

Historical archaeological site card

Regulation 27

Instructions to complete form

Who should complete this form?

A person who discovers a site that should be recorded on the Heritage Inventory. This form must be completed in accordance with Heritage Victoria's *Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys* available at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

Enquiries and more information

Web: www.heritage.vic.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 9938 6891

Email: archaeology.admin@delwp.vic.gov.au

Please lodge your form in one of the following ways:

By email to: archaeology.admin@delwp.vic.gov.au (Word is the preferred document format) OR

By post to: The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, PO Box 500, MELBOURNE VIC 8002

Please note: all sections must be completed. Incomplete forms will be returned to the applicant which may result in delays.

Office use only

Heritage Inventory number and
name

Date received

Date accepted

Hermes Number

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1. Place details

Place name:	Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area
Heritage Inventory Number (if any):	
Other or former names:	Chinese Village, Callambeen Park, School Plantation
Municipal Council:	Hepburn
Address:	Cushing Avenue & Drummond Street Creswick 3363, Victoria
Geographical coordinates (GDA94 or WGS84) expressed in degrees and decimals of a degree:	755722E, 5854648N; (Lat-Long= -37.419694, 143.889694)
Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only):	Creswick 7623

2. Cadastral location

County:	County of Talbot
Parish:	Parish of Creswick
Township:	township of Creswick
Section:	
Allotment:	allotment 2036
Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI):	SPI: 2036\PP5211, 38~49A\PP5211, 1~49A\PP5211 Part of Calambeen Park ; 15~47\PP5211 – cemetery; 34~49A\PP5211, 36~49A\PP5211; 2~49A\PP5211; and part of Road Reserve.

3. Details of site owner or land manager (where known)

Title:	Note mix of public and land and about 4 private allotments
First Name:	
Surname:	
Business or organisation name:	Part Victorian State Government
Position title:	Department of Treasury and Finance
Address:	Level 5, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002
Email address:	
Telephone:	

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4. Details of site occupier (where known)

Title:

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name:

Currently combination of unoccupied parkland and few small private allotments

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

5. Aboriginal cultural values

Site has known Aboriginal values

~~*Yes~~

*No

Site is recorded on the Victorian
Aboriginal Heritage Register

~~*Yes~~

*No

6. Current description of site

Please provide description:

Most of the ground surface in the area has grass cover precluding identification of smaller surface artefacts, however, close to 100% visibility is available on the permitter tracks. Much of the ground has an undulating character, consistent with bulldozing or other mechanical disturbance. It is likely that trees have been removed leaving characteristic depressions from grubbing holes. An area of raised ground is evident in the north east, with a prominent drop to the property boundary (Figure 1). This may be related to the former Chinese Camp allotments, although it is also possible that it is a result of modern grading of land forming, for example to improve drainage, form an access track or level the ground after grubbing trees.

The exposed vehicle tracks revealed a mix of clay and quartz gravel, with modern artefacts including aluminium ring-pulls fragments of bottle glass and plastic. There are fragments of hand-made brick, thick dark green glass and ceramics of mid to late 19th century date exposed along the tracks. A number of costains (gold prospecting trenches) have been dug across the property. These appear to be relatively recent as bare gravel is still exposed on the surface. Several of the privage allotments and roads align with the original subdivision boundaries of the Chinese Village allotments.

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Figure 1 looking northeast from western edge of former Chinese Village area – note steep drop off to the right

Date recorded:

On Victorian Heritage Register

*Yes

(please advise
VHR number)

*No

Part – H398 Calembeen Park

On Heritage Overlay

*Yes

(please advise
HO number)

*No

Part - HO983 Calembeen Park

Associated sites:

The main part of the site is not listed on any statutory heritage register, including Victorian Heritage Inventory, Victorian Heritage Register, Shire of Hepburn Heritage Overlay, National or Commonwealth Heritage List. It is also not listed on the National Trust Register.

