
MURRAY PLACE CARPARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRECINCT

Location

MAROONDAH HIGHWAY RINGWOOD, MAROONDAH CITY

Municipality

MAROONDAH CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0533

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 6, 2023

What is significant?

The Murray Place Carpark meets Heritage Victoria's Policy for Determining Low Archaeological Value 2020, pursuant to s. 118(1)(a) of the Heritage Act 2017 for an archaeological site to be approved for inclusion on the VHI (see Table 1). Any structural remains located at the southern extents of 86, 88 and 90 Maroondah Highway would be 75 years of age or older and it is possible that any ground disturbing works at the site may uncover archaeological remains associated with one of the properties and connected to the establishment of Ringwood after the railway and have the potential to provide detail regarding the daily life of Ringwood during the early 20th century.

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Interpretation of Site Potential archaeological features and/or deposits would likely be related to the construction of these historic structures. It is possible that structural foundations in form of possible concrete footings, postholes associated with fencing, and archaeological deposits associated with the use and occupation of these structures exist due to the construction of the carpark sealing any potential remains. These deposits may include building materials (for instance timber and metal nails) and occupational deposits in the form of artefacts, older than 75 years of age (for example ceramic, glass, animal bone, and metal). Due to the asphaltting of the carpark, there is potential for foundations and archaeological deposits to be intact, which may relate to both the property and passengers travelling to and from the station and the surrounding areas during the early 20th century.

Hermes Number 209509

Property Number

History

Both Ringwood and Croydon benefitted from the rail line running from the city to Lilydale. The electrification of the line in the mid-1920s further accelerating the growth of population in the area. Although electrification saw vast improvements, the area was still considered somewhat rural, with Maroondah City falling outside the 1920s MMBW sewage installation, not being connected until 1964 (Peterson and Barrett 2003). A 1885 county plan shows that the land of the now Murray Place Carpark had been subdivided and owned initially by Nelson Polak (Department of Lands and Survey 1885). Several structures are identified on a stylised 1913 advertisement plan of the area (Coghill and Haughton, 1913) (Figure 1) and on Commonwealth Department of Defence maps from 1916 and 1922 of the feature area. The advertisement indicates these structures as weatherboard villas and a cottage. It is uncertain where precisely these buildings are located due to the generalised and stylised nature of the plans, but they were positioned between Maroondah Highway and the rail corridor. A review of aerial photography within the feature extent (LANDATA) from the 20th century shows:

- A structure is located at the rear (south) of 86 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, adjacent to the rail corridor, from at least 1945 until 1951. The area was then converted into a carpark by 1975.
- Two structures (likely outbuildings) are seen at the rear (south) of 88 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood on aerial photography from at least 1945. By 1956 these were demolished, and replaced by another structure, until they were removed for the current carpark, seen from at least 1975.
- A structure (likely outbuilding) is seen at the rear (south) of 90 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood, from at least 1945. By 1956 this structure was demolished and replaced by 1975 by the current carpark (Figure 2).

A review of current (August 2022) Google Streetview images of the Murray Park carpark show several services running north-south across the carpark; however, as seen from investigations as part of works within the Mooroolbark Railway Station Archaeological Precinct (H7922-0504), despite the installation of services within a carpark there is still potential to unearth archaeological features and deposits (Figure 3).

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/>