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# Camberwell Railway Station Complex



B7220 Camberwell Railway Station



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## Location

Cookson Street,, CAMBERWELL VIC 3124 - Property No B7220

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 18, 2005

What is significant? Camberwell Railway Station complex was built as part of the major expansion of the Melbourne suburban railway network which occurred during the late nineteenth century and which was consolidated and improved during the early twentieth century. The railway line from Melbourne was extended from Hawthorn past Camberwell in 1862. It was then only a single line, with a level crossing over Burke Road. After about 1910 there was a concerted effort to improve and expand the operation and facilities of the suburban network. In 1918 the line to Camberwell was electrified and the originally steep grade west of Camberwell Station was levelled, partly by means of a deep cutting at Camberwell, and new station buildings were constructed. The chief architect was J W Harding. The development of the railway, the establishment of a station at Camberwell, and improvements made to the line and to station in the early twentieth century were important stimuli for the development of the suburb.

Camberwell Railway Station complex, begun in 1918, includes the central island platform and a side platform, the brick station buildings, including staff rooms and a signal box, elevated walkways and ticket office, ramps descending to the platforms, and associated landscaping. The main station building on the island platform is a two-storey structure of red brick, with roughcast on the first floor level, and with a tiled hip roof. At each end there are parapet gables with chimneys on either side, and over the first floor entrance there is a smaller parapet gable inset with a large semicircular window. This building contains the ticket office and other offices on the first floor. A series of three segmentally arched and nested metal roof forms cover the ramp leading from the ticket office down to the platform, most of which is covered by a wide awning with exposed lattice trusses and sheet-iron valences. The rooflines of the main building and the three stepped elements covering the main ramp form a most picturesque composition when viewed from Bourke Road and from the ends of the platforms. The central platform also contains a signal box (still operating), various staff rooms, store-rooms and toilets. The building on the side platform is of red brick, with decorative striped arched openings on the platform side and a wide decorative awning extending out over the platform. On Cookson Street there are remnants of the original landscaping and gardens, including some palms trees, which are local landmarks.

How is it significant? Camberwell Railway Station complex is significant for architectural, historic and social reasons at a State level.

Why is it significant? Camberwell Railway Station complex is historically significant as an important reminder of the central importance of the early railway, and its electrification after World War I, in shaping the character of Camberwell and in defining the commercial character of Burke Road.

Camberwell Railway Station complex is socially significant as a reflection of the importance of the railways in the lives of working people in Melbourne, which has continued from the nineteenth century up to the present day. The railway was the impetus for the residential and commercial growth of Camberwell in the early twentieth century, and continues to provide cheap and efficient travel for those living in the suburbs and working in the city.

Camberwell Railway Station complex is architecturally significant as a notably comprehensive and intact complex of early twentieth century railway station buildings. It is one of the best examples of the large, red brick station buildings erected in Melbourne in the early twentieth century as part of a concerted effort to improve operations and facilities. The architectural quality of these station buildings is a reflection of the importance attached to railway stations at the time.

Classified:19/06/2004

Hermes Number 71345

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The Camberwell Railway Station complex is bounded by Burke Road on the west, Railway Walk on the south, the extended alignment of Thorn Street on the east and Cookson Street on the north. It includes:

1. Platforms and station buildings: on the central platform an elevated booking office, a ramp with a triple tiered metal roof leading to platform level, awnings, signal box and platform-level work-rooms (including a manager's office, a staff room, drivers' meal room, underground store room under the ramp, a dressing room and electrical fitters' room) and toilets; on the side platform is a brick building with a wide awning.
2. A network of pedestrian walkways extending from Cookson Street, with descending ramps to the northern

platform, and an elevated walkway to the booking office and to Railway Walk.

3. Exotic plantings between the northern station platform boundary and Cookson Street.

The station buildings at Camberwell are of red brick decorated with roughcast render on the upper level and with smooth render elsewhere. The main building has a tiled roof with end parapet gables and a gable over the entrance. Three arched and nested metal roof forms with exposed lattice trusses and sheet-iron valences cover the ramp leading down to the central platform, which is largely covered by a wide metal awning, also with a decorative valence.

The signal box is of red brick with a tiled hip roof. The side platform building is of red brick with a corrugated iron roof and a wide awning with a decorative valence.

### **Intactness**

Camberwell Railway Station is intact and in good condition. The corrugated iron coal storage sheds and bluestone drains which were once to the south of the platforms have been removed.

*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/>*