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OUT OF THE PAST



WOODSIDE Station . . . once a junction for the rail line to Greytown.

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Forgotten railway

AFTER pressure from local residents, a survey was made in January 1879, for a railway line between Woodside and Greytown.

Sleepers and rails were laid soon after, by the Public Works Department. The rails were made of steel, not the usual cast iron, and were still in use after 73 years.

A tender from Ebenezer Gray for the erection of the station, goods shed, and locomotive shed at a cost of £1183 was accepted, and the right of way was fenced by Mr H. Stewart for £500.

In May 1880, the 3 mile (4.8km) stretch of line was

By **NATALIE CAMPBELL**

opened. Morning and afternoon trains were scheduled to run each way between Wellington and Greytown for six months until the main line between Woodside and Masterton was opened in November 1880.

After the main line to Masterton was opened, Greytown became a branch line.

Not long after the opening there was a decline in rail traffic. Wairarapa and Wellington papers carried

adverts calling tenders for the line to be worked by horses. This never eventuated.

When the Greytown saleyards opened, revenue increased and four trains began running daily to Woodside, and in 1905, that number had increased to six.

When motor lorries began carrying stock in 1925 train numbers running to Woodside dropped.

After running at a loss and being operational for 73 years, the Greytown branch line was closed on December 24, 1953.

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