

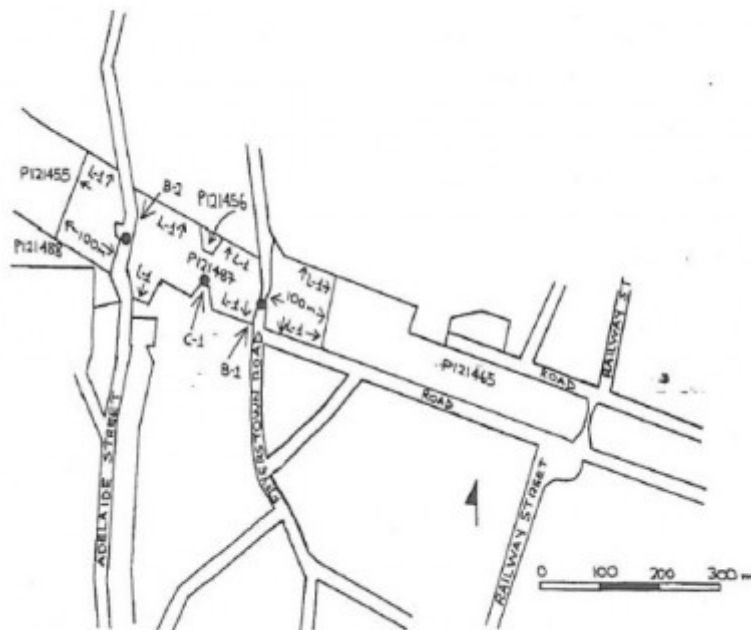
# CHEWTON RAILWAY PRECINCT (MURRAY VALLEY RAILWAY, MELBOURNE TO ECHUCA)



CHEWTON RAILWAY PRECINCT  
(MURRAY VALLEY RAILWAY,  
MELBOURNE TO ECHUCA) SOHE 2008

1 chewton railway precinct fryerston road  
chewton arched bridge 1 apr1998

DIAGRAM No. 6054426



H1780 H1780 plan

## Location

FRYERSTOWN ROAD CHEWTON, Mount Alexander Shire

## **Municipality**

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1780

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO987

## **VHR Registration**

February 25, 1999

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - July 1, 1999

What is significant?

The Chewton railway precinct forms part of the Murray Valley Railway (Melbourne to Echuca line). Opened in five stages from February 1859 to September 1864, the Murray Valley Railway was the largest of the Colony's first two main trunk lines. The inability of the line's original private promoters - the Melbourne, Mount Alexander and Murray River Company - to raise sufficient funds to construct the line, led to the government purchasing the company and embracing a public railway system. The Government's decision to construct the line in 1856 was accompanied by the formation of the Victorian Railways Department. The building of the line during the early 1860s reflected the strategic economic issues of the day: servicing the important goldfields of Castlemaine and Bendigo, and capturing the Murray River and Riverina trade for the Port of Melbourne. With a labour force of more than 6,000 men, the Melbourne to Echuca line was the Colony's largest capital works project of its time. The line is still used today for public transport and freight services and comprises a very large number of structures and facilities of varying ages, conditions and degrees of operational and business significance.

How is it significant?

The Chewton railway precinct is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Chewton railway precinct (two rail-overbridges and one culvert sharing a common embankment) is historically and scientifically significant as an integral part of the railway line and is an important representative sample of one of the earliest and grandest capital works projects in Victorian history. The identified features comprising the precinct are all substantially intact and provide a crucial reminder of the adoption of English engineering and architectural standards and the role of the Victorian Railway Department in developing the Colony's engineering expertise.

The two Chewton rail-overbridges are very ornate and their materials show the move away from the bluestone of the Taradale district to the characteristic brick and granite of the Chewton and Castlemaine section of the line. The quintuple semi-circular brick culvert is the largest example of its type on the Kyneton to Bendigo section of the line.

The Chewton railway precinct contains excellent examples of the range of materials, building techniques and

design types used on the Kyneton to Bendigo section of the line. The precinct makes an important contribution in defining the character of the Victorian railway network.

Construction dates        1928,  
Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,  
Hermes Number            3797  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purposes of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1780 is now described as a Heritage Place:

Chewton Railway Precinct (Murray Valley Railway, Melbourne to Echuca), Fryerstown Road, Chewton, Mount Alexander Shire.

### EXTENT:

1. All of the railway engineering works known as:

- . B-1, Fryerstown Road rail-overbridge, map reference 7723-560920,
- . C-1, brick semi-circular culvert, 7723-559920,
- . B-1, Adelaide Road rail-overbridge, 7723-558912, and
- . associated railway embankment.

3. All the land 100 metres west of Adelaide Street bridge to 100 metres east of Fryerstown Road bridge and marked L-1 on Diagram No. 6054426 held by the Executive Director, being Crown land parcels P121487 & P121456, and parts of Crown land parcels P121465 & P121455 vested in the Public Transport Corporation.

Dated: 4 February 1999

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 8 25 February 1999 p.502]

*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/>*