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Name: Penguin Railway Station
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 10927
Municipality: Central Coast Council
Date Listed: 18/04/2007

Location Addresses

44 Main RD, Penguin 7316 TAS

Title References

133847/1

Property Id

1685742



QVMAG_1747

Untitled

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Setting: 44 Main Road, the Penguin Railway Station, sits on a narrowly tapered parcel of ground between Main Road and Crescent Street. The Railway Station building is owned by the Central Coast Council while the railway line and platform are owned and controlled by DPIW. To the north, the site has a sweeping vista of the waterfront from Beecraft Point to Penguin Beach and the Esplanade reserve, whilst open terrain to west and south provides for views to and from residential areas on the rising ground in these directions. Whilst the built form of the railway station is a simplistic low-lying rectangular box, the location is one of the most prominent sites within the township particularly in approaching the commercial business district from the west.

The primary facade of the Railway Station, incorporating the platform, faces Crescent Street - which parallels the railway line a short distance opposite the railway line. Crescent Street and the adjoining parkland originally formed a goods yard for loading, unloading and storage of freight being transported by rail. The Railway Station is set well back from Main Road, to which it presents a long utilitarian facade and expanse of lawn.

A small timber gaol cell is located in an adhoc manner beside a footpath at the eastern end of the property .

Description: The Penguin Railway Station building is owned by the Central Coast Council is a long rectangular building of weatherboard construction and utilitarian detail. Whilst it originates from the Federation period, the style of the building is very simple and utilitarian and lacks the ornate detailing associated with this period. Minor features that demonstrate the period rather than the style include moderately-pitched skillion roof, timber construction and detailing of windows, doors and exterior joinery. The main weatherboard building is predominantly intact, with a number of changes to internal partition walls and windows over time to provide for new uses and the inclusion of upgraded kitchen and toilets. The platform awning was rebuilt from new at the time of the building being relocated back to this site, the platform was rebuilt out of insitu concrete with angled access ramps and concrete block was used in the construction of the base walls below floor level. The site has a close physical and functional relationship with the Former Station Masters House at 46 Main Road. A single-room gaol cell of timber construction is located at the eastern end of the property, having been relocated to this site from 3-5 Crescent Street in the late C20th. This is considered to be an item of moveable heritage that is of value in its own right but which does not have a direct historical relationship to this location.

History: The land parcel known as 44 Main Road Penguin was originally granted to Alexander Clerke and is now held by the Crown and leased to The Warden Councillors and Electors of the Municipality of Penguin . The Penguin Railway Station was built in 1901 and the first train passed through Penguin on the 15 th April, 1901. The station was used regularly for freight and passengers until 1978 when passenger travel ceased. The Railway Station was subsequently purchased by Ron Gee who transported it to his rural property in three sections. It was used as a lunch room for his employees and for storage. In 2000 the Central Coast

Council decided to return the Station to the original site and it was reopened on the 15th April 2001, one hundred years to the day after it's opening. It is currently used as meeting rooms and is the home of the Penguin History Group. (Buildings past and present Penguin Main Road :2007, p. 7.).

Statement of Significance:
(non-statutory summary)

No Statement is provided for places listed prior to 2007

Significance:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

The building and environs of the Penguin Railway Station at 44 Main Road, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. The Station was developed as part of the north coast rail transport network, catering for freight and passengers through the early C20th and formed a regional commercial and social hub that was a factor in the growth of the township. The subsequent decline and sale of the Station reflected the increasing use of motor vehicles for freight and passenger travel during the later half of the C20th. The return of the Station back to this site reflected the increasing awareness and importance to communities of their historical origins and the key phases in the development of the township and its community.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

44 Main Rd Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance because it is important as a representative railway station in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places. Specifically, the Penguin Railway Station demonstrates a small regional station of utilitarian style and low cost, which provides an interesting social contrast to the grander stations that were being constructed in major centres during the Federation period.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

44 Main Rd Penguin is of local historic cultural heritage significance because of its community value derived from it serving as a key social and commercial hub within the township for 70 years, and demonstrated in the return of the Station building to this site by community action and adaptation as a base for the local historical society and general community use as a meeting venue.

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

PLEASE NOTE This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.