
ST GEORGE'S WATER RACE

Location

CRESWICK-DEAN ROAD WATTLE FLAT AND LINCOLN GULLY ROAD AND BUSH INN ROAD CABBAGE TREE, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0331

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Constructed in 1857 by labourers (including Chinese) for James Robertson. The race

brought water from Bullarook Forest to Robertsons sluicing claim at Humbug Hill. In

1860s Robertson sold his shares in the race and the race became known as the St

Georges race, supplying the St Georges Sluicing Company claims at Humbug Hill. In 1862

Interpretation of Site

the company adopted new patent bitumen pipe technology to replace the wooden flume

built by Robertson. The upper part of the race was taken over by the Council in 1864. The

remainder was still utilized by Chinese miners. By 1880 the Council had leased the whole

race, presumably for augmenting Council water supply, however by the early 20th century

it appears this race fell into disuse.

This site has a high level of archaeological significance.

The race is well preserved for its entirety and is a representative example of an 1860s

water race that was utilised over several decades for both mining and water supply

purposes, Archaeological features include the race alignment, negative cut features, spoil

Archaeological Significance

and sediment deposits, dams, diversions, sluice points, and potential gauges, pipes, and

sluice lining materials.

Although water races are common on Victorian Goldfields very few races in Victoria have

been documented and mapped in detail and the integrity of remaining goldfield water

management complexes is largely under researched,

The site has a HIGH level of historical significance at a local level. The site has a rich

documentary record,

Due to the excellent preservation of a large part of the Creswick goldfield, the intertwined

narratives of mining, water supply, environmental consequences and rapidly evolving

legislation can be read in the landscape. At a state level the site contributes to broader

narratives of water supply and mining (Victorian Historical Theme 4.5 & 4.6) and informs

Historical Significance

the development of both mining and water management laws for the State of Victoria.

The race system is one of many on the Creswick alluvial goldfield that together make up

an important and well preserved cultural landscape of water management.

Combined with Creswick's strong forestry education facilities and proximity to Melbourne

and Ballarat, an increased awareness in this well preserved mining complex could provide

Creswick with excellent educational and tourism opportunities illustrating mining techniques and how mining shaped Victoria's water laws,

Hermes Number 195088

Property Number

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/>