
JACKASS GULLY MINING LANDSCAPE

Location

JACKASS GULLY ROAD CRESWICK, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0347

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 10, 2021

What is significant?

Alluvial mining- The site is significant as one of the main shallow alluvial mining localities for the Creswick Goldfield. The gully was being worked in the 1850s. The last period of mining was in the 1930s when a claim was pegged for hydraulic sluicing. Jackass Gully is also significant for possibly containing a hut site where William Guthrie Spence lived as a small boy. W.G. Spence became an Australian trade union leader and politician, played a leading role in the formation of both Australia's largest union, the Australian Workers' Union, and the Australian Labor Party.

Quartz mining shafts - The quartz mining shafts and open cut, illustrate a form of mining which peripheral to alluvial mining - shaft sinking, sluicing and use of puddling machines. The site has no evidence of any mining machinery such as windlasses, whips, or whims.

Spence Hut - The fruit garden and hut site are seen as being historically significant for its association with William Guthrie Spence. Most likely he lived there with his family. He became an Australian trade union leader and politician, played a leading role in the formation of both Australia's largest union, the Australian Workers' Union, and the Australian Labor Party.

The site is historically depicted in a 1898/99 survey plan and can be seen today in the form of an extant clearing with fruit trees

The Shire of Creswick's Heritage Study lists the site as being of local significance.

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	Alluvial mining area - Ten metre wide strip of extent historic mining relics. An alluvial landscape that bears traces of gold mining activities undertaken from the 1850s to 1930s. Mine shaft area - Quartz mining shafts that probably never progresses passed the prospecting stage and were sunk early 20th-century. Spence Hut-1898/99 survey plan shows the site. It is referred to as a fruit garden – it is fenced and has a hut and the occupier is John Spence. Further research is required as the 1898/99 survey plan also shows another hut site further north, labelled Spence's Old Hut. This raises the possibility that it may be the Spence family home when W.G was growing up.
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Hermes Number	208348
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Property Number	
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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/>