At a meeting of the Heritage Council of Victoria on 1 June 2017 it was determined that, in accordance with Section 42 of the *Heritage Act 1995*, the above place is of cultural heritage significance to the State of Victoria and warrants inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council’s criteria, other information contained in the attached report and all submissions received in response to the Executive Director’s recommendation.

The Heritage Council endorses and adopts the attached report for the purposes of making its decision.

Professor Stuart Macintyre AO  
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria
This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.32 of the Heritage Act 1995. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.
EXTENT OF NOMINATION

All of the land comprising Plan CP153590.

RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched in Diagram 2370 encompassing all of Consolidation Plan 153590.
RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

At its largest, approximately 1,200 to 1,400 people resided at the Former Bright Chinese Camp. There is no known record of the boundary of the camp. Documentary evidence locates the nucleus of the camp within the cadastral block Plan CP153590. For this reason, this block has been selected as the extent of the proposed registration. In addition, this land has been subject to minimal disturbance, therefore the potential for archaeological deposits is strong. While the original boundary is likely to have extended beyond the proposed extent, the developed nature of the surrounding area makes it unlikely that there would be any significant surviving archaeological deposits in these areas.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?
The Bright Chinese Camp including archaeological features, deposits and relics.

History Summary
Gold was discovered in the new Colony of Victoria in 1851 and by the end of 1854, some 200,000 immigrants had arrived, mainly from Britain, but also from China. This was one of the first mass emigrations from China and resulted in more than 45,000 Chinese, almost all of whom were male, arriving in Victoria in the 1850s. For a time, they were the second largest immigrant group on the goldfields. The Chinese miners congregated primarily where there were shallow alluvial deposits, such as Ararat, Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine in Central Victoria, and Beechworth and Bright in north east Victoria. During the late 1850s, the Buckland Mining Division, where Bright is now located, had one of the highest Chinese populations in the Colony, outnumbering Europeans by five to one. This stimulated an anti-Chinese sentiment which led to violence, including the Buckland riot in 1857 and the Morses Creek (now Bright) riot in 1859. In response, the Victorian Government established segregated Chinese camps including the Bright Chinese Camp which was laid out in July 1859. The Camp was to eventually comprise stores, a Joss House, hotel, cook shops, gambling dens, lottery houses, a boot maker, opium dens, a Presbyterian church, and even a Chinese circus. In the late nineteenth century, the camp fell into decline and by the early twentieth century, there was only one descendant living at the camp. The Joss House was demolished c. 1915 and in 1982, all the remaining buildings were demolished.

Description Summary
The Bright Chinese Camp is located in the centre of Bright, fronting Delany Avenue. It comprises an open, level area of grassed land, with trees and bushes of varying maturity around the boundaries. There are undulations and depressions in the earth across the site, which may indicate the locations of former streets and buildings.

There is presently no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) for the area in which the Bright Chinese Camp is located. The Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (TCAC) are currently negotiating a recognition and settlement agreement for this area under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?
The Bright Chinese camp is of historical and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A
Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.

Criterion B
Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria’s cultural history.

Criterion C
Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria cultural history.
WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Bright Chinese Camp is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Bright Chinese Camp is historically significant for its association with the development of Victoria through the discovery of gold. The Chinese immigrants who arrived in the goldfields during the 1850s and 1860s were part of the first mass emigration from China. By 1859, there were 46,000 Chinese immigrants in Victoria, making up nine per cent of Victoria’s entire population and as the second largest immigrant group on the goldfields, they played a significant role in the history of gold mining in Victoria. As one of the camps created as part of a system of Chinese protectorates and segregated Chinese camps, the establishment of the Bright Chinese Camp in 1859 also demonstrates the Victorian Government’s response to the hostility and violence directed towards the Chinese during the 1850s and 1860s. Once established, the Bright Chinese Camp continued to flourish, with statistics indicating that the Bright area had the highest Chinese population of any of the mining places in Victoria during the 1860s. [Criterion A]