Immediately to the north is Calembeen Park, 12-18 Cushing Avenue Creswick, which is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR Number H0398), and the Shire of Hepburn Heritage Overlay (HO210).

The land is also within an Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1).

7. Place history

Please provide a brief history of the place (at least 1 to 2 paragraphs):

Creswick is noted as the site for the first discovery of marketable gold in Victoria on 1 July 1851. By early 1852, a sizeable population had descended on Creswick Creek and the basis of a town was formed by the establishment of a Government Police Camp in December of that year. A further rush in 1855-6 as a result of deeper workings being opened up, and steadily maintained alluvial yields, saw Creswick's population rise to about 5,000 by 1861 (Crown Lands and Survey, 1857). A township survey had been completed by 1854, and shops, hotels, churches and various other services set up around Victoria and Albert Streets (Dept. of Lands & Survey, 1861). By 1861, the town expanded to the west with a sludge channel formed along the eroded and sedimented Nuggetty Gully (Darbyshire & Sayers, 1974).

Early on, Chinese were prominent in the goldfields, with the Ballarat Chinese Protector, W.H. Forster, estimating there were 1100 Chinese in the Creswick area in 1859. The main Chinese community in Creswick was located at Black Lead to the north west of the main settlement. Other Chinese communities were located at Portuguese Flat, Hard Hills, Clarke's Flat, Bloody Gully, Mopoke and Slaty Creek. A number of Chinese run businesses were also located in Albert Street. The main Chinese cultural events, such as circus, theatre and Chinese New Year celebrations occurred at the Black Lead area. _ - - -

District Mining Surveyor reports show that the Chinese population of Black Lead was stable at around 400 individuals throughout the 1860's and 1870's, while the total Chinese population of the surrounding district fell from a high of nearly 2000 in the early 1860's to less than 1000 in the mid 1870's. All of these Chinese were alluvial miners. For much of the 1860's, there were relatively even numbers of Europeans and Chinese alluvial miners in the Creswick area. In the early 1860s there were approximately 60 Chinese ratepayers listed in council rate books.

Horace Burkitt's painting of the Creswick Chinese Camp depicts lines of small step pitch roofed buildings huddled close together, and adorned with flags. The distinctive buildings separated from other habitation suggest an insular community.

The extent of the Chinese Camp is apparent in the various early maps that depict a series of narrow streets with small allotments, running at a skewed alignment to the main township grid (see Figure 3 and Figure 6).

Surviving images of Creswick's Chinatown and the township plan show three narrow streets lined with very narrow, adjoining, allotments. In addition to mining, members of the community were active as merchants, tea shop proprietors, publicans, gamblers, pork butchers, market gardeners, hawkers, farm labourers, timber cutters, cartage contractors, joss house operators, and Chinese missionaries. The Argus newspaper described the camp and its inhabitants in the manner of the time:

*"...here, as elsewhere, they bear the character of a peaceable, hardworking people. They have one of their large, miserable, rickety encampments just outside the town, and round about they have numerous market gardens, in which they toil with the patient, plodding industry peculiar to the race. The total number of Chinese in and near the town is nearly one thousand."*¹

¹ "COUNTRY SKETCHES." The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 30 September 1864: 6. Web. 30 Aug 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5738597>>.



Figure 2 Chinese Camp Creswick (1855), Horace Burkitt

There may have been two Joss Houses, or mutual support societies at Black Lead, with around 390 Chinese buried in the current cemetery at Creswick. There are also at least 20 Chinese burials in the former Creswick Old Cemetery, located on the south east boundary of the study area, which was begun as an informal burial ground as early as 1852 and closed in the late 1850s (Creswick Cemetery Trust, 2018).

In the 1860s Black Lead area was rated at a low value, with buildings described as tenements. There were no brick or stone buildings but only simple wooden structures. Shops, workshops, dwellings and a large number of saloons were the most common buildings listed along with Lodging houses, opium dealers, smiths, cooks, a goldsmith, a barber, a tailor, doctors, chemists, herbalists, a fruiterer and a fish dealer were also to be found in the camp.²

Unusually for Chinese mining interests in Victoria, a consortia led by local Chinese business man Pin Que were involved in leasing and operating a major deep alluvial mine; the Grand Trunk Gold Mine (later the Key Company Gold Mine) (The Chinese Heritage Interest Network, 2006).

