
ZULU CREEK GOLD MINING LANDSCAPE

Municipality

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8242-0028

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 29, 2022

What is significant?

The Zulu Creek Workings, including the archaeological features that relate to gold extraction during different phases of workings, from 1879 through to c.1937.

- Adits
- Surface Workings
- Battery Site
- Water Wheel Pit
- Weir Wall
- Cyanide Plant
- Early Battery location
- Mullock heaps
- Rock-walled creek diversion
- Rock retaining wall

How is it significant?

The Zulu Creek Goldfield is of local historical (Criterion A) and archaeological significance for its potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history (Criterion C).

Why is it significant?

The Zulu Creek Workings by virtue of their remote location in rugged, mountainous terrain evoke the hardship faced by miners working to find gold. There is potential through the archaeological remains to learn more about the technologies employed during different phases of the field's history. Alluvial workings, alongside quartz reef workings and then the later use of cyanide plant to treat the ore and extract the gold, illustrates the evolving technologies (not to mention the dogged persistence) employed by people in the pursuit of gold.

Interpretation of Site	Archaeological remains of the Zulu Creek Goldfield, including alluvial workings and the Just In Time Battery Site. Gold was first discovered in 1879 and worked intermittently until c.1936. A bulldozed track off the side is all the evidence of a failed revival of the site in the 1960s. One of the main features – the waterwheel -was removed in the 1970s and is now on display in Omeo. The site, while known locally, was first archaeologically recorded after the 2004 fires by Robert Kaufman and Andrew Swift. Their photos and site plans are attached.
Other Names	Just-In-Time Battery Site,
Hermes Number	209310
Property Number	

History

Payable gold was discovered on Zulu Creek in 1879. By March 1880, about 300 oz. of gold had been obtained from the creek in the preopvious three months (Morrow, J. 1989). The Just in Time Company was operating on Zulu Creek in 1880 – 1881 (Bannear, D. nd). It was worked (intermittently) throughout the 1880s and then was revived during the depression era in 1936/37. Bannear’s historic notes state: At Zulu Creek, ore from the Just in Time mine was treated from 1936 by crushing and cyanidation, with plant including a 25ft-diameter waterwheel, five-head battery, cyanide tanks, smelting furnace, laboratory, and blacksmith shop.³⁸ The outcomes of these operations must have been unsatisfactory, for in 1941 the Dart River goldfields virtual abandonment was again blamed on the complex nature of its ores and the absence of suitable plant. The water wheel that once operated on site is now located in Omeo. It was removed in the 1970s. Local historian (and District Forester at Corryong) John Morrow writing in the 1980s concludes his history of the with the observation that: “The example of the action taken to preserve the Zulu water wheel is one of destruction of an item of national heritage in that by removing it from its original site, all the wonder, and conjecture with regard to [it] is largely lost.” The Zulu Mine Track, as at May 2022, has been closed to the public since the 19/20 summer bushfires making the site inaccessible. The site is in DELWP-managed State Forest.

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/>