

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 17/08/18



## 1) SWEENEY'S COTTAGE, 2) BARN, 3) GLASSHOUSE, 4) GOLDEN ASH TREE, 5) LEMON SCENTED GUM TREE, 6) PEAR TREE, 7) PINOAK TREES, 8) YELLOW BOX TREES, 9) OTHER MATURE PLANTING AND 10) GARDEN



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 02 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 03 - Drawing of Sweeney's Cottage - Origins unknown - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 04 - 1949? photograph of the barn - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 05 - 1949? photograph of a stone cottage stated to have been part of Sweeney's homestead - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 06 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 07 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 08 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 09 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 10 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 11 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 12 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 13 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 14 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 15 -  
Apple Orchard Trees - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 16 -  
100 year old pear tree - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 17 -  
100 year old apple tree - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 18 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



268 - Sweeneys Cottage Eltham 19 -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992

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## Location

SWEENEYS LANE ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO32

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### ***What is significant?***

Sweeney's Cottage, a cottage dating from 1858 or as early as the 1840s, the barn, the pre-1850 Yellow Box tree (*Eucalyptus Melliodora*), the pre-1890 Pear tree (*Pyrus Communis*), the c1930 and c1950 Golden Ash trees (*Fraximus Excelsior "Aurea"*), the Lemon Scented Gum (*Eucalyptus Citriodora*) and the surrounding gardens (including the glasshouse) to the title boundaries.

### ***How is it significant?***

The cottage is historically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

The barn, mature trees, and the surrounding gardens (including the glasshouse) are historically and aesthetically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### ***Why is it significant?***

Sweeney's Cottage is historically significant because it is the Shire's oldest known privately-owned building. The cottage played a role in the earliest history of the Shire as the home of the convict, pioneer and civic leader Thomas Sweeney (and the Sweeney family of farmers) and as the site of the first meetings of the Catholic community in Eltham (Criteria A, B & H).

The surrounding gardens are historically and aesthetically significant because they were designed by two noted garden designers, Edna Walling and Ellis Stones (Criteria E & H). Also because they form part of a significant farm and landscape setting, complete with orchard, windbreak, grazed paddocks, extended driveway, heated glasshouse, outbuildings and ornamental garden; this farmed landscape is a reminder of the area's past as a small farming community and is significant as the last landscape of its type in the Eltham township (Criteria A, B & E).

The mature trees identified are aesthetically significant as good examples of their species (Criterion E).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992; Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 1997;
Construction dates	1858, 1939, 1952, 1850, 1890, 1930, 1950, 1952,
Architect/Designer	Martin, Marcus,

Other Names                                1 Culla Hill, Eltham, SWEENEY'S LN, ELTHAM,  
Hermes Number                            104520  
Property Number

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## Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

8,12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

EARLY SETTLEMENT

FARMING

PROMINENT RESIDENTS

PRIVATE PLANTING

## Physical Description 1

Site Components:

- 1) SWEENEY'S COTTAGE, 2) BARN, 3) GLASSHOUSE, 4) GOLDEN ASH TREE(, Fraxinus excelsior "Aurea",
- 5) LEMON SCENTED GUM - ('Eucalyptus citriodora'), 6) PEAR - ('Pyrus communis'),
- 7) PINOAK TREES- ('Quercis palustris') 8) YELLOW BOX TREES - ('Eucalyptus melliodora'),
- 9) OTHER MATURE PLANTING AND 10) GARDEN

The brick Cottage and stone barn remain, the former extensively altered and absorbed into extensive 1952 additions.

House

Style original section or house colonial. Barn Victorian utilitarian.

Designs standard.

Plans rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls house and barn solid brick, barn remaining face brick.

Roofs house hipped with no eaves, originally shingle clad, now cement tiles. Barn gabled with no eaves, corrugated iron clad.

**Features:** Simple design, modest scale, verandah under main roof and cedar interior joinery. The extensive additions dominate the original building and the interior has been gutted.

## Barn

Style 19th century.

Design utilitarian.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls solid local sandstone of gabled with no eaves, corrugated iron clad.

Features are the sandstone construction, simple design and form, central front doors and the Burston metal plaque fixed to the wall.

## Glass House

Style utilitarian.

Design standard.

Plan rectangular.

Single storied.

Framed all glass walls and gabled roof.

## Individually identified trees

Golden Ash - situated in front of the residence, this tree is a large example of the species, being 12-15 metres in height, with a 15 metre canopy spread, and is a major feature of the garden, particularly in autumn.

Lemon-scented Gum - is a large twin-trunked tree which was also part of the plantings recommended by Edna Walling during the early 1950s. It is approximately 20 metres in height and has a trunk diameter of around 300mm.

Pear Tree - is a very large tree east of the original house and its siting indicates that it was part of the Cottage's garden over 100 years ago. The Pear is about 10 metres in height and canopy spread, and has a trunk diameter of around 100mm. A large Yellow Jasmine (*Jasminum mesneyi*) overgrows the Pear tree.

Yellow Box tree - is a very large and probably remnant indigenous tree and is situated on the road edge of the property at the North East corner of the site. The only remnant tree in the grounds, the Yellow Box dominates the approach to Sweeneys Cottage along the Lane. It is over 25 metres in height and has a trunk diameter of more than 1 metre.

## Garden

The garden is approached by a long driveway through a mixed tree planting. This retains the quality of a rural farm. Timber fences line the drive behind extensive tree planting. The eastern boundary runs against Sweeneys Lane with a mixed planting of hedge plants and evergreen trees. The house faces east with a lawn to the front of it. The north