The Lindsay family have been prominent in Australian arts and literature and left us some vivid images of Creswick and the Chinese Camp. Lionel Lindsay describes the Creswick Chinese in his book *Comedy of Life*.

"The Chinese camp was our Paradise. Here were two joss houses, from which the burning joss-sticks could be looted, and here lived a wizen old Chow called Sinkum who would match his inimitable fi-shang toffee against our pennies. At the entry of the Chinese camp stood the dwelling of Ginger Mary Ann, a bedraggled representative of the oldest profession on earth... and sometimes we would see the ginger beer maker. But our business was with Sinkum the toffee-maker, and we debated the inevitable alternative - should we toss or buy?." [and also] "The Australian boy likes the Chinese, yet nothing will keep him from pelting a distant Chow. Now when I think of this great race, with its amazing art, its profound philosophy. I know we were the barbarian atavistically impelled by our instinctive savagery. The honours were with the Chinese."

The Chinese petitioned the council to improve the conditions in the Black Lead camp several times due to the difficulty of getting around in wet weather, pointing out in 1867, that:

"... the ditch across the road on the Black Lead Creswick is in want of repair – That when it overflows it is very offensive [-] That a pathway is much wanting and the road requires levelling[.]"

² 'Mud, Sludge and Town Water: Civic Action in Creswick's Chinatown', *Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria*, issue no. 11, 2012. ISSN 1832-2522. Copyright © Elizabeth Denny. Citing rate books (PROV, VPRS 3726/P0, Unit 1 Special Rate Book 1864-1870, Unit 2 General Rate Book 1864-1870, and Unit 3 General Rate Book 1870-1878)



Figure 3 Geological Map of the study area, showing Black Lead and Chinese village³

and a few years later another petition stated that:

"... we the undersigned ratepayers of Chinatown Blacklead Creswick respectfully beg to call your attention to the Road leading to our residences also to the crossing over the Sludge channel which has become quite impassable since the late rains, and humbly pray you to have the same repaired also to have the abandoned race in Napier Street filled in as there is now only room for one dray to pass at a time."

Despite the council agreeing to build a footbridge for the Black Lead community, a year later the residents were still waiting and requested in a further petition on 1 October 1873 that:

*"One Footpath may be made along the road alluded to, to enable our relatives, friends, and customers to visit our several business establishments; many being at present deterred from so doing unless at the risk of wading through mud and water."*⁴

Other issues for the residents included poor drainage leaving putrid pools, ground subsiding causing buildings to be undermined and chimneys to collapse.

Percy Lindsay produced a painting of the Chinese Camp: "China Town 1894", which shows the slightly dilapidated buildings along a narrow dirt lane. One of the buildings is of his father's (Dr Robert Lindsay) friend Ah Foo's business. His painting depicts the Chinese camp at the end of the 19th century when it was becoming a shanty town and pressure was being applied to condemn the camp by the shareholders of the Creswick Proprietary Sluicing Company in their search for gold.

³ Krausé, F M, and R Shepherd. Victorian Gold Fields Geological Maps, 1:31 680, Mines Dept., 1875-1895]. Melbourne: Mines Dept., 1880. Internet resource. : <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/118086>

⁴ Ibid. PROV, VPRS 3730/P0, Unit 9 Council Minute Books 1870-1872, p. 416.



Figure 4 Creswick Chinatown Percy Lindsay 1894 <http://slideplayer.com/slide/3857801/>

Ultimately, the Black Lead Hydraulic Sluicing Company undertook its operations in the area, creating several large holes, as its dredge worked through the alluvial deposits, piling them up behind it. The dredge ponds were later beautified by the shire to create the present Calembeen Park swimming basin (Goldfields Guide, n.d.).