The Bright Chinese Camp is a rare example of a nineteenth century Chinese camp where there is a very high likelihood that the sub-surface archaeological record has survived undisturbed. There are few, if any, Chinese related archaeological sites of comparable condition, size and significance in Victoria. Most, if not all other Chinese camps in Victoria have been substantially disturbed through ongoing mining activity, excavation or development. [Criterion B]

The Bright Chinese Camp is of archaeological significance and has the potential to be most intact archaeological place of its kind in Victoria. The Bright Chinese Camp was one of the largest and most important Chinese camps in Victoria, comparable to those at Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine and Beechworth, all of which have been subjected to redevelopment. There is a very high likelihood that that the Bright Chinese Camp contains archaeological material that will provide information about the construction, use and abandonment of the place by the Chinese during the latter half of the nineteenth century, thereby shedding new light on the development of segregated Chinese camps across Victoria. [Criterion C]

RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [S.34A(2)]

Following is the Executive Director’s assessment of the place against the tests set out in The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014).

CRITERION A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object has a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria’s cultural history.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: Bright Chinese Camp
Hermes Number: 200291
The EVENT, PHASE, etc is of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

Following the discovery of gold in the Colony of Victoria in 1851, miners rushed to the goldfields from around the world. The number of Chinese immigrants was second only to the British, and in some areas Chinese miners outnumbered Europeans by five to one. An anti-Chinese sentiment developed which resulted in riots and violence, the most severe of which included the Buckland riot, near Bright in 1857 and the Morses Creek (now Bright) Affray in 1859. In response, the Victorian government established a system of Chinese protectorates and segregated Chinese camps, including the Bright Chinese Camp which was laid out in 1859.

The Bright Chinese Camp has a clear association with gold mining in Victoria, and with Chinese immigration during the gold rush period of the mid nineteenth century. Both of these events have made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.

These associations are evident in the physical fabric of the place, and also through documentary evidence including photographs, maps and newspaper articles.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.

Executive Director’s Response

Chinese camps were established throughout Victoria during the gold rush period, however few survive due to ongoing mining activity and later development of the sites. The Bright Chinese Camp is the most intact Chinese camp site known to have survived. There is a very high likelihood that it will allow an understanding of Chinese cultural practices and traditions through archaeological investigation better than most other places in Victoria with substantially the same association.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B

The place/object has a clear ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria’s cultural history.

Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

Plus
The place/object is RARE OR UNCOMMON, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc. OR
The place/object is RARE OR UNCOMMON, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated
OR
The existence of the class of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is ENDANGERED to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

Executive Director’s Response

The Bright Chinese Camp has a clear association with the history of Chinese immigration and gold mining in Victoria. The associations are evident in the physical fabric of the place, and through documentary resources. There were numerous Chinese camps throughout the goldfields, however few, if any survive due to ongoing mining activity and later development. The Bright Chinese Camp is rare as an undeveloped example of a nineteenth century Chinese camp where there is a high likelihood that the sub-surface archaeological features, deposits and relics survive and have the potential to provide an understanding of Chinese immigrant culture in the mid to late nineteenth century.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION B

The place/object is RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED within Victoria.

Executive Director’s Response

The Bright Chinese Camp is a rare example of a Chinese camp site which has not been subjected to continued mining activity, or development. There are few, if any Chinese related archaeological sites of comparable condition, size and significance in Victoria and the Bright Chinese Camp has the potential to be the most intact archaeological place of its kind in Victoria.

Historical documentation suggests there were more than 100 nineteenth-century Chinese settlements of varying sizes and uses throughout Victoria, most of which have been destroyed, or their exact location is unknown. Of the ten known camp sites in Victoria (all of which are on the Victorian Heritage Inventory), only the East Branch Chinese Camp at Harrietville and the Bright Chinese Camp sites survive largely undisturbed. The Bright Chinese Camp was a larger camp with more diversity of buildings, and is substantially more intact. There is a very high likelihood that the site has the potential to yield sub-surface archaeological features, deposits and relics relating to the development and use of the land as a Chinese Camp from 1859 until the early twentieth century.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied at the State level.
CRITERION C
Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:
- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
- oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of historical interest that is NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD.

