of the mining industry and the continued richness of the region with regard to a range of mineral resources. It is representative of both surface and shaft mining.

<b>ASSOCIATIONS</b>	
Architect/Designer (1)	
Architect/Designer (2)	
Other Associated Person(s)	

<b>OTHER</b>	
<b>References</b>	
De Havelland, DW, 1985 <i>Gold &amp; ghosts: A prospectors guide to metal detecting and history of the Australian goldfields</i> Carlisle, W.A : Hesperian Press. (Held by Shire of Roebourne Local History Office).	
MHI 1996	Identified on the Review List
MHI Review 2012	Site assessed and Place Name Record created



The remains of machinery associated with ore crushing at Nicol Goldfield 2012