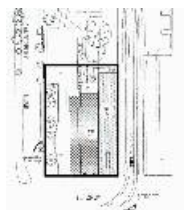


Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**FORMER ST KILDA RAILWAY STATION COMPLEX**



**Location:**

352 CANTERBURY ROAD AND 60 FITZROY STREET ST KILDA, PORT PHILLIP CITY

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1719**

**Listing Authority: VHR**

**Heritage Overlay Number: HO123**

**Statement of Significance:**

What is significant?

In 1857 the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company opened its line to St Kilda and erected a restrained Italianate brick building at the termination of the line on Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. It is believed that William Eldson, who is believed to have been the company's engineer at the time, was probably responsible for the design. The building contract was awarded to William Porter and Alexander Robertson.

The railway complex consisted of a booking hall and refreshment saloon, both of grand proportions. They were flanked at one end by public conveniences and at the Fitzroy Street frontage by a station master's residence

and yard. An elegant canopy, the train hall, covered the platform and the tracks. The hall was extended to the Fitzroy Street frontage in 1882 when a locomotive traverser was installed. A bluestone retaining wall was erected along what is now Canterbury Road to contain the embankment on which the station was built.

In the early 1900s the station master's yard was built over and the residence converted for use a post and telegraph office. A bow-fronted verandah, which marked the entrance to the booking hall and refreshment saloon, was replaced in about 1907 by the existing verandah. The verandah extends the whole length of the station facade and faces Canterbury Road.

How is it significant?

The former St Kilda Railway Station Complex is of historical, social and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The St Kilda Railway Station Complex is of historical and social significance as the oldest extant railway building in Victoria. Although damaged by fires in 1989, it is by far the most complete of the three surviving privately built station complexes in Victoria. Of the other two stations relating to the period of private railway construction in Victoria, Werribee (VHR 1309) is less intact and South Yarra (VHR 1068) has been significantly altered. The St Kilda Station marks the terminus of the first suburban passenger railway to be constructed in Victoria. It is particularly important for its association with the development of St Kilda as an elite residential suburb and a fashionable seaside resort. It contributed directly to the growth of St Kilda as a popular recreational area and in the 1920s the volume of traffic passing through St Kilda was estimated to be second only to Flinders Street.

The St Kilda Railway Station is historically significant as an indicator of the extent of Melbourne's suburban spread in the mid-nineteenth century. The complex is important for its potential to yield information on the changing nature of railways, locomotive technology and public transport use in Victoria

The St Kilda Railway Station Complex is of architectural significance as a rare surviving example of a Victorian era railway station. The train hall is rare for Victoria and unique in a suburban context. Its size and grand proportions demonstrate the busyness and importance of the station. The many structural alterations to the original two large rooms, (the booking hall and refreshment saloon), demonstrate changing passenger requirements and the flexibility of the station's construction. The strapped queen post trusses spanning the two rooms allowed numerous alterations without substantially changing the original design of the building. These trusses demonstrate the desire for space and opulence, both of which were characteristic of the time of the building's construction.

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1857 - 1882
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	PORT PHILLIP CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	1101
Property number	

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*