

## RAVENSWOOD RAILWAY SIDING



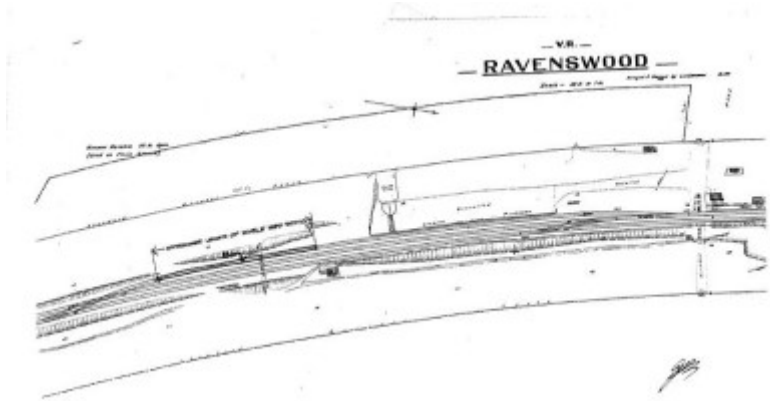
RAVENSWOOD RAILWAY  
SIDING SOHE 2008



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1 ravenwood railway siding  
view of lines 1994



h01100 plan h1100

### Location

CALDER HIGHWAY RAVENSWOOD, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1100

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO631

## VHR Registration

May 23, 1996

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 5, 1999

What is significant?

When the Victorian Railways were established in 1856 they adopted one of the popular British permanent way standards - heavy 80lb (36.3kg) double-headed rail held up right in cast iron chairs attached to transverse timber sleepers by wooden pegs called trenails. The Ravenswood Railway siding was constructed in 1862 with 12 feet wrought iron double-head rail held in cast iron chairs with Ransom and May patent compressed keys. Trenails held the chairs to the sleepers and the joints were secured in joint chairs. Joints were subsequently joined using fish plates. It formed part of the Melbourne to Echuca rail line, initially known as the Melbourne, Mt Alexander and Murray River Railway. George Christian Derbyshire, the first Engineer-in-Chair of the Victorian Railways was responsible for the design and construction of the works. No new lines were built in Victoria using double-headed rail after 1870. The siding was disconnected from the main line in 1988.

How is it significant?

The Ravenswood Railway Siding is historically and scientifically important.

Why is it significant?

The Ravenswood Railway Siding demonstrates the original 1856 philosophy of the Victorian Railways to adopt British permanent way technology. The siding demonstrates significant aspects in the development of permanent way technology in England and Victoria over the period from the 1830's to the 1880's. The chairs in the Ravenswood siding are physical evidence of early railway technology rendered obsolete 120 years ago, namely joint chairs at rail joints and trenails to secure the chairs to the sleepers. The double-headed rail demonstrates an important stage in the evolution of British rail technology in the 1830s. The old fish plates, square headed bolts and square nuts demonstrate the success of fishing the rail joints.

The Ravenswood siding demonstrates the earliest form of rail joint technology developed in England, and existing in Australia, the joint chair. In part of the siding the sequence of joint and intermediate chairs is consistent with the 1856 specifications, that sequence is rare with the joints secured in joint chairs. The survival of chairs in this sequence is rare and almost certainly demonstrates that they remained in continuous use at the same location from 1862 to 1988. This remnant of the Ravenswood siding has survived 126 years. The siding has proved to be the most significant of extant remnant double-headed sidings in Victoria, containing a rare combination of early permanent way technologies.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage

Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates        1862,  
Heritage Act Categories   Registered place,  
Hermes Number            4693  
Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Under Section 14 of the **Historic Buildings Act 1981** the Governor in Council amends the Register by adding Historic Building No. 1100:

Ravenswood Railway Siding, Melbourne To Echuca Railway Line, Ravenswood, City of Greater Bendigo.

Extent:

To the extent of:

1. All of the building marked B-1 on Plan No. 605801 endorsed by the Chair, Historic Buildings Council, and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

Dated 21 May 1996

Responsible Minister  
ROBERT MACLELLAN  
Minister for Planning and  
Local Government

ANNETTE WILTSHIRE  
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council

[Victoria Government Gazette G20 23 May 1996 1337]

*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/>*