
FORMER GOORNONG RAILWAY STATION

Location

37 RAILWAY PLACE GOORNONG, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7824-0106

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 21, 2021

The Goornong station site is of local archaeological and historical significance as a representative early country railway station. It has potential to reveal details of the construction and operation of the railway facilities and the circumstances of railway employees living on the site during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Goornong station served an area beyond the Bendigo goldfields and its activities were exclusively agricultural, with a population during the 1880s of fewer than 100, but with about 1500 in the surrounding district. As such any archaeological deposits may give insight into the character of the non mining areas which are less represented in Bendigo's history.

Interpretation of Site

Goornong station was established when the Bendigo – Echuca section of the Melbourne and Murray River Railway was completed in 1864. Hand made bricks uncovered during Geotech testing are most likely to be from this original station building. Other scattered nineteenth and twentieth century building materials and other artefacts relate to the use of the site over then next 100 years. It is likely that footings from the departmental residences, as well as buried scattered archaeological deposits and possible toilet pit contents also survive. Modern clearance to form parkland has altered the ground surface.

Hermes
Number 208204

Property
Number

History

The first European settlement at Goornong comprised workers constructing the Bendigo-Echuca railway line in the period 1859-64 (Turner, 2014). The station opened with the railway line on 19th September 1864. Although it is unclear if the building shown in early photographs dates from this period (Figure 8). The station ground included at least one departmental residence (Figure 7) with outbuildings, a cool store built in 1889 (removed in 1904), and stock yards erected in 1899 (Turner, 2014). A good shed and wheat store were located on the north side of the line served by a loop siding. A second departmental residence appears to have been on the site as well (Figure 12).

The Grain Elevators Board erected a concrete wheat silo in 1942; followed by two further silos in 1953 and 1966 respectively, an oat shed in 1965, and a barley shed (Arnold, 2008). The silos were part of the shift during World War Two to bulk handling of grain.

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/>