

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

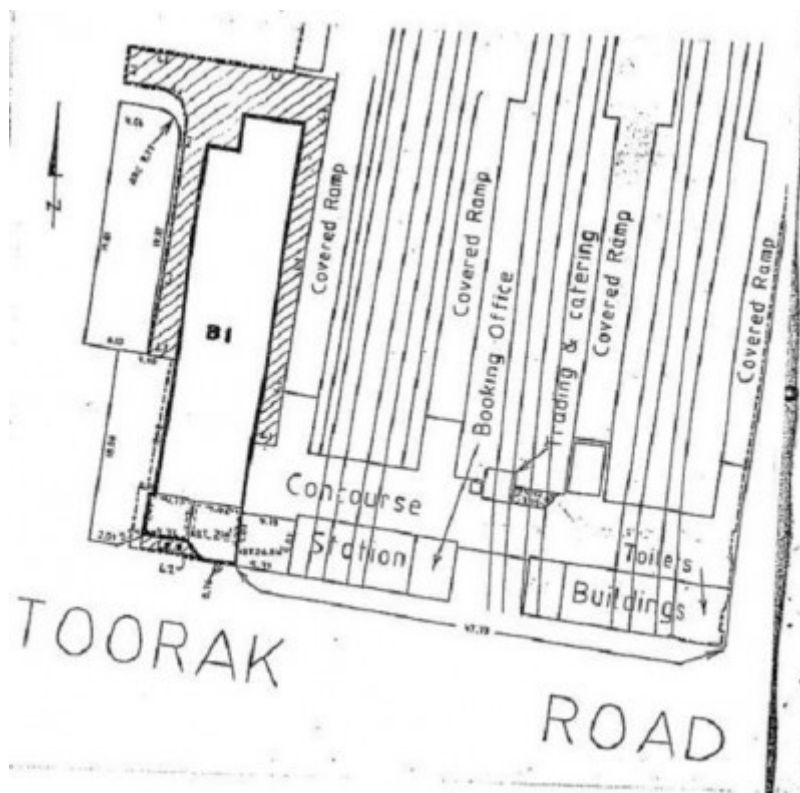
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## FORMER SOUTH YARRA RAILWAY STATION



1 former south yarra railway station  
toorak road south yarra front view



h01068 plan h1068

Location

163-165 TOORAK ROAD SOUTH YARRA, STONNINGTON CITY

## **Municipality**

STONNINGTON CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1068

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO106

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

April 13, 1995

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - September 10, 1999

What is significant?

The Former South Yarra Railway Station was constructed c.1862, on the Princes Bridge to Windsor line, which was operated by the Melbourne and Suburban Railway company. The original station consisted of an entry vestibule facing Toorak Road and a long building stretching northward at platform level containing a mixture of office, ticket and waiting room accommodation. Passengers entered via the Toorak Road facade and descended stairs to the ticket and waiting areas. The original structure was built in brown Hawthorn bricks highlighted with red brick string courses and rubbed voussoirs, set on bluestone footings. The station complex underwent substantial works in 1883, 1915-16, and again in 1918 when the original building was superseded by a new building above the railway lines facing Toorak Road. The exterior of the building is relatively intact, as altered in 1918, but the interior has been drastically altered from the original.

How is it significant?

The Former South Yarra Railway Station is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former South Yarra Railway Station is of historical significance as evidence of the early growth of the suburban railway system in Melbourne. Melbourne's railway network was established by private companies, and this station is one of only two private company-built stations surviving from the early 1850s and 1860s. As such it is an important reminder of the origins of the suburban train system. The station is also a tangible reminder of the boost to suburban development that the railways' expansion provided, as evidenced by the substantial commercial development around South Yarra Station and along Toorak Road (aided, also, by the spreading tram network). The alterations to the station, while effecting the intactness of the original structure, demonstrate the

growth of the train system, as new structures were built and old ones altered to accommodate new lines and increasing patronage.

The Former South Yarra Railway Station is of architectural significance as a very rare example of a station built by one of Melbourne's private railway companies. It is one of only two private company-built station buildings surviving from the 1850s and early 1860s. Its construction represents a deviation from the low-cost timber structure which was typical of the stations built by the early private companies and from the standard layouts associated with stations built by the Victorian Railways Department. The siting for the building on two levels is unusual, resulting from the difference in elevation between the road and the railway line.

Construction dates	1862,
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage place,
Hermes Number	1081
Property Number	

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

In the 1850s and 1860s several private railway companies were formed to open up new routes not covered by Victorian government lines. The Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company opened the very first line to Sandridge in 1854 and subsequently a line to St Kilda in 1857. It was not until 1859 that the first government line from Batman's Hill to Williamstown was opened. Another company, the St Kilda and Brighton Railway Company constructed a line to Brighton, and in 1858 the Melbourne and Essendon Railway Company was established to build a line from Essendon to Essendon Junction in 1860.

The Melbourne and Suburban Railway Company, formed in 1857, wanted to build lines from Melbourne to Hawthorn and Melbourne to Windsor. In November 1860, enabled by an Act of Parliament, the line to Windsor was opened. The station at South Yarra was not added until 1862.

All of the private companies experienced financial difficulties in the 1860s and by 1878 all the former private companies had been amalgamated and sold to the the government.

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1068:

Former South Yarra Railway Station, 163 Toorak Road, South Yarra, City of Stonnington.

(To the extent of:

1. All of the building known as the former South Yarra Railway Station marked B-1 on Plan 602043 signed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, and
2. All of the land in Crown Grant Volume 3123 Folio 570 marked L-1 and L-2 on Plan 602043 signed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G14 13 April 1995 p.899]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 1995. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*