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## Stone Mileposts



Source: Victorian Heritage Register



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Stone Mileposts adjacent to Avenue of Honour



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### Location

Gleneig Highway and Ballarat-Skipton Road, SMYTHESDALE, Golden Plains Shire

### Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1701

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO70

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

National Estate Register:

The stone mileposts on the Glenelg Highway between Scarsdale and Ballarat are of historical significance for their association with the development of early Victoria. Road construction was accelerated following the economic boom of the gold rushes in Victoria and the mileposts were a direct response to this, trying to rationalise the road system of a developing colony. The stone mileposts between Scarsdale and Ballarat assist in a greater understanding of the development and impact of 19th century economic activity in the State and the resultant need for transport systems. The mileposts on the Glenelg Highway between Scarsdale and Ballarat are a visual reminder of the evolution of Victoria's infrastructure and the past imperial system of measurements and weights. The mileposts are of historical importance for their ability to describe transport routes and requirements of the 1870s.

The removal of the mileposts, and their respective re-instatement, is of historical significance. After the fall of Pearl Harbour in 1942, most mileposts were dug up and buried a few meters behind their original location; most were re-instated into their original locations in 1946. The mileposts were removed or hidden in an attempt to thwart enemy forces in the event that Australia was invaded. This act symbolises what was a national psychological response to a major world crisis and a reaction to particular events outside Australia's national boundaries.

The stone mileposts between Scarsdale and Ballarat are architecturally significant as good examples of stonemason's art and their simple but elegant shape is aesthetically pleasing. The structures are typical of a vernacular stonemason's tradition. The mileposts are among a group of rare surviving examples of stone mileposts in Australia.

This place is entered in the Victorian Heritage Register and the statement above has been provided by Heritage Victoria.

The Australian Heritage Commission recognises the standards of historic assessment of Heritage Victoria and acknowledges that this place has national estate historic values. Enquiries concerning the assessment or conservation of this place should be directed in the first instance to Heritage Victoria.

Commonwealth authorities and bodies should contact the Australian Heritage Commission directly if any Commonwealth action is proposed in relation to this place.

Source: Victorian Heritage Register

The bluestone mileposts along the Glenelg Highway between Scarsdale and Ballarat were installed prior to the 1870s and are linked to the development of the Cobb & Co routes. The bluestone mileposts predate the first cast iron posts and are an intact and visual reminder of the imperial measuring system previously operating in Australia. The posts consist of triangular bluestone posts with a shaved top and all have been painted in recent years. The rear face of the posts is rounded. The stone mileposts read (B1): Ballarat 13 - Scarsdale 2 - Linton 8; (B2): Ballarat 12 - Smythesdale 0 - Scarsdale 3 - Linton 9; (B3): Ballarat 11 - Smythesdale 1 - Scarsdale 4 - Linton 10; (B4):

Ballarat 4 - Smythesdale 8 - Scarsdale 11 - Linton 17 and (B5): Ballarat 3 - Smythesdale 9 - Scarsdale 12 - Linton.

The stone mileposts on the Glenelg Highway between Scarsdale and Ballarat are of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 1, Lorraine Huddle P/L, 2003; |
| Hermes Number             | 23752  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Description 1

National Estate Register:

In May 1864, the Victorian Roads & Bridges Office requested that the Shire of Grenville erect milestones along the major shire roads. Two years later in 1866, the Shire of Grenville formally resolved that the milestones would be erected. Only one tender was received and rejected on the basis that the price was too high. The sole tender was submitted by Messrs Band & Good at 2 pounds :17:4. In February 1977, a lower tender was accepted and James Overend was appointed to erect 22 stone mileposts between Sebastopol and Pittong. The mileposts were made to good standard and a number continue to exist today mainly between Smythe's Creek and Scarsdale. The Country Roads Board have painted and preserved them in recent years. Ownership of the posts is unclear but they are located on Crown Land.

## Physical Description 2

The posts consist of triangular bluestone posts with a shaved top. The rear face of the posts is rounded. Milepost 1: Ballarat 11 - Smythesdale 1 - Scarsdale 4 - Linton 10 Milepost 2: Ballarat 12 - Smythesdale 0 - Scarsdale 3 - Linton 9

Milepost 3: Ballarat 13 - Scarsdale 2 - Linton 8 The bluestone mileposts along the Glenelg Highway between Scarsdale and Ballarat were installed prior to the 1870s and are linked to the development of the Cobb & Co routes. The bluestone mileposts predate the first cast iron posts and are an intact and visual reminder of the imperial measuring system previously operating in Australia. The posts consist of triangular bluestone posts with a shaved top and all have been painted in recent years. The rear face of the posts is rounded. The stone mileposts read (B1): Ballarat 13 - Scarsdale 2 - Linton 8; (B2): Ballarat 12 - Smythesdale 0 - Scarsdale 3 - Linton 9; (B3): Ballarat 11 - Smythesdale 1 - Scarsdale 4 - Linton 10; (B4): Ballarat 4 - Smythesdale 8 - Scarsdale 11 - Linton 17 and (B5): Ballarat 3 - Smythesdale 9 - Scarsdale 12 - Linton.

*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/>*