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# FORMER CRUSOE INN SITE

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## Location

MARNE TRACK BIG HILL BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7724-0639

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 6, 2021

The site is an early gold rush hotel that operated for more than 50 years. There is evidence that the site has experienced disturbance by people looking for bottles and other treasure.

The site has poor intactness and condition but still retains some integrity, that is, heritage values are still evident and can be understood and appreciated.

Interpretation  
of Site

The Inn or hotel operated from 1855 until it was burnt down in 1910. The land is now part of the Crusoe Recreation Park managed by the City of Greater Bendigo. There are no significant scatters of broken glass bottles or pottery. There is a large excavation at the front of one of the former timber buildings, suggesting a cellar may have been dug out by someone looking for bottles. There are also potholes around the site indicative of people treasure hunting with metal detectors. The two questions to consider in respect to this hotel site are: (1) Does the site address the Heritage Act definition of an archaeological site? This point is clear as the site is more than 75 years old. (2) Does the site have more than a low level of archaeological value? It is clear that, because of the site's known history, there are likely to be buried archaeological remains which may make a meaningful contribution to the understanding of the place.

Hermes  
Number

208213

Property  
Number

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## History

Crusoe Inn was operated by D. McIntyre from 1855 to 1858. The hotel was put up for sale in 1858, described as a weatherboard building, 45 feet x 26 feet, associated 'with convenient out offices'.

The Inn was bought by J.A. Allen who operated the business until 1877. After this date, the Inn had numerous owners until it was totally destroyed by fire in 1910. An article on the fire described the destroyed Inn as being composed partly of brick and partly of wood and consisting of about a dozen rooms'.

*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/>*