
WALHALLA SPUR HISTORIC SITE

Location

WALHALLA HISTORIC AREA WALHALLA, BAW BAW SHIRE

Municipality

BAW BAW SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8122-0118

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The landing is a large one and may have been the site of a substantial building, or a group of buildings. The spill from the bench excavation appears to have once been retained by a log wall, since rotted out. A cursory search was made for historical photography that may shed light on the previous use. A low resolution image dated c1900 obtained on-line from the National Library of Australia shows two former buildings in the vicinity of this site although the relationship of either to the surveyed site has not been established. Higher resolution versions or further searches through archival photography may reveal more detail or information.

Archaeological Significance	<p>The artefacts scattered down the hillside from the landing are domestic in nature and no objects suggestive of industrial use were found. The bottle glass is not early, probably indicative of late 1800s to early 1900s origins. The crockery fragments are almost exclusively highly-glazed and plain white.</p> <p>The site is dissimilar to the small benches that characterise hut and house sites on the steep hill slopes of the area. The size of the site and the nature and abundance of the artefacts suggest a boarding house or barracks-style single men's accommodation, or perhaps a larger house with a garden terrace. The absence of any visible building footings (eg stone wall-footings) suggests that the building was constructed on wooden stumps. The age of the artefacts (c 1900) and the location of the site may indicate a link with the Long Tunnel Extended Mine.</p>
Historical Significance	The site is of local cultural heritage significance.
Hermes Number	191411
Property Number	

History

The history of the buildings formerly contained on this site is not known. Level ground for housing was at a premium in the tight valley of Stringers Creek and as a consequence housing extended up onto the steep surrounding hills. Small hut sites were benched into the hillsides and connected to the town below and to nearby mines by a network of precipitous tracks,

The age of the site and its proximity to the Long Tunnel Extended Mine suggests a link to that operation as it rose to prominence in the late 1880s, either as a worker's house or single men's accommodation. The Long Tunnel Extended GM Co was founded in 1874. After driving an adit, constructing a large winding chamber and sinking a shaft, the company began producing gold in the early 1880s. It was the largest gold producer at Walhalla in the 1890s and early 1900s. In 1903, operations were expanded with the installation of the company's own crushing mill, after decades of crushing at plant owned by the Long Tunnel Company. The Long Tunnel Extended Co ceased operations in 1911 after producing a total of 431,399 ounces of gold from 353,907 tons of quartz, and paying £788,640 in dividends.

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/>