
BRUCE STREET GATEHOUSE

Location

23 CRAMER STREET, PRESTON VIC 3072

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0509

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 30, 2020

The features at Bruce Street represent activities associated with the operation of the Fitzroy-Whittlesea railway, including daily operation function to allow the transportation of goods and people, the operation of the rail system in an urban environment, and the permanent residential aspect associated with gatekeepers house.

The site is of scientific (archaeological) significance for their potential to provide evidence of the operation of the railway line, including insights into the daily operations and of workers associated with its operation.

The site addresses the following category in Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes:

Connecting Victorians by transport and communications.

- Linking Victorians by rail

The site's significance may also be considered with regard to the following criteria detailed in the Guidelines for Conducting Historical Archaeological Surveys:

Criterion A, Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Interpretation
of Site

The proposed site extent includes the location of the former gatehouse and associated structures, and the former Bruce Street crossing gates. As demonstrated through archaeological investigations at Buckley Street, Essendon (Willis and Goulding 2018), archaeological deposits have persisted in areas of development, including beneath modern roadways, carparks, and vacant rail reserve, comparable to the location of the former Gatekeepers Cabin to the north-east of the Bruce Street intersection. The construction of the current Shared Use Path may be associated with impacts to a depth of approximately 25cm. Comparatively, a detail plan of the Gatekeepers house at Dynon Station provides information regarding building specifications that may be associated with the former Bruce Street building (Figure 7). These plans specify the depth of supports at a minimum of 2 feet (60cm) below ground level, suggesting that foundational footing and other floor deposits may remain at the Bruce Street site. Features or deposits associated with the original hand gates are likely more limited, and may comprise wooden stumps and post holes that may be visible beneath the current sealed road surfaces.

Hermes
Number

206971

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/>