
BRIGHT CANYON



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Location

POREPUNKAH ROAD BRIGHT, ALPINE SHIRE

Municipality

ALPINE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8224-0022

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO12

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 29, 2005

What is significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site consists of a large excavation containing a network of pebble dumps and tail races. The tail races have been cut through a ridge of bedrock from the open pit to the River Ovens. Water for sluicing would have been delivered to the site by water races and then directed at the gold bearing deposits. The technology was introduced into Victoria in about 1855. The main period for hydraulic sluicing on the Ovens at Bright was during the 1870s-80s.

How is it significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site 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. Hydraulic sluicing of alluvial gold deposits is an important key ingredient in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Canyon Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site 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 10873

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Sluicing was conducted on an extensive scale at Bright from 1856, with large claims worked by hydraulic sluicing from the early 1870s. 'The Canyon' appears to be a comparatively modern name for the carved-out landscape created by sluicing operations.

References:

Lloyd & Nunn, p. 14

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Buckland Division), July 1861, September 1873, September 1876

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/>