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# WILLIAMSTOWN ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH STATION

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## Location

KANOWNA STREET AND AITKEN STREET WILLIAMSTOWN, HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0609

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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### Interpretation of Site

This facility was established due to the importance of Williamstown as shipping Port in 1854 (Butler, 2000). Situated at the corner of Kanowna and Aitken Street, this stone building was the first place linked to Melbourne by telegraph in the 1850's. It was opened and operated by the Government Astronomer Ellery and was part of a substantial network of telegraph communications that were later set up around state from 1855 onwards (Allom Lovell, 1987: 7, 8, 9).

The telegraph station was later moved to Morris Street during the mid 1860s - refer D7822-0610. The former telegraph station is of local historical significance as the first place linked to Melbourne by telegraph during the 1850s. There is archaeological potential to produce evidence relating to the use and occupation of the place.

### Hermes Number

26781

### Property Number

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*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/>*