Plus
From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an INTEGRITY and/or CONDITION that it COULD YIELD INFORMATION through detailed investigation.

Executive Director’s Response
Established in 1859, the Bright Chinese Camp was home to the majority of Chinese miners in the upper Ovens River area. During the 1860s, it was one of the largest camps in Victoria and a c.1880s plan indicates that the nucleus of the camp was located in the recommended area. While no buildings or above ground structures survive, undulations and depressions remain visible across the grassed area. The physical fabric of the place, as well as documentary evidence indicates a strong likelihood that the place contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION C

The knowledge that might be obtained through investigation is likely to MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.

Plus
The information likely to be yielded from the place/object is not already well documented or readily available from other sources.

Executive Director’s Response
The Bright Chinese Camp was large, and was conceived of as a permanent township rather than a temporary camp. It has not been subject to significant post abandonment ground disturbance, which means it is likely to possess an archaeological record that is rich, representative and ground breaking in its research potential. Although the Chinese were the second largest immigrant group on the Victorian goldfields, there are few surviving archaeologically intact places, and the material history of the Chinese on the goldfields is not well understood. The Bright Chinese Camp is likely to meaningfully contribute to a better understanding of Chinese immigration and culture during the gold rush period.

The archaeological excavation of Chinese camps outside Victoria, including Kiandra in NSW and Lawrence in New Zealand, indicate that if post abandonment disturbance is minimal, there is potential for extensive surviving evidence of traditional construction methods and the material culture of daily life.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied at the State level.
PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Bright Chinese Camp in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2370 including the land, landscape elements, sub-surface deposits and material cultural heritage. Under the Heritage Act 1995 a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in an Archaeological Management Plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that an Archaeological Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.
Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of the Bright Chinese Camp lies in the land which is likely to possess a remarkable undisturbed and extensive archaeological record of Chinese culture and the contribution this has made to the history of Victoria. The place has the potential to provide information regarding traditional construction methods and the material culture of daily lives of Chinese immigrants on the gold fields.

PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act)

General Condition 1
All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2
Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3
All ground disturbing works should be informed by an Archaeological Management Plan prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Archaeological Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Archaeological Management Plan.

General Condition 4
Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5
Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions
The following works may be undertaken provided they do not involve the disturbance, removal or destruction of any above-ground landscape or archaeological features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts, features or deposits.
• Landscape maintenance works.
• Fire suppression and fire-fighting duties.
• Weed and vermin control activities
• Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
• Installation and removal of safety signage of a modest size.

**RELEVANT INFORMATION**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY**  
Alpine Shire

**HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION**

- Heritage Overlay: Yes, H105
- Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register: No
- Other listing: Heritage Inventory H8224-0066

**HISTORY**

**Nineteenth Century Gold Rushes**
In 1851, the new Colony of Victoria became one of a number of places throughout the world where gold was discovered. Gold rushes took place in America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and caused a major shift in the balance of European and Chinese populations in the Pacific and Indian Ocean rim regions. Unlike previous mining events which were controlled, funded and managed by private companies, gold rushes were created by tens of thousands of individuals, all following the promise of gold.

In the initial years, only simple but labour-intensive processes and technologies were necessary to mine for gold. Any able individual or cooperative party could participate and the gold discovered could be directly converted to cash. These factors made the nineteenth century gold rushes huge mass immigration events, involving all classes of society enticed by the apparent economic and social advantages.

The world’s two first gold rushes, in California (1848-53) and Victoria (1851-1855), made gold a powerful force in world affairs. These two goldfields significantly increased the world’s annual gold output with Australia producing 38 per cent and America 41 per cent of the world’s gold during the rush period.

