
STOCKYARD CREEK GOLD MINING DIVERSION SLUICE

Location

HOWQUA TRACK HOWQUA, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8123-0017

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO34

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Stockyard Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 250 metre long stone embankment with three separate diversions. Associated with the diversions are pebble dumps and extensive remains of bank quarrying. The creek was extensively worked by alluvial miners during the mid-nineteenth century. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Stockyard Creek through the sluice boxes, and away from its natural bed and southern bank, which were then mined for its alluvial gold.

How is it significant?

The Stockyard Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Stockyard Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Stockyard Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10814

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Stockyard Creek was one of the localities where alluvial gold was found and worked following the original Howqua rush to Cameron's Creek in 1866. Nuggets of up to 45 oz and 'tolerably rich' yields are said to have been obtained from Stockyard Creek. By 1882, the alluvial diggings of the Howqua valley were deserted 'save by two or three men'. The diversion sluice on Stockyard Creek would have operated in much the same way as one described at Dry Creek in 1861, which involved 'cutting a tail race in the rock in the bed of the creek, and fixing a permanent set of large boxes, and working the points and sides of the creek by means of branch boxes, all, however, falling into the main ones'. (Mining Surveyors' Report (Kilmore Division), January 1861)

References:

Murray

Wylie (1987), p. 44

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>