

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: RAILWAY WATER TOWER

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Railway Parade BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 208

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Branhholme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF BRANXHOLME

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473J A-12; VicRoads 72 E7; located on the west side of Railway Parade to the north of the site of the former station in the disused railway yards.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Railway Water Tower, Railway Parade, Branhholme.

Image Date: 26/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the water tower and any surviving associated works and objects and all of the land within a ten metre radius of the centre of the water tower.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

An 1880s elevated, cylindrical iron water tank, on iron leg supports.

HISTORY:

The first railway line through Branxholme was the Portland-Branxholme-Merino-Casterton line constructed in 1876 by Overend and Robb, and opened in 1877. (They were the successful contractors for the Ballarat to Ararat line which was essential for the traffic between gold towns.) The second railway was the Line to Casterton which opened in 1884. At a very local level, the arrival of the railway changed the orientation of the town away from the Portland-Hamilton Road, or Creek Street, now the Henty Highway to the new focus of activity. The station and other new buildings were constructed on the higher ground on the western side of the town from 1876.

A water tower was an essential component for servicing steam trains. The iron tank used at Branxholme was a typical solution to the need for an immediate solution because it was prefabricated, light weight and easily transportable on the railway under construction.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways

4 Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

Fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Railway Water Tower at the Branxholme Railway Reserve is located on the west side of Railway Parade to the north of the site of the former station in the disused railway yards. The water tower is a large squat iron cylinder raised on four steel legs. It is common to those water towers found at many railway stations and reserves, used to service steam trains. The water tower is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Railway Water Tower at the Branxholme Railway Reserve is of historical significance to the township of Branxholme and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Railway Water Tower is of historical significance as one of the few remaining structures of what was once a substantial complex of railway buildings and siding. The water tower is representative of the important Hamilton - Portland and Portland-Branxholme-Merino-Casterton lines which met at Branxholme and the ideas and hopes associated with these railway lines.

COMPARISON:

294 Railway Water Tower, Caramut Road, Peshurst

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ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

31/01/2002

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Agnes V. Walter	Branxholme 1843-1973	1973	
Andrew Ward,	Railway Study	1980	s