
Williamstown Railway Station Complex



Williamstown Railway Station
Complex, Hobsons Bay
Heritage Study 2006

Location

Hanmer Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1599

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO144

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Williamstown Railway Station complex, comprising the station buildings constructed in 1859, the Ann Street footbridge and the Thompson Street road bridge, at Hanmer Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Williamstown Railway Station complex is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as the oldest railway station in Victoria to survive relatively unaltered and is now one of the earliest groups of timber public buildings in Victoria. It forms part of a valuable complex of early railway elements, which includes road and pedestrian bridges and fencing. The first surviving public building to be completed in Williamstown and symbolic of the town's importance as a deep-water port. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a relatively intact example of a very early station, which was specially designed for its location and is notable for its unique elements that include an uncommon attached hipped roof platform canopy. It is the focal point of a valuable complex of early railway elements that also includes the road and pedestrian bridges and fencing. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

Note: Included on the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H1599.

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Hermes Number 15076

Property Number

Physical Description 1

A transverse gable timber flush boarded station building with an attached hipped roof canopy set on timber columns. Tuscan order pilasters, set into the track side wall, take the verandah support beams on deeply scrolled brackets which are repeated on the verandah posts, terminating above the capital mouldings. Deep architraves surround openings both on this and other walls; the wide four panel door pairs being hung beneath two panel side-hung top lights and the through way being equipped with a wicket gate pair. Shallow truncated pyramidal mouldings fill the lower panels of these doors. Architraves, multi-pane sash windows and roof vents are the major period elements of other elevations, given later recladding.

The flush boarding has been reclad on three sides with asbestos cement sheet; the chimney cornices removed; an opening closed in on the east elevation and the entrance there altered; what appears to have been pavilions at each end and connecting verandah facing Hanmer Street have been removed. Details such as sign boards, brackets and lights have been added.

Nearby, Mephan Ferguson's Carlton Foundry iron pedestrian bridge (c1880) is of note. The bridge has been raised and rebuilt to allow for electrification.

Integrity

External integrity and context

Integrity - Moderate (Station and footbridge)

Condition - Good (Station), Good (Thompson Street bridge), Poor (Ann Street footbridge)

Historical Australian Themes

Moving Goods and People

Physical Description 2

Associations Victorian Colonial Government

Physical Description 3

Context

Isolated complex but linked with the other early elements on the line, particularly the valuable stone road bridges (1857-).

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/>