The early goldfields of Ballarat, Castlemaine, Bendigo and Beechworth in particular were extremely rich and proved to be very influential in terms of production and immigration. Before the gold rush, Victoria had a population of approximately 75,000. By 1860, it had more than 520,000 people, making up nearly half of Australia’s population.

**Chinese gold seekers**
The first immigrant gold miners arrived in Victoria in 1851, mainly from the United Kingdom. From 1853 immigrants also began arriving from China. By 1859 more than 45,000 (almost all male) Chinese had arrived, making them the second largest majority on the goldfields, and accounting for around 20 per cent of the adult male population of Victoria. They arrived mainly from the Guangdong province in southern China and were motivated to leave their home country by severe conditions of poverty due to civil war.

Chinese immigration came at a period when the populations on the established Victorian goldfields were large but returns were declining as the shallow diggings became less profitable. European miners objected
to this new competition and called for controlling measures. Many also reacted violently and attempts were made to forcibly expel the Chinese from the fields. To maintain their safety the Chinese not only travelled in large groups, but also lived in unofficial segregated camps.

The Victorian government was also concerned about the increasing numbers of Chinese arrivals and introduced the Immigration Restriction Act in 1855 which imposed a £10 head tax on Chinese immigrants arriving at Victorian ports. To avoid this (and to continue to profit from the influx of Chinese) ships sailed to Robe in South Australia instead, from where many thousands of Chinese travelled on foot to the Victorian goldfields. In the same year, the government also established a Chinese Protectorate system. A pilot protectorate and the formalisation of seven Chinese villages was introduced at Bendigo in May, and in October the system was expanded, with protectors appointed at Ballarat, Avoca and Castlemaine. In response to the Buckland Riot of 1857, the system became even more formalised.

Gold rushes to north east Victoria – the Ovens Goldfield
Gold rushes to north east Victoria (known as the Ovens Goldfield) commenced in 1852 with the first rush occurring at Beechworth. Mining in this area relied on water, and long water races and deep tailraces were constructed in all parts of the goldfield.

In the mid 1850s, Beechworth had a small population of about sixty Chinese. By 1857, the wider Ovens Goldfield (including Bright) had a Chinese population of approximately 7,000, with the largest encampment at Beechworth.

By 1868 this number had reduced to approximately 3,000 to 4,000 Chinese, many working for themselves and some employed on European claims. Others were employed in harvesting and sheep shearing and as market gardeners, while others worked in businesses and trades. By the late 1870s, there were few Chinese working on the Ovens goldfields with most working seasonally on tobacco plantations and hop farms in the Ovens and Buffalo valleys.

Bright Chinese Camp
Gold mining began in the area of Bright (known as the Upper Ovens mining region) when miners rushed the Buckland River in 1853-4. This was followed by discoveries of gold nearby, including Morses Creek (Bright) and Growler’s Creek (Wandiligong).

In 1857, the Buckland River was the scene of a notorious anti-Chinese riot, said to be the ‘most disgraceful of the Victorian riots’. Several Chinese were murdered and the riot displaced Chinese miners who took refuge in other camps.

As Bright rapidly expanded, the Chinese were again subjected to violence, and on April 29 1859 they were driven from their claims. One Chinese was bludgeoned to death, and another severely injured, in what became known as the Morses Creek Affray. Following this, Warden Dowling was instructed to lay out a camp for the Chinese Miners at Bright, which he did in July 1859. Men in the camp were put under the protection of Mr Drummond, the local Chinese Protector.

