

HO139

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

July 20, 2000

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 2, 2000

What is significant?

The Wangaratta Railway Station Complex was constructed in 1874 by R Vincent on the Melbourne-Wodonga line for the Victorian Railways. It comprises a substantial, predominantly single storey, bi-chromatic brick station building with a two-storey section with hipped roofs. The station building is complemented by other structures within the complex such as the circular, four-level brick base to the cast iron water supply tank system, a water column, a crane, a timber signal box, a corrugated iron goods shed and a footbridge. The passenger platform wall is brick with a basalt coping.

How is it significant?

Wangaratta Railway Station Complex is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Wangaratta Railway Station is architecturally significant as the only remaining intact example of a major bi-chromatic brick structure on the V-Line network. The station building is an important member of the 'St Arnaud' style of railway station building, which were developed to cater for the demands of the larger inland towns. Of classical design, with a standard 'U' shaped plan, the typical features of the style include verandahs to both elevations, polychrome brickwork, and a refreshment room. The station's importance as a late Victorian junction station on the North-Eastern railway is enhanced by the other structures within the complex, such as the large, circular, four-storey brick water supply system, water column, crane, signal box and goods shed.

Wangaratta Railway Station is historically significant for its associations with the steam era, the water tower serving as an important reminder of this. The large four-storey brick water supply system is significant as a substantially intact example of the large railway water towers constructed during the late 19th century to facilitate the operation of the steam engines. It is also significant for its associations with the 'light lines' era (c.1869 - c.1884).

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or

activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

* All basic refurbishment works including repairs to buildings and structures, where works are documented and administered by a recognised conservation consultant

* Installation of perimeter fencing

* Installation of new signalling systems and modifications to existing signalling systems

* Modification and replacement of tracks to the extent of the rails, sleepers and ballast

* Installation of new landscaping features but excluding earthworks where more than 1m³ of ground is to be altered

Station Buildings

Exterior

* Replacement of decayed fabric with fabric that matches the original design and profile.

* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant signage.

* Installation of temporary protective hoardings, screens and the like for the protection against intrusion of vandals and the like provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric.

* Installation of new damp proofing and making good to match existing, adjacent surfaces.

Interior

* Interior painting but not stripping of existing paint scheme

* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant carpets/flexible floor coverings

* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant fixtures and fittings, including clocks, soft furnishings including curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings, and the like.

* Installation of new but not the removal of existing original significant signage

* Installation of new partitions provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric

* Replacement of non-original kitchen and toilet fixtures provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric

* Installation of insulation to ceiling spaces

* Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors and other wall mounted works of art.

Construction dates	1874,
Architect/Designer	Higinbotham, Thomas,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	2643
Property Number	

History

Wangaratta Railway Station has a strong association with the steam era, the water tower serving as an important reminder of this. The large four-storey brick water supply system is significant as a substantially intact example of the large railway water towers constructed during the late 19th century to facilitate the operation of the steam engines. It is also significant for its associations with the 'light lines' era. The 'light lines' (c.1869 - c.1884) followed the earlier 'main trunk lines' (c.1857 - c.1869). A determined effort was made to minimise the cost of railway construction, due to the previous lavish expenditure on railway structures, and a worldwide financial depression in the late 1860s. This resulted in a more restrained approach towards railway station design. (Harrigan, L, 1962) (Beeston, 1995)

Extent of Registration

1. All of the buildings known as the Wangaratta Railway Station Complex including the station building and associated platforms, signals and levers (B1), signal box (B2), goods shed (B3), crane base (B4), water tower (B5) and water crane (B6), as marked on plan 602752 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land surrounding the station buildings marked L1 on plan 602752, being part of Crown Land vested in Victorian Rail Track.

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/>