
FORMER NORTHCOTE CABLE TRAM BUILDING (ENGINE HOUSE, CAR SHED & TRACK PRECINCT)

Location

628 HIGH STREET THORNBURY, DAREBIN CITY

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2241

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The archaeological remains of the former building site are highly significant as they display how Melbourne's cable tram system operated.

The Northcote cable tramway was constructed by the Clifton Hill to Northcote and Preston Tramway Company in 1890 and operated separately from the main Melbourne cable tram network (built by the Melbourne Tramways Trust 1885-91). After a chequered career the Northcote line was eventually linked to the main network in 1925, and became the last time of the entire system to close in 1940.

Archaeological
Significance

After the closure of the cable tram engine houses from the mid 1920's until 1940, all of the machinery, fixtures and fittings were removed. Despite the fact that some buildings were totally or partially demolished and most of the extant buildings have been remodeled internally and externally, the sites have the potential to contain significant 19th century archaeological remains underground pertaining to their original use. These features include deep brick lined pits, cable races that spanned the length of the buildings, and foundations of a chimney stack, well and weigh bridge.

The former cable tram sheds have potential to contain evidence of significant 19th century archaeological remains such as parallel tram tracks, and an associated traverser to move the vehicles between the tracks, a turntable, and inspection and access pits for maintenance and repair of the trams.

Within the original property boundary of the building there are likely to be the foundations for a tall brick chimney, a weighbridge, underground water tanks, minor outbuildings and other miscellaneous structures.

The remains of this cable tram building (engine house and car shed) are highly significant as they assist an understanding of how Melbourne's cable tram system operated.

Hermes Number 118228

Property
Number

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/>