
Cast Iron Mileposts,



Source: Victorian Heritage Register



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Location

Pitfield -, Springdallah Road CAPE CLEAR, Golden Plains Shire

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1702

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO6

Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

National Estate Register:

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road, installed in the

1870s, are of historical significance for their association with the development of early Victoria. Road construction was accelerated following the economic boom of the gold rushes in Victoria and the mileposts were a direct response to this, trying to rationalise the road system of a developing colony. The cast iron mileposts near Cape Clear assist in a greater understanding of the development and impact of 19th century economic activity in the State and the resultant need for transport systems. The mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road are a visual reminder of the evolution of Victoria's infrastructure and the past imperial system of measurements and weights. The mileposts are of historical importance for their ability to describe transport routes and requirements of the 1870s. The replacement of mileposts was not uncommon in the early years of Victoria's cultural history and it is not unusual to find that mileposts were replaced two or three times in one location as techniques improved and an increase in traffic necessitated upgrades. Many of the cast iron mileposts which once denoted distances between towns have since been removed or relocated to cater for the rise in motor vehicular traffic.

The removal of the mileposts, and their respective re-instatement, is of historical significance. After the fall of Pearl Harbour in 1942, most mile stones were dug up and buried a few meters behind their original location; most were re-instated into their original locations in 1946. The mileposts were removed or hidden in an attempt to thwart enemy forces in the event that Australia was invaded. This act symbolises what was a nationalpsychological response to a major world crisis and a reaction to particular events outside Australia's national

boundaries. The cast iron mileposts near Cape Clear are historically significant as remnant representatives of a network of mileposts.

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road near Cape Clear are of architectural significance as good examples of 19th century iron casting techniques and their simple but elegant shape is aesthetically pleasing.

This place is entered in the Victorian Heritage Register and the statement above has been provided by Heritage Victoria.

The Australian Heritage Commission recognises the standards of historic assessment of Heritage Victoria and acknowledges that this place has national estate historic values. Enquiries concerning the assessment or conservation of this place should be directed in the first instance to Heritage Victoria.

Commonwealth authorities and bodies should contact the Australian Heritage Commission directly if any Commonwealth action is proposed in relation to this place.

Source: Victorian Heritage Register -

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road near Cape Clear are made of cast iron and marked Hunts Patent Ballarat.

Cast iron mileposts appear to have been the successor to bluestone milestones and contracts for their construction were let during the 1870s. The posts near Cape Clear were cast in Hunt's foundry and consist of a large cast iron angle with a welded sloping cast iron wedge to the top. A patent (specification No 1585) was deposited in 1871 by James Hunt for 'An improved distance indicator'. The description reads, 'The indicator is made of cast iron, furnished with letters and figures, and either made to fasten upon a stone, or cast within a projecting flange, at bottom capable of being inserted about two feet into the ground'. The mileposts read (B1): Pitfield 0 - Ballarat 26 - Scarsdale 11; (B2): Pitfield 2 - Ballarat 24 - Scarsdale 9.

Milepost (B1) has been painted in Indian Red with white lettering while (B2) has been painted white with black lettering.

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road are of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road are of historical significance for their association with the development of early Victoria. Road construction was accelerated following the economic boom of the gold rushes in Victoria and the mileposts were a direct response to this, trying to rationalise the road system of a developing colony. The cast iron mileposts near Cape Clear assist in a greater understanding of the development and impact of 19th century economic activity in the State and the resultant need for transport systems. The mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road are a visual reminder of the evolution of Victoria's infrastructure and the past imperial system of measurements and weights. The mileposts are of historical importance for their ability to

describe transport routes and requirements of the 1870s. The replacement of mileposts was not uncommon in the early years of Victoria's cultural history and it is not unusual to find that mileposts were replaced two or three times in one location as techniques improved and an increase in traffic necessitated upgrades. Many of the cast iron mileposts which once denoted distances between towns have since been removed or relocated to cater for the rise in motor vehicular traffic.

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Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 1, Lorraine Huddle P/L, 2003;
Hermes Number	23558
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

National Estate Register:

In June 1871, the need arose to measure up the Springdallah (now Lismore Scarsdale) and Upper Western (now Rokewood Skipton Road) main roads. An estimate was made for the erection of mileposts along the roads after Councillors Laidlan and Baird of the Grenville Shire Council successfully brought the project under way. After several attempts to reduce the initially high tender prices, Contract No.23 was let to Patrick Monaghan & Co to supply and erect 15 mileposts at a cost of 37 pounds 16:0. Afterwards, an additional sum of 3 pounds 12:0 was paid to Patrick Monaghan in August 1872.

The cast iron mileposts on the Lismore Scarsdale Road and the Rokewood Skipton Road near Cape Clear are made of cast iron and marked Hunts Patent Ballarat. Cast iron mileposts appear to have been the successor to bluestone milestones and contracts for their construction were let during the 1870s. The posts near Cape Clear were cast in Hunt's foundry and consist of a large cast iron angle with a welded sloping cast iron wedge to the top. A patent (specification No 1585) was deposited in 1871 by James Hunt for "An improved distance indicator". The description reads, "The indicator is made of cast iron, furnished with letters and figures, and either made to fasten upon a stone, or cast within a projecting flange, at bottom capable of being inserted about two feet into the ground". The mileposts read (B1): Pitfield 0 - Ballarat 26 - Scarsdale 11; (B2): Pitfield

2 - Ballarat 24 - Scarsdale 9. Milepost (B1) has been painted in Indian Red with white lettering while (B2) has been painted white with black lettering.

A patent (specification No 1585) was deposited in 1871 by James Hunt for "An improved distance indicator". The description reads as follows:

"A.D. 1871, 10th of November No 1585 HUNT, James, of Ballarat, in the County of Grant, Colony of Victoria, engineer, for an invention for 'An improved distance indicator'.

The indicator is made of cast iron, furnished with letters and figures, and either made to fasten upon a stone, or cast within a projecting flange, at bottom capable of being inserted about two feet into the ground.

The posts consist of a large cast iron angle with a welded sloping cast iron wedge to the top. The distances and locations are embossed and part of the casting process.

Milepost 1: Pitfield 0 - Ballarat 26 - Scarsdale 11

Milepost 2: Pitfield 2 - Ballarat 24 - Scarsdale 9

Milepost 1 has been painted in Indian Red with white lettering while milepost 2 has been painted white with black lettering.

The mileposts are made of cast iron and marked "HUNTS PATENT BALLARAT". The posts were cast in Hunt's foundry.

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/>