
JORDAN RIVER DIVERSION TUNNEL

Location

RJ SPUR TRACK JERICHO, BAW BAW SHIRE

Municipality

BAW BAW SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8122-0041

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10755

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: One of the earliest reports (dated February 1862) of the Jordan River workings reads like this: An important rush has taken place to a district ten miles from the Upper Goulburn workings, and thirty miles south of Mount Bulla, contiguous to a creek denominated by the miners the River Jordan. The river runs through a flat 500 yards wide, and already a small township has been built on its banks. The bed consists of clay, slate, and, in some instances, sandstone. The flats on each side are composed of gravel, covered with rich soil, the whole of which appears to be auriferous, although the present workings are confined to the bed of the creek, and its intermediate sides. The workings on the main creek extend for fourteen miles, besides which there are numerous tributaries which are worked successfully, particularly one named Fern-tree Creek, which is ten miles long. A party of four got here 280 oz in one week. About 4,000 persons were on the ground. The Jericho township site was continuously occupied from the time of its formation, in 1861, until the last of the sluicing operators (the Christie family) departed in the 1950s. The hotel had closed in 1938 and the remnants of the

township, numerous abandoned wooden buildings, were destroyed in the Black Friday bushfires the next year. Hydraulic sluicing was carried on along the Jordan River from above Jericho to Blue Jacket from 1895 until 1950s, obliterating most signs of earlier alluvial mining on the river. An exception is a diversion tunnel cut through a river bend just below the township. No record has been found of the tunnel's construction and use. It has been alternatively attributed to either river-bed sluicers during the earliest mining period at Jericho (1861-5) or to an attempt in 1872 to hasten floodwaters away from the township. Certainly, sluicing was confined to the bed of the river until 1865; from that date sluicers spread to the spurs above the river. References: Historic Places Section (CNR) hanging files Mining Surveyors' Reports (Western Buckland Division), February 1862; (Jordan South and Part of Omeo Subdivisions), September 1864; (Part of Jordan South Subdivision), September 1865; (Matlock Subdivision), March & June 1866

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/>