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# JIM CROW DIVERSION SLUICE

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## Location

HEPBURN REGIONAL PARK HEPBURN SPRINGS, HEPBURN SHIRE

## Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0697

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO692

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

The Jim Crow Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 400 metre long stone embankment which was probably built in the early 1860s when Jim Crow Creek was being extensively worked by European and Chinese miners. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Jim Crow Creek through sluice boxes, and away from its natural bed and eastern bank which were then mined for alluvial gold. On the western slope of the creek are several house sites and at least one baker's oven.

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

The Jim Crow 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 Jim Crow 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 8299

Property Number

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Jim Crow Creek was being extensively worked by sluicing parties in the late 1850s/early 1860s. As the following references from the Mining Surveyors Monthly Reports show, during this time both European and Chinese were living along the creek: August 1859: Puddling and sluicing - A number of claims have lately been purchased by Chinamen, who seem on the whole to be getting on very well on Jim Crow. Parties of 10 or 12 bring their earnings from other diggings to purchase sluicing claims here ... A number of Chinamen are fossicking about our old alluvial workings; but I believe most of them are only watching an opportunity to begin sluicing or paddocking. April 1861: Puddling has during the last month received quite an impetus. From Bendigo and Forest Creek, where generally puddlers are considered more expert than elsewhere parties are weekly coming in, and most of them after a while take up claims and domesticate themselves in Jim Crow, a circumstance that augers well for the prosperity of the coming winter ... The creek beds are in full occupation by Chinese.

*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/>*