In 1905, a new powerful sluicing plant was brought to Creswick by a group of Castlemaine businessmen let by U. H. Clark and M. Van Heurck, forming the Creswick Black Lead Hydraulic Sluicing Company. Thompson and Company's Castlemaine foundry, supplied and erected what was described as the most powerful and up-to-date sluicing plant yet built in Victoria. Consisting of a 12-inch gravel pump and two 12-inch nozzle pumps arranged to, work in series, driven by two cross-compound condensing steam engines, one on each pump, with steam from two high pressure tubular dry back marine type boilers. The whole plant was housed on a strong barge and supplied with electric light. The dredge worked the ground on the Black Lead at its junction with Spring Gully and Nuggetty lead.⁵

The allotment was reserved for a State School Plantation in the 1920s, and the area planted out extensively in 1924.

CRESWICK. STATE SCHOOL PLANTATION.

A number of the scholars of the Central State school, with the school committee and the head teacher (Mr Chas Frost) assembled oh Saturday afternoon at what is to be the school plantation, on the south side of Calembeen Park, and abutting on the railway line, to commence the planting of an acre of young pines. The weather was most uninviting, with intermittent rain and hail and sleet, but the .planters -worked with vigour and made good progress. With these school plantations being laid out-, it seems to be a case of "A little child shall lead them." There is no doubt that the work of the children in this direction will -have an important effect upon the children. of, older growth..⁶

By the 1940s the plantation was very densely planted and maturing (see Figure 5).

⁵ CRESWICK BLACK LEAD CO. (1905, October 30). Mount Alexander Mail (Vic. : 1854 - 1917), p. 2. Retrieved August 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200714319>

⁶ Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Tuesday 5 August 1924, page 6



Figure 5 1945 Aerial image of the study area showing extensive tree planting.

8. Analysis of site (interpretation)

Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented, as well as current place use:

Presence of historical archaeological remains may have been impacted by disturbance from mining and sluicing. However, there may be some historical archaeological potential in the north east of the subject site as mapping shows the Chinese camp covered this area. Therefore this area warrants protection through inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory. If highly significant remains can be identified there is some potential for the site to meet local significance thresholds, which may warrant protection under a Heritage Overlay in the future. However this is highly unlikely.

