

Site:	Old Railway Reserve	Significance:	C
Address:	North side of Park Street, West sides of Mark & Apperly Streets, Fitzroy North	Map Ref:	30 A11
Access:	Unrestricted	Survey Date:	8/5/98



Intactness:

E [] G [] F [x] P []

Condition:

E [] G [] F [x] P []

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate []
 Planning Scheme []
 National Trust []

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate []
 HO Controls [x]

Description

The Old Railway Reserve is an extensive linear park running east-west along the length of Park Street, with another branch running north-south along the west sides of Mark and Apperley Streets. The park was established on the alignment of the Inner Circle train line. The line was established in 1888, and linked Royal Park to North Fitzroy Station. The line was closed in 1986. North Fitzroy station has since been demolished. North Carlton Station at the western end of Park Street has been converted into a neighbourhood house.

Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

Remnants of the railway line are extant at a number of old railway crossing points throughout the park system, for example at Brunswick Street North. Sheds and a pedestrian bridge are extant in a reserve to the south of Edinburgh Gardens at the site of the old North Fitzroy Station, since demolished.

Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The park contains a number of specimens extant from the early use of the site, typically Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*), Poplars (*Populus* sp.) and Elms (*Ulmus* sp.), among others. More recent plantings of native species have been introduced throughout the park system.

Potential Threats

Removal of rail lines across roads and exotic vegetation extant from the early use of the park system. Both of these elements assist in interpreting the early and important history of the park.

Management Steps

Preparation of an interpretation scheme for the park system that makes use of the extant elements from the early history of the site. Protection should be given to mature trees extant from the original use of the site to maintain some degree of heritage character. New plantings should not obscure these specimens.

Statement of Significance

The old Railway Reserve is of local interest as a remnant of an early train line that operated until recent times, and which offers considerable interpretive possibilities.

Reference

Hall, R. *Merri Creek Parklands: Aboriginal and Historical Heritage Survey*. Unpublished report prepared for the Merri Creek Bicentennial Committee, 1989.