
JUNGLE CREEK FALLS DIVERSION SLUICE

Location

GRANT HISTORIC AREA AND MCMILLANS ROAD COWA, WELLINGTON SHIRE

Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8323-0008

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO114

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

The Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 35 metre long stone embankment which was probably built in the mid 1870s when the creek was extensively reworked by alluvial miners. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Jungle Creek through sluice boxes, and away from its natural bed which was then mined for its alluvial gold. The site is very overgrown.

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

The Jungle 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 Jungle 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 10989

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Jungo or Jungle Creek was rushed in June 1861. The discoverer, Jean Gamel, told how: 'the first party were soon stripping a twelve by twelve paddock and had a tail race completed... Each of the sixteen claims averaged from eight to twelve ounces to the paddock.' By 1863, Jungle Creek was the major diggings at Crooked River: 'it has assumed an air of permanence, men making comfortable homes and bringing their families up.' By the end of 1864, the full extent of Jungle Creek had been worked for alluvial gold, and reefs were opened up. At that time, a party of alluvial miners was constructing a channel to divert the Wongungarra River across a flat near Howitville, in order to work the river bed and later the flat itself; the scheme was regarded as a pioneering enterprise. It would have been similar in function to—although larger in scale than—the Jungle Creek Falls diversion. During 1865, the alluvial mining population of Jungle Creek fell to only 15, as the focus of alluvial mining shifted to Upper Crooked River and its tributaries, and the Dargo. From the 1870s, alluvial mining at Crooked River was largely confined to creek and river banks rather than beds and flats, and it became increasingly rare for alluvial miners to work in parties of more than two or three. In 1874, however, the mining registrar remarked that, 'The falling off in quartz mining has had a beneficial effect upon the alluvial, leading to a more general prospecting of the rivers and creeks'—including Jungle Creek—'some of which are paying more than ordinarily good wages.' Because the Crooked River alluvial rush of 1861-3 coincided with a three-year lapse in mining surveyors' reports, little exists in the way of records for the period. When reports recommenced in 1864, and for a few years afterwards, the local mining surveyor was understandably preoccupied with the phenomenal reefing rush that was in full swing. The Jungle Creek Falls diversion sluice probably dates to the period 1861-5 or mid-1870s; but no record of its construction or use has been located.

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/>