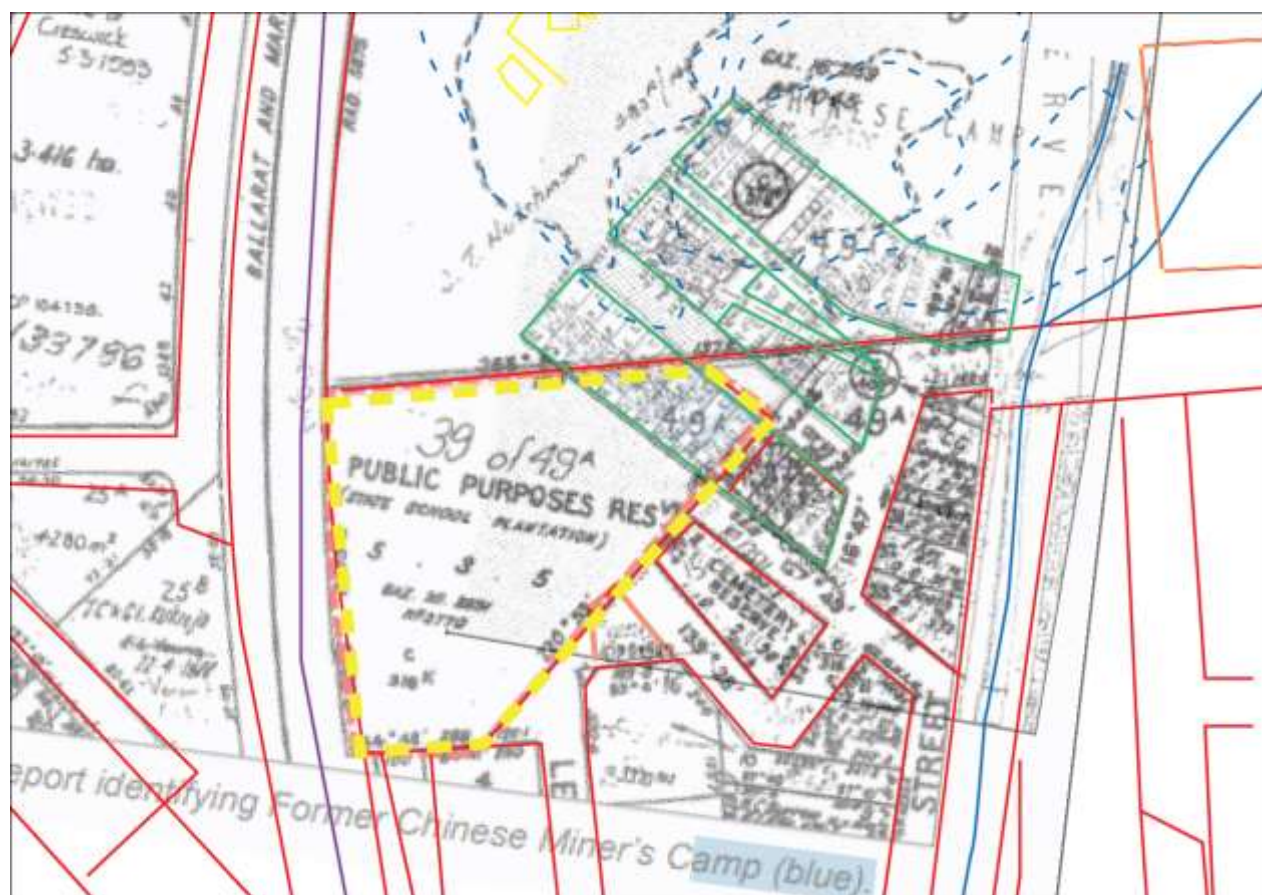


Figure 6 Compilation of various Crown Allotment Plans showing extent of Chinese Camp allotments outlined in Green, and sluiced areas in Blue. Tree Plantation Area in Yellow.

Historical sources, mainly newspaper accounts on Trove, indicate that there was a Chinese settlement at Creswick from at least the 1860s, which continued up to the early 1900s.⁷ There were Chinese present on the Creswick goldfields earlier, and Horace Burkitt's 1855 painting (see below) shows a concentration of buildings related to the Creswick Chinese settlement. Newspaper references, however, indicated that the Chinese were moved to a different site in 1872-3, and so the Burkitt painting probably does not represent the camp near the Calembeen Park location.

Our review overlaid various plans of the area which indicate that the extent of the formally delineated allotments associated with the Chinese Camp straddled the subject land (Green lines on plan below). However, one plan shows a group of buildings and possible allotments further to the north (see yellow on plan below). It would appear that a part of the Chinese Camp was located in the north east corner of the subject land.

The planning report shows Former Chinese Miner's Camp. Another early plan shows an extensive area of small allotments along two laneways, which cross the north east corner of the subject allotment. (See plan below). The painting by Percy Lindsay appears to show one of these laneways, lined by small timber houses and shacks (Figure 4).

References to sluicing being conducted in the vicinity of the Chinese Camp suggests at least a part of this area has been so altered that it would no longer have archaeological potential. Again however, the evidence is inconclusive. The existing water holes in Calembeen Park, are clear evidence of sluicing, but are located north of the subject land. How far south the sluicing may have extended is unknown. The presence of a 'sludge channel' along Nuggetty Gulley just east of the subject land provides further weight to the evidence of substantial modification to the landscape in this area. However, At least part of the areas of the allotments laid out for the formalised part of the Chinese Camp are within the extent of the current area, and

⁷ <https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/provenance-journal/provenance-2012/mud-sludge-and-town-water>



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based on historical mapping and the present extent of the dredge ponds, these do not appear to have been subject to gold dredging (see Figure 6).

