
FORMER NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN RAILWAY STATION

Location

5 POWER STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN NORTH VIC 3016

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2389

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 3, 2020

The former North Williamstown Railway Station is of historical significance for its association with Victoria's first Government owned railway line during the mid 19th century. The site is of social significance as a public building which served the early residents of North Williamstown for over 50 years, creating a direct connection between the township of Williamstown and Melbourne. The site is of archaeological significance as the potential remains may provide a material record of the original station and insights into the early rail industry.

Interpretation of Site	The North Williamstown Railway Station has undergone three major phases of development throughout its history. Its construction in 1859, rebuilding after the fire in 1881 and the demolition of the original buildings in 1912 with the new buildings constructed slightly to the north. The current buildings have undergone several changes as new technology eliminated the need for ticket salespeople and to make allowances for Protective Services Officers etc. However, the overall function of the place as a train station has been maintained since 1859.
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Hermes Number	206921
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Property
Number

History

North Williamstown Railway Station was originally opened in 1859 as a part of the railway line which ran from Point Gellibrand to Spencer Street. The Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Railway Company had initiated the construction of the railway line. However, they ran out of funds in 1856 and the line was completed by the newly formed Victorian Railways Department (Graeme Butler and Associates 2000). The Melbourne to Williamstown railway line was the first to be owned and operated by the Victorian Government. In 1881 there was a fire at the North Williamstown Railway Station. Approximately 100 feet of the up-side platform and a storeroom were destroyed, and the waiting room and office were severely scorched (The Argus 1881, p.7). It is not known if the damaged buildings were reconstructed in the same location as the originals. The location of the original/early station buildings was recorded on both the 1894 and 1911 Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Plans No.14 and 149 respectively. The up-side station buildings included the main station building, storerooms including a cellar, toilet facilities (likely unsewered pan closets), and various ancillary buildings. The toilet facility at the northern end of the platform was added between 1894 and 1911. The down-side buildings comprised a smaller station building and the signal box. The 1894 plan depicts the station buildings as primarily constructed of timber, with a single masonry structure. In 1912 these station buildings were demolished and replaced with the current 'Gisborne Style' buildings (Gard'ner, J., Jarman, R., Coleman, R. and Hogg, J. 2020). However, the new station buildings were not constructed in the same location as the original buildings, instead they are situated slightly to the north. It is not known if parts of the earlier platforms were maintained or if these were entirely replaced. The 'Gisborne Style' station buildings are still in use today.

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/>