The Bright Chinese Camp was home to most of the 1,200 to 1,400 Chinese men on the Upper Ovens River at the time. Over the years, the camp supported stores, a Chinese temple or Joss House, hotel, cook shops, gambling dens and lottery houses, boot maker, opium dens, a Presbyterian church, and even a Chinese circus in the early 1860s.
The Bright Chinese Camp flourished during the 1860s, when statistics indicated that the Bright area had the highest Chinese population of any of the mining places in Victoria. The camp slowly deteriorated during the late nineteenth century, and in 1910, the licence on Quan Kee's Chinese Hotel, the last operational business at the Camp, was surrendered. This license had been held by Hung Fee who had initially applied for it in 1892. However on rejection of his application for naturalisation, the license was transferred to his wife, Elizabeth. Elizabeth died in 1893 and it is likely that the license was then transferred to her husband. The Hung Fees had five children, and the last resident of the camp was one of their daughters, Miss Humphries, who had anglicised her name. Very little is known about her, but she is thought to have died in the 1970s, at which time the hotel was demolished. All other structures were demolished in 1982 and the land has remained vacant since that time.

**VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES**

**04 Transforming land and managing natural resources**

4.5 Gold mining

**02 Peopling Victoria’s places and landscapes**

2.5 Migrating and making a home

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Bright Chinese Camp is located in the centre of Bright, fronting Delany Avenue. It comprises an open, level area of grassed land, with trees and bushes of varying ages and sizes around the boundaries. There are undulations and depressions in the earth across the site, which are likely to indicate the locations of former streets and buildings and the presence of sub-surface archaeological features, deposits and relics.

**ARCHAEOLOGY**

Unlike other Chinese camps in Victoria, the Bright Chinese Camp has not been subjected to continued mining activity, or development. Although it has no surviving above ground buildings or structures, it has the potential to be the most intact archaeological place of its kind in Victoria. It is likely to possess an archaeological record that is rich, representative and ground breaking in its research potential.

There has been little sub-surface disturbance of the area and there is a very high likelihood that the site has the potential to yield features, deposits and relics relating to the development and use of the land as a Chinese Camp from 1859 until the early twentieth century. These elements could be discovered close to the surface and at lower depths.

The archaeological excavation of Chinese camps outside Victoria, including Kiandra in NSW and Lawrence in New Zealand, indicate that if post abandonment disturbance is minimal, there is potential for extensive surviving evidence of traditional construction methods and the material culture of daily life. Archaeological investigations at Kiandra, NSW yielded building materials including pieces of timber, tin and calico with nails in them, and evidence of stone foundations and timber frame work. From these elements, archaeologists were able to conclude that there were similarities between the buildings at Kiandra and basic Chinese dwellings. Hundreds of ceramic and glass fragments were also collected as well as hundreds of miscellaneous items including fragments of shoe soles and leather, pipes, Chinese coins, cooking pots, cutlery, toothbrushes and opium tins. At the Chinese camp in Lawrence, New Zealand, archaeological investigations revealed that the camp initially comprised a rudimentary layout and building methodology, which was later formalised, allowing the residents to own land and make improvements. The investigations revealed not only building materials and objects, but also drainage and road systems. Exploratory
archaeological investigations at the Chinese Kiln and Market Garden, Bendigo, revealed intact ceramics jars, and the brick kiln itself.

**INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS**

Intactness – Although the Bright Chinese Camp has no surviving above ground buildings or structures, it has the potential to be the most intact archaeological place of its kind in Victoria. Unlike other Chinese camps, the Bright Chinese Camp has not been the subject of continued mining activity or development. Its archaeological record has therefore most likely survived intact.

Integrity – The integrity of the above ground surface of Bright Chinese Camp is good and indicates that the integrity of the sub-surface features, deposits and relics is likely to be good also.

**CONDITION**

The place is in good condition.

**COMPARISONS**

*Chinese Camps in the Victorian Heritage Inventory*

There are ten Chinese camp locations in the Victorian Heritage Inventory. These sites are at Stanley, Harrietville, Cornishtown, Chiltern, Durham, Wahgunyah/Rutherglen, Rushworth, Maldon, Maryborough and Bright. Apart from the Bright Chinese Camp, very little, if any physical fabric survives at any of them, and none are in the Victoria Heritage Register. In addition, Chinese camps ranged from small, temporary camps to substantial villages. The Bright Chinese Camp was comparable in size and importance to those in major gold mining areas, including Bendigo, Ballarat, Castlemaine and Beechworth. None of the camps in these areas have survived intact. In this context, the Bright Chinese Camp is extremely significant due to its rare, intact nature and the potential that provides for exceptional archaeological investigation.

