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# HUMBUG HILL WORKINGS

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## Location

CRESWICK REGIONAL PARK AND SLATY CREEK ROAD CRESWICK, HEPBURN SHIRE

## Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0249

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO976

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 22, 2020

Note: This place is also listed on the Victorian Heritage Register as a place of significance to the State of Victoria. Please see VHR H1228 for further information.

The Humbug Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site consists of a sluicing pit about 100 metres by 50 metres containing a network of pebble dumps and tail races. The slope below the pit has been extensively ground sluiced and the gully draining from the southern end of the pit has been deeply excavated by high pressure water. At least two water races brought water to Humbug Hill, one from Bragge's Dam (across Salty Creek); the other from Russells Reservoir (down Lincoln Gully). The latter race is still well preserved and is included in the nomination.

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

The Humbug Hill 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 Humbug Hill 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 7299

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: The alluvial workings surviving on Humbug Hill are mainly associated with the mining of high terrace Tertiary gravels which were deposited up to 40 million years ago. The hill, along with others in the vicinity, was rushed in 1854 and proved to be extremely good for sluicing, being covered by 30ft of rich gold-bearing gravels. Water to work the deposits was brought in an open channel (called a race) from a reservoir, now known as Russells Reservoir. The race from this reservoir wound its way for considerable distance round the heads of intervening gullies before reaching the hill. The Humbug Sluicing Company used a patent bitumentized pipe to cross Slaty Creek: the pipe had a diameter of 8 inches, was a half mile long, and had a maximum thickness of 7/8th of an inch. Due to the dryness of the environment, sluicing was extremely seasonal, and when a good stream of water came through, work was carried on day and night. This was the case on Humbug Hill in the winter of 1859, where a sluicing party worked shifts (6 hours on, 12 hours of) washing 1,500 cubic yards of soil before the water run out. For their efforts they obtained 245 ounces of gold. The Humbug Hill operation, which involved cutting faces, turning the water along the base of the face and collapsing blocks of ground from 20 to 50 tons, appears to be the principal sluicing technique used at Creswick. The main work on the Tertiary gravels at Creswick had ended by the mid 1860s. By the end of the 1865/66 drought only the Chinese were still preserving with shallow alluvial mining at Creswick, particularly sluicing.

*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/>*