

**Place name** Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice**Survey Date:****Other name****Id:**

769

**Street** Grant Historic Area**Last Update****Locality** Dargo**Postcode** 3862**Official Locality****Property No** HO114**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire**Property Info****Precinct:** Not in precinct**Easting** 514500**Northing** 5861200**Map** 8323**Workshop number****Workshop votes****Field survey number****Community priority****Designer****Builder****Ownership****Built Date** 1870**Change Date****Description** Locality: North of Hibernia Track, Jungle Creek Falls

Former Use: 1870 ; gold sluicing

Date Started 1870; Date Finished ..

Desc ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

The Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 35 metre long stone embankment which was probably built in the mid 1870s when the creek was extensively reworked by alluvial miners. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Jungle Creek through sluice boxes, and away from its natural bed which was then mined for its alluvial gold. The site is very overgrown.

(Description: Diversion sluice - 100ft long - 6-8ft deep which now runs as main course of creek during winter original course runs. During winter, the original course also runs. Directly below the cutting is a high waterfall to which a walking track has been established. Construction rubble lies either side of the cutting and very overgrown alluvial workings (bank sluicing, pebble dumps and water races) lie upstream.; )

**Condition****Integrity****History**

Jungo or Jungle Creek was rushed in June 1861. The discoverer, Jean Gamel, told how: 'the first party were soon stripping a twelve by twelve paddock and had a tail race completed: ' Each of the sixteen claims averaged from eight to twelve ounces to the paddock.' By 1863, Jungle Creek was the major diggings at Crooked River: 'it has assumed an air of permanence, men making comfortable homes and bringing their families up.' By the end of 1864 the full extent of Jungle Creek had been worked for alluvial gold, and reefs were opened up. At that time, a party of alluvial miners was constructing a channel to divert the Wongungarra River across a flat near Howitville, in order to work the river bed and later the flat itself; the scheme was regarded as a pioneering enterprise. It would have been similar in function to - although larger in scale than - the Jungle Creek Falls diversion. During 1865, the alluvial mining population of Jungle Creek fell to only 15, as the focus of alluvial mining shifted to Upper Crooked River and its tributaries, and the Dargo. From the 1870s, alluvial mining at Crooked River was largely confined to creek and river banks rather than beds and flats, and it became increasingly rare for alluvial miners to work in parties of more than two or three. In 1874, however, the mining registrar remarked that, 'The falling off in quartz mining has had a beneficial effect upon the alluvial, leading to a more general prospecting of the rivers and creeks' including Jungle Creek 'some of which are paying more than ordinarily good wages.' Because the Crooked River alluvial rush of 1861-3 coincided with a three-year lapse in mining surveyors' reports, little exists in the way of records for the period. When reports recommenced in 1864, and for a few years afterwards, the local mining surveyor was understandably preoccupied with the phenomenal reefing rush that was in full swing. The Jungle Creek Falls diversion sluice probably dates to the period 1861-5 or mid-1870s; but no record of its construction or use has been located. (Heritage Inventory)

**Heritage Protections Register****Reference****Zoning****Status**

Historic Places Branch Database

HPB7142

Listed

Planning Scheme	HO114	Listed
Victorian Heritage Inventory	H8323-0008	Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H1258	Listed

## National Estate

## Research Required

**Recommendations** Victorian Heritage Inventory listing means a permit is required from Heritage Victoria for any disturbance to place (including conservation works).

Treat as part of whole reserve (Grant Historic Reserve) - or list separately under Planning Scheme?

NOTE: Jungle Creek Battery Site (#826), Jungle Creek Quartz Mine Site (#827) and Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice (#769) are overlapping sites in terms of location and history. (R. Christie)

## Fieldwork priority?

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed & protected      **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** State significance      **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

**Statement of significance** The Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Jungle Creek Diversion Sluice is historically significant as a characteristic and well preserved example of an important form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. As well as being a significant producer of Victoria's nineteenth century wealth, with its intensive use of machinery, played an important role in the development of Victorian manufacturing industry.

The Jungle Creek Diversion Sluice is scientifically significant as a well preserved diversion sluice. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The abandoned mining machinery at the Jungle Creek Diversion Sluice is also important for its evocation of the adventurousness, hardship, and isolation that was part of mining life in the high country areas of the State.

Network values are because of its proximity to the Jungle Creek battery and quartz mine site, which illustrates a different aspect of gold mining in the vicinity; and as part of the overall site network comprising the Grant Historic Reserve. (Bannear 1998)

The Jungle Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

**Extent of designation** To the extent of:

## Informant

## Notes

## Follow up

**Bibliography** Bannear, D., Gippsland Goldfields: Site Gazetteer, Historic Mining Sites Assessment Project, 1995, pp. 72-3  
Mining Surveyors' Reports (Crooked River Subdivision), December 1864, September 1874  
Christie & Gray, quoting Jean Gamel's diary, 22-3  
Gippsland Times, 30 January 1863 (quoted in Christie and Grey), 28-9  
Flett, (1979), 150