*Other places in the VHR associated with mid nineteenth century Chinese immigration*

There are a range of places other than camps which represent the history of nineteenth Chinese immigration to the goldfields, but unlike the Bright Chinese Camp they are not directly related to gold mining. They are more indicative of the settlement of Chinese immigrants in gold mining areas.

*Bendigo Chinese Kiln and Market Garden: VHR H2106*

The Chinese Kiln and Market Garden, is of historical significance for its association with Chinese settlement in Bendigo and as tangible evidence of the lives and enterprise of Chinese immigrants who came in large numbers to the Victorian goldfields during the second half of the nineteenth century. Along with the nearby Bendigo Joss House (VHR H1791), the Chinese Kiln and Market Garden is historically significant for its association with the large Chinese camp of Ironbark, established in 1855 and the only Chinese Camp in Bendigo to have persisted into the twentieth century.

The Chinese Kiln and Market Garden is of archaeological significance to the State of Victoria being the only known surviving Chinese brick kiln in Victoria and possibly in Australia. Chinese brick kilns are considered extremely rare outside the Chinese mainland.
Chinese Brick Wall, Bendigo: VHR H2197
The brick garden walls at 57-59 Forest Street are historically significant due to their association with the immigration of Chinese people to Victoria during the gold rush and their assimilation into community and economic life. The brick garden walls are of scientific (technological) significance for the Chinese-style construction. As the bricks are objects directly associated with the Bendigo Chinese Kiln and Market Garden (VHR H2106) this augments their significance, as together the wall and the kiln are outstanding examples of the technological and architectural transfer that took place during the Victorian gold rush period.

Chinese Brick Wall, Bendigo (VHR H2197) Garden walls constructed of Chinese bricks.

Bendigo Chinese Temple: VHR H1791
The Bendigo Chinese Masonic Temple is of historical importance to the state of Victoria for its ability to act as a tangible link to the lives and religious practices of the Chinese immigrants who came in large numbers to the Victorian goldfields during the second half of the 19th century. The temple is a rare surviving structural artefact of that culture and period when so little else remains. The ephemeral nature of the way of life on the goldfields has meant an almost total loss of evidence of this cultural group and the survival of this building makes it unique in Victoria. The temple was repaired in the 1960s and 1970s by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The contents of the interior were imported from China in the early 1970s.
Bendigo Chinese Masonic Hall (VHR H1791).

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

LRGM Services (2004) *Thematic Environmental History of the Alpine Shire*
Diann Talbot (2016) *Who is she?* Layout Speciality Press

PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE BLUE HERITAGE PLAQUE

The Bright Chinese Camp was established on this site in 1859 by the Victorian Government to protect the residents from anti-Chinese violence. It included stores, a Joss House, gambling and opium dens, boot maker, Presbyterian church, and a Chinese circus.
2017: Bright Chinese Camp site, looking towards the north-eastern corner.
2017: Bright Chinese Camp site, looking towards the north-eastern corner.

2017: Bright Chinese Camp site, looking south.
Pre 1890. Victorian Railways plan (detail) showing Bright Chinese Camp circled in red.
(Source: Rob Kaufman)
A map of the main Chinese Camp streets and buildings (from the pre-1890s Victorian Railways plan) overlaid on the current aerial photograph.
1878: Newspaper illustration showing the township of Bright, including the Chinese Joss House at lower left
(refer detail below)
(Source: Illustrated News 23 January 1878)
1890: Bright Chinese Camp (Source: Diann Talbot)
Early 1900s: Bright Chinese Camp (Source: Diann Talbot)

1900-1930: Chinese Joss House, Bright (Source: State Library of Victoria)
c. 1970: The Quan Kee Hotel and store during demolition
(Source: Bright and District Historical Society)