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# FORMER HAVELOCK STATION

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## Location

MARYBOROUGH-DUNOLLY ROAD HAVELOCK, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7624-0275

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 10, 2023

### What is significant?

Archaeological features which may be present would be associated with the now-demolished railway platforms and associated infrastructure, as described in the background history of Havelock.

### How is it significant?

The Former Havelock Station site is of local archaeological significance.

### Why is it significant?

There is moderate potential for archaeological sites to be present within the railway reserve at the locations of the former Havelock Station. This is based on the Havelock Railway Station background history, and by the results of the aerial imagery review.

## Theme

3. Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

Interpretation of Site	<p>The Former Havelock Station site meets the definition of an archaeological site under the Heritage Act, as a site that is likely to contain artefacts, deposits or features 75 or more years old, that would provide information relating to the former use of the site, that requires archaeological methods to reveal such information. There is a wide range of historical archaeological materials present at the site in the location of the former platform. The materials include both building-related and domestic/office related, including items likely related to the 19th century usage of the site (slate pencil, Milk of Magnesia bottle). There is limited historical documentation about the site and no site plans or layouts found to date. However, the limited amount of ground disturbance across the platform indicates there is potential for archaeological features and potentially artefact deposits or scatters to be present. This is likely to contribute to an understanding of early small Victorian railway stations, particularly as related to gold mining in the area. As such, the Former Havelock Station site meets Threshold A (archaeology). As there is limited historical information about the Former Havelock Station site, archaeological investigation could provide information not available elsewhere, particularly in relation to its layout and usage. It is in close proximity to known 19th century gold mining operations including the VHI listed sites of New Havelock Co (H7624-0249, less than 200 m north along the rail line), Old Havelock (H7624-0250, 750 m east), and Havelock Reefs Shaft (H7624-0259, 600 m northeast), as well as another nine VHI mining sites within 2 km of the Former Havelock Station site. Despite the former station having potentially been relatively small and now quite unknown, its proximity to a substantial number of historical mining areas, and the occurrence of a robbery at the station in 1884, suggests its richness or importance for transporting gold and other goods in and out of the settlement of Havelock. The site is significant in a local context under the 'linking Victorians by rail' (Theme 3.3) and 'gold mining' (Theme 4.5) in Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes (Heritage Council of Victoria 2010). As such, the Former Havelock Station site meets Threshold B (place history). The standing timber communications box on the opposite side of the rail line to the former station site is of historical interest, but is not archaeological in nature, and as a stand-alone item is unlikely to be assessed as being of local heritage significance. It is however of historical interest and should be avoided if possible.</p>
Other Names	Havelock Station, Havelock Railway Station,
Hermes Number	209356
Property Number	

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## History

Havelock station was opened prior to 1884 (VicSig 2018; Waugh 1999a), when it was mentioned in the Kerang Times and Swan Hill Gazette (8 April 1884, p. 4) in relation to a robbery occurring at the station. The railway station was built for the gold mining settlement of Havelock, which had been first established in the late 1850s, and was built along the railway line in a water reserve allotment. However, the first settlement in the area dates to the 1840s, with the Charlotte Plains homestead being built in 1843 approximately 4 km east of the present-day settlement (Victorian Places 2015). Mining operations in proximity to the station and township include Old Havelock, New Havelock Company, and Havelock Reef. The railway station is noted on geological and Parish mapping dating from the early to mid-1900s. The section of the railway line which encompassed Havelock station was affected by the closure of stations during the late 1900s. Havelock station was closed by 1960 (Waugh 1999b). Since the decline in population in the area after the gold rush ended, much of the Havelock township has been removed. Havelock school closed in 1927 after the population of Havelock dropped to approximately 50 people (Victorian Places 2015). Today, the small rural locality of Havelock comprises a mixture of rural land, and much of the Havelock Nature Conservation Reserve. The historical aerial imagery (Aerial Survey of Victoria 1946a; 1946c; 1946d) of the Havelock railway station area is of low quality and the presence or absence of structures is difficult to discern; however, there appears to be a structure to the south of the railway station grounds, adjacent to the railway line in 1946. From modern aerial imagery of this railway grounds, it does not appear that the railway platforms at Havelock are extant, nor do any buildings appear to be present near the railway station grounds. Additionally, the possible structure identified to the south of the Havelock station grounds

is not extant in the modern imagery.

*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/>*