
AH TAN'S WATER RACE

Location

JAMES HILL ROAD AND SHUTTLEWORTH ROAD GLEN PARK, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0330

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

This race was constructed in 1876 by Ah Tan to supply water to his claim at Masons Gully.

At some stage, likely at the termination of Ah Tan's lease, the Government purchased the

race. The race was leased to local miners and reused during the 1930's to support small

scale sluicing operations.

This site has a high level of archaeological significance.

The race is well preserved for its entirety and is a representative example of an 1860s

water race that was utilised over several decades for mining purposes.

Archaeological

features include the race alignment, negative cut features, spoil and sediment deposits,

dams, diversions, sluice points and potential gauges, flume remains, pipes, and sluice

lining materials.

Although water races are common on Victorian Goldfields very few races in Victoria have

been documented and mapped in detail and the integrity of remaining goldfield water

management complexes is largely under researched.

The site has a HIGH level of historical significance at a local level. Due to the excellent

preservation of a large part of the Creswick goldfield, the intertwined narratives of mining,

water supply, environmental consequences and rapidly evolving legislation can be read in

the landscape. At a state level the site contributes to broader narratives of water supply

and mining (Victorian Historical Theme 4.5 & 4.6) and informs the development of both

mining and water management laws for the State of Victoria.

The race system is one of many on the Creswick alluvial goldfield that together make up

an important and well preserved cultural landscape of water management.

Combined with Creswick's strong forestry education facilities and proximity to Melbourne

and Ballarat, an increased awareness in this well preserved mining complex could provide

Creswick with excellent educational and tourism opportunities illustrating mining techniques and how mining shaped Victoria's water laws.

Archaeological
Significance

Historical Significance

Hermes Number

195087

Property Number

History

In 1875 Ah Tan (Temperance Company) applied for a race and reservoir. The following year Ah Tan constructed a five mile race from Bungaree to Masons Gully (Water Right No. 400). The 15-year lease was for 15 acres of ground in total and a dam capacity of 500,000 gallons, and it expired on 15 May 1891. In the 1930s Len Goldsmith (2000:4), who was sluicing in the Wolfe's Hill area near Mopoke, leased Ah Tan's Water Right No. 400 under the new Water Right No. 616. According to Goldsmith, the race was government owned and leased (2000:4). A section of race follows around the head of Sawpit Creek (Masons Gully). The race here was cut into bedrock for a long distance. Many flumes were required to cross Butchers and Masons Gully. They had to be cleaned and checked as well. Some were tin, others nailed and bolted together with crossed timber pylons (Goldsmith 2000:4).

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/>