
GREENSBOROUGH STATION MASTER'S RESIDENCE

Location

4 POULTER AVENUE GREENSBOROUGH, BANYULE CITY

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0536

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 21, 2024

What is significant?

If preserved beneath the asphalt car park surface, significant remains of the former Station Master's house may include house footings and associated features, deposits of historical artefacts, and remains of other associated features, such as outbuildings, sheds, and possibly cesspit deposits.

How is it significant?

The Station Master's House at Greensborough Railway Station is significant because of its association with the earliest years of the station's daily operations. Any archaeological remains have the potential to provide valuable insight into the development of public transportation to the area, as well as into the daily life of the Station Master and his family over a period of approximately 60 years duration.

Why is it significant?

The Station Master's Residence at Greensborough Railway Station meets two of the themes in the Victorian Framework of Historical Themes: 3.3 Connecting Victorians by Transport and Communications – Linking Victorians by Rail and 6.3 Building Towns, Cities and the Garden State - Shaping the Suburbs (Heritage Council of Victoria 2009).

Theme 3.3 Connecting Victorians by Transport and Communications – Linking Victorians by Rail. The Station Master's Residence is representative of the mass construction of housing for Station Masters across Victoria in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which was considered a necessity to keep Victoria's railway system

functioning. Station Masters were deemed the 'front line soldiers' of the Victorian railway system by Harold Clapp, Chairman of the Commissioners of Victorian Railways (Lee 2004, p. 154). As a former residential dwelling, the site has the potential to provide information about the nature of early 20th century domestic life in Greensborough, especially the life of the Station Master and their family. The site may also possess social values for Greensborough residents as the Station Master was often a noteworthy figure in the local community (Old Treasury Building Museum 2022).

Theme 6.3 Building towns, Cities and the Garden State - Shaping the Suburbs. The location of the Station Master's Residence would have made the site a prominent landmark in Greensborough, located as it was close to the station itself. The construction of the Station Master's Residence, and of the station, would have a direct influence on the accelerating growth of Greensborough, which was stimulated by the construction and electrification of the railway.

Interpretation of Site

The Greensborough Station Master's House was erected on the site at some time between 1902 and 1922. Prior to this the site was vacant land. The house was still shown on a rail plan dated to 1969 and was demolished at some time after that. The primary function of the site was residential, providing the Station Master, and family members, a home and living quarters. The location of the residence close to the station granted the Station Master easy access to the station, as they were responsible for its daily operations, overseeing ticketing, public relations, and maintenance works. Although no physical evidence of this site is visible today, it being covered by an asphalt carpark, it is possible that remains of this house, and possibly the outbuildings, have been preserved beneath the car park surface, as has been the case at Mooroolbark Station (VHI H7922-0504). Another station master's house was located beneath the car park surface at Croydon Station (VHI H7922-0528). Both of these recorded structures were located in similar circumstances and appear to date to the late 1800s to early 1900s.

Hermes Number 212243

Property Number

History

SiteCard data copied on 21/06/2024: In 1902, Greensborough railway station was opened with the extension of the line from Heidelberg to Eltham, increasingly the town population and visitor rate (Barnard "Greensborough"). By this time, Greensborough had developed into a rural town, its population estimated at about 270. The 1903 Australian Handbook described the area: After the railway extension, there was a steady growth of population in Greensborough, which had been incorporated into Heidelberg Shire. At the station complex, a VR plan dated to 6th August 1922, shows a building located on the south-east side of the intersection of Main Road and Poulter Avenue, between Poulter Avenue and the railway line. This appears to have been the station master's residence, and includes a small outbuilding, possibly a shed or a privy. On this plan, closer to Main Road are three further small structures of unknown function. The house and outbuildings are also shown on the MMBW plan from 1949 and are still present on a VR plan dated January 1

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/>