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# MOOROOPNA RAILWAY STATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRECINCT

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## Location

35 & 70 YOUNG STREET MOOROOPNA, GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY

## Municipality

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7925-0050

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2022

### What is significant?

Mooroopna Railway Station has the potential to contain moderate archaeological significance and moderate archaeological potential to provide information on the character of the earlier elements of the Mooroopna Station. The concrete strips from the camping area are still evident, along with some of the power poles, however, this is undated in the site card. The Stationmasters house to the east can be discerned from a levelled area and scatters of domestic artefacts down the slope to a billabong to the south.

Mooroopna Station is of historical significance at the local level for its potential to provide information on the character of railway facilities, signalling, safe-working systems, goods shipment facilities and passenger services of a moderately important country railway in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with a special association with a single major industrial user being the Ardmona Fruit Cannery built adjacent in 1921.

### How is it significant?

### Why is it significant?

Interpretation of Site	Evidence of the former configuration of the railway yards can be seen in the extensive area of ballast and remnants of rail and sleepers. Part of the Goods Platform shows the separate arrangements for domestic freight south of the station compared with the sidings for the cannery on the north side of the main tracks. The concrete strips from the camping area are still evident, along with some of the power poles. The Stationmasters house to the east can be discerned from a leveled area and scatters of domestic artefacts down the slope to a billabong to the south.
Hermes Number	208813
Property Number	

## History

Located on the western side of the Goulburn River and adjoining Shepparton, the township of Mooroopna was formed by the sale of private allotments by W.S. Archer, who settled on a small farm there in 1860 (Allom Lovell & Associates, 2004). Archer sold town lots in 1874, following the subdivision of pastoral runs for farm selections in the early 1870s (Monash University, 2015).

The fertile soils enabled Mooroopna to become a successful agricultural town, with fruit and cereals the main crops. Mooroopna was also the first town in the region to be supplied with articulated water in 1876 (Allom Lovell & Associates, 2004). However, the arrival of the railway line to Shepparton meant that Mooroopna did not have the same population boom (Victorian Places, 2018). A colonial government scheme which provided a bonus for the planting of fruit trees and vines ensured that orchards boomed, and further bonuses were also offered for fruit production and mechanisation. In 1903 over 1,000 acres of land were being cultivated for fruit trees (Australian Handbook and Almanac, 1904).

Mooroopna Railway Station, 70 Young Street, Mooroopna was opened with the line in 1880, with the station building erected in 1881 (Ward & Donnelly, 1982). A goods shed and gatekeepers cottage were also erected around this time. The original 1881 station building was replaced in 1913. The building was noted as being an Edwardian structure, with a simple weatherboard exterior, red brick chimney and a steeply pitched galvanised corrugated steel roof.

During the interwar period, Mooroopna's population growth was driven by the opening of the Ardmona fruit cannery in 1922 which operated for the next eighty years (Victorian Places, 2018; Allom Lovell & Associates, 2004). A camp site was created near the station by the Ardmona Company to house its seasonal worker, while timber milling in Mooroopna gradually declined, ending in 1988 (Victorian Places, 2018).

The stationmaster was removed in 1978 and the ancillary structures have since been removed. The station building was destroyed by fire in January 2018 and the remaining structures subsequently demolished (Travers, 2018). The Mooroopna Railway Station is listed on the City of Greater Shepparton Heritage Overlay (HO54).

*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/>