On balance, it would appear that there is a low likelihood that historical archaeological remains may exist in the subject land, but this cannot be confirmed without further research, and/or field investigations. It would be beneficial to contact the local historical society and visit the site in order to clarify the potential for archaeological remains on the site, but at this stage, there is some potential for archaeological remains in the north east corner of the property, as there is insufficient evidence that this landform would have been entirely removed through sluicing or other earthmoving. If so, then there is a likelihood that the site would warrant statutory protection either through inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Inventory as an archaeological place, or in the Heritage Overlay. A proposed extent of the area of remaining archaeological potential which may constitute a VHI listing is indicated in Figure 7

There are other Chinese settlement sites which have been afforded heritage protection, including the Bright Chinese Camp, which has recently been added to the Victorian Heritage Register, and Chinese settlement sites have been listed on the Victorian Heritage Inventory, primarily based on historical information. These include, but are not limited to, Harrietville, Stanley, Cornishtown, Chiltern Valley, Rushworth and Tullaroop.

Therefore, it would be reasonable to assume some level of heritage value may be ascribed to this site, depending on confirmation of any surviving archaeological remains. If this happens, then there is a process for managing change, either through application for a consent or permit to Heritage Victoria or permit to the Shire of Hepburn council.

Unless highly significant archaeological remains are found (for example something like the Chinese pottery kiln uncovered in Bendigo), then the site may reach the threshold for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay or Heritage Register, and warrant protection of part of it from development. However, I think this is unlikely. A more likely scenario is that any archaeological remains would be managed through conditions on a Consent under the Heritage Act, such as requirement for archaeological excavation, salvage or monitoring.



Figure 7 Proposed extent of Victorian Heritage Inventory archaeological site (blue line).

9. Statement of Significance

Please provide a brief description of why the site is significant (at least 1 to 2 paragraphs):

What is significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is the site of the former Chinese village, initially one of a number of informal camps but developed into a series of streets with small allotments. It today comprises part of the Calembeen Park, School plantation reserve, Old Creswick Cemetery, four private residential allotments, and road reserves. Part of the area was mined for shallow alluvial gold between the early 1850s and the early 1860s. This area was worked over a number of times by Chinese miners, and it later became the site of a Chinese settlement which was occupied up until the late nineteenth century. In the late 1890s, the Black Lead Hydraulic Sluicing Company mined the black lead deposits which extend under the site, creating the large excavations which subsequently became ponds in Calembeen Park.

How is it significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of historical, and scientific (Archaeological) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of historical significance as a rare example of a formalized Chinese settlement on the Victorian Goldfields, which was well documented and considered of sufficient importance to become the subject of several paintings by prominent Victorian artists. It represents a distinctive component in the story of Chinese settlement in Victoria and the relationship between immigrant Chinese miners and white communities on the goldfields.

Creswick Chinese Camp Archaeological Area is of archaeological significance for its potential to reveal artefacts and features related to the occupation of land by the Chinese community, in a setting that can isolate material culture to a specific group. While parts of the area may have been disturbed by later mining activity, there is potential for intact, stratified deposits and structural or landscape features.

Existing Statement of Significance for the adjacent Calembeen Park

The Adjacent Calembeen Park is listed on the Hepburn HO for its historic and social values in relation to its gold mining and recreational past. The statement of significance notes that Calembeen Park, Creswick:

...is of historical significance as an intact and operational example of the group of pools which were developed as natural water features around the State. From the early to the mid-twentieth century swimming facilities on natural waters or remnant mining features were ubiquitous throughout Victoria. The pools varied from a majority of simple sites featuring a few basic facilities for diving and easy access to the water, to a small number which could cater for highly organised competitions with crowds of thousands. Calembeen Park represents these more developed sites which combined natural assets and facilities developed by the community to accommodate major carnivals and also acted as tourist attractions.

