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# Narre Warren Town Centre & Railway

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## Location

Princes Highway and Shrives Road and Webb Street NARRE WARREN, Casey City

## Municipality

CASEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Casey City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Narre Warren Township Precinct does not meet the threshold for local significance, but is of local interest as the historic civic and commercial centre of Narre Warren. Places of local significance within the precinct that have individual citations in this Study are:

- Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute - 59 Webb Street
- Narre Warren Primary School (Former) - 53-57 Webb Street
- Oak Avenue - Princes Highway

Heritage Study/Consultant Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Casey - Heritage of the City of Berwick, Context Pty Ltd, 1993;

Hermes Number 44223

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

This precinct was originally identified by the 'Heritage of the City of Berwick Study' in 1993, which described it as follows:

"The history of development of Narre Warren has resulted in the establishment of two areas which today have distinctive heritage characteristics. These two areas, the Narre Warren Railway Station and the Narre Warren Town Centre, are separated by a dense commercial shopping strip.

The town centre today is a busy retail centre with mostly new development on the south side of the highway. However, evidence of the historic precinct is found in the remaining oak avenue plantings and a small number of older buildings to the north of the intersection.

The row of oaks forms an impressive landmark along the entrance route to Narre Warren. Beginning at Magid Drive, some 800 metres west of Webb Street, these mature trees create a distinct sense of entry. The intersection is the focus addressed by the former blacksmith's shop (Mower World), and the Narre Warren Produce Store. The other buildings at the intersection do not contribute to the heritage character of the precinct.

Immediately adjacent to Narre Warren Produce Store, the former bakery building faces Webb Street, contributing to the corner landmark buildings. On the opposite side of Webb Street, a little further north, are the early town's institutional buildings. The former Mechanics' Institute is a landmark in the street, with significant oak plantings to the rear of the property. The Primary School next door no longer contains its original building, however, the successive building, built in the 1920s, remains reasonably intact.

All that remains today of Narre Warren Railway Station historically important precinct is the railway station, a timber structure with corrugated iron roof, its signal box and a gable-roofed store. Nearby at 1 and 3 Shrives Road, two modest timber houses remain. These houses are examples of the simple weatherboard homes once typical of the area around the railway, and may have been built as railway houses.

The Webb Street landscape near the station is open in character. Views north towards the intersection, are cluttered with the advertising of the adjacent shopping centre. There are only sparse tree plantings in the vicinity, making no contribution to the heritage character of the area."

Since the 1993 Study, the following buildings have been demolished and replaced with new development:

- Mower World
- Narre Warren Produce Store
- Former Bakery, Webb Street
- House, 3 Shrives Road

- Narre Warren Railway Station & Signal Box.

The replacement buildings, particularly at the corner of Webb Street and Princes Highway are unrelated in terms of their scale, siting and materials to the earlier buildings. Consequently, the precinct now has very low integrity and little visual cohesion.

### **Intactness**

Low, due to demolition of contributory buildings originally identified in 1993.

### **Historical Australian Themes**

Developing settlements, towns and cities

*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/>*