

# Scrubyards

Early 1879 gold was discovered here, beginning a rush. At its peak, 7000 men tried their luck, but only about 1400 settled to work the area. Called Scrubyards by the miners, it was a typical mining town.

## The town included:

- Mining Warden's office
- George Champion's store
- W. J. Scott's store
- Butcher
- Baker
- Fruiterer
- Blacksmith
- Hay store
- Corn store

## And seven hotels, including:

- John Angove's Angove's Hotel"
- Henry Ponting's "Bristol Hotel"
- Harry Nelson's "Post Office Hotel"
- James Marshall's "Woodstown Hotel"
- James Bourke's "Shamrock Hotel"
- Mrs Sarah Matthews' All Nations Hotel"

A coach drawn by 5 horses left the settlement daily.

In November 1879, 8 or 9 holes were producing payable gold. Henry Margules was the Mining Registrar.

On 9th December, 1879, Margules advised the town's name had been changed officially from Woodstown to Woodville, its surveyed name. The Postal Service declined to use the new name.

The Woodstown Post Office was established on February 16, 1880, Charles Hancox, a storekeeper in charge.

The town followed a north-south line along the western edge of the present paddock. East of the town, the high hill known as "Specimen Hill" was riddled with shafts and tunnels, now filled in. A large puddler, dam and water channel were situated at the town's southern end. Some signs of these are still discernable.

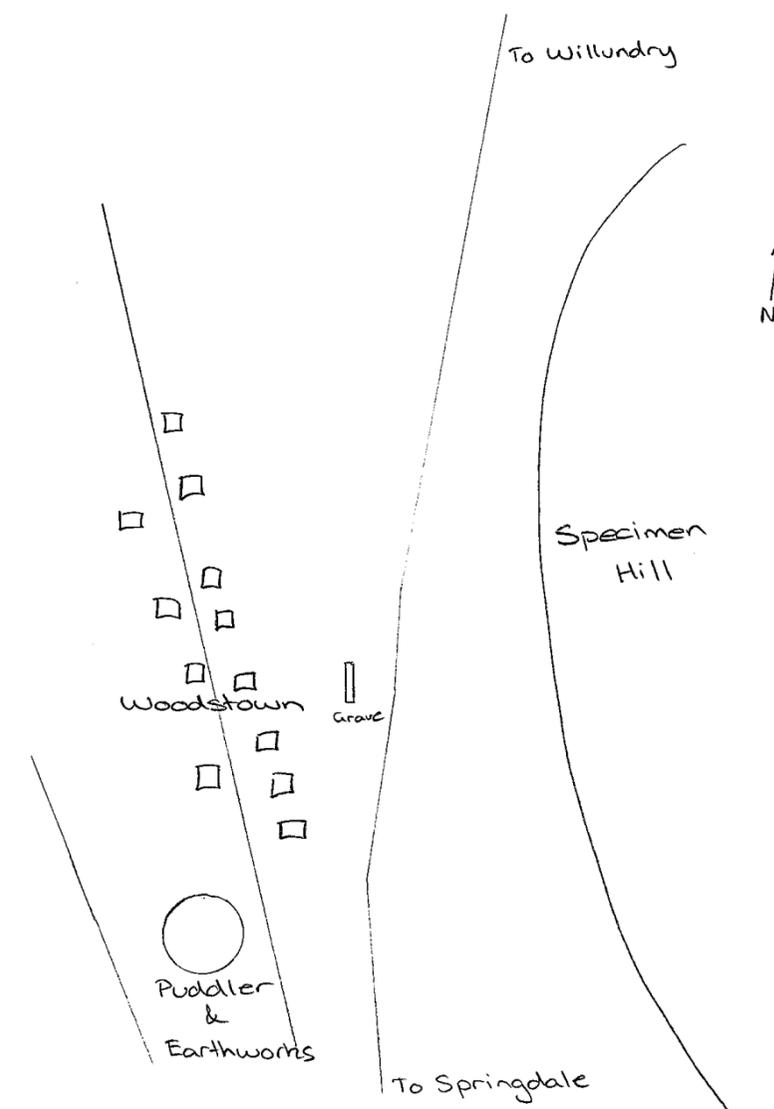
By February 1880, lack of water caused people to leave the area only nine months after the initial rush.

James Maloney, an early Scrubyards prospector moved to the Temora area in May 1880 where in June he announced the discovery of payable gold. This caused the almost immediate decline of Scrubyards as people and buildings moved to Temora. The Scrubyards field closed completely in 1881,

The outpost had a brief reprieve in the late 1890s, with a baker and a hotel, (Joseph Corby opened "Corby's Family Hotel" here in 1895), serving the local mining interests. The locals of the time were insistent their identity was "Scrubyards" and not just a part of "Springdale."

All that remains of the Scrubyards settlement now are a grave, some broken china, rusted tin and some worn down earthworks.

Please note that all the land is now private property.



Panel erected by Combaning/Springdale Heritage Committee, April 2014.