...is of historical significance in the development of swimming as a sport in Victoria, and as a venue for major regional swimming carnivals in an era before artificial and 'Olympic' pools became commonplace.

...is of historical significance as an inland swimming hole and park which has been adapted from a landscape which was heavily altered by gold mining, and as the only such facility to make use of a remnant excavation from a hydraulic sluicing landscape, as distinct from a creek or river mined for gold.

...is of social significance as a community swimming venue which has been in continuous use since the early twentieth century and serving as an important component in the development of swimming as a sport in Victoria.

10. Suggested Protection

- ☒ Heritage Inventory
- ☐ Victorian Heritage Register
- ☒ Heritage Overlay

11. Threat

Is the place under any threat? If so, what is the threat?

No particular threat, although part may be divested by State government at some stage.

12. References / Informants

Please list books or other sources that may provide historical information about this place.

Creswick Cemetery Trust. (2018). Creswick Old Cemetery Brief History. Retrieved from <https://www.creswickcemetery.com.au/history.html>

Crown Lands and Survey. (1857). Township of Creswick on Creswick's Creek R. M. Harvey, Assist. Surveyor, Augt. 7th 1854 ; W. Collis Lith. . Melbourne: Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Darbyshire, J., & Sayers, C. (1974). Old gold mining towns of Australia. International Limited Editions.

Dept. of Lands & Survey . (1861). Town lots Creswick, County of Talbot. Melbourne: Dept. of Lands & Survey .

Goldfields Guide. (n.d.). Calambeen Park. Retrieved from Goldfields Guide - Exploring the Victorian Goldfields: <https://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/explore-location/290/calambeen-park/>

Louisas, V. (2013). Lot G, Hogans Road, Tarneit, Residential Subdivision. Melbourne: Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, CHMP 12823.

The Chinese Heritage Interest Network. (2006). The Creswick Chinese Camp – Black Lead. Retrieved from <http://chinese-heritage.tripod.com/Creswick%20Chinatown.htm> Network

Krausé, F M, and R Shepherd. Victorian Gold Fields Geological Maps, 1:31 680, Mines Dept., 1875-1895]. Melbourne: Mines Dept., 1880. Internet resource. : <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/118086>

CRESWICK BLACK LEAD CO. (1905, October 30). Mount Alexander Mail (Vic. : 1854 - 1917), p. 2. Retrieved August 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200714319>

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Tuesday 5 August 1924, page 6 "COUNTRY SKETCHES." The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) 30 September 1864: 6. Web. 30 Aug 2018 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article5738597>>.

'Mud, Sludge and Town Water: Civic Action in Creswick's Chinatown', Provenance: The Journal of Public Record Office Victoria, issue no. 11, 2012. ISSN 1832-2522. Elizabeth Denny. Citing rate books (PROV, VPRS 3726/P0, Unit 1 Special Rate Book 1864-1870, Unit 2 General Rate Book 1864-1870, and Unit 3 General Rate Book 1870-1878) Unit 9 Council Minute Books 1870-1872, p. 416.

13. Attachments

Please attach the following to this form:

- ☐ A map showing the location of the site. Map must clearly identify recorded area and include any street addresses (eg excerpt from Melway and its reference numbers)
- ☐ A plan showing all archaeological features, and any built cultural heritage. (The plan must be labelled and scale noted – eg 1:100,000)
- ☐ Photographs of the site (you may include historical photographs, historical plans, and historic maps)
- ☐ Any other documents or notes produced as a result of the survey.

14. Recording archaeologist's details

Title:

First Name: Gary

Surname: Vines

Business or organisation name: Biosis Pty Ltd

Position title: Principal Heritage Consultant

Business or company address: 38 Bertie St Port Melbourne

Email address: gvines@biosis.com.au

Telephone: 86864814

15. Statement

I state that the information I have given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Name: Gary Vines

Signature:



Date: 10/9/2019

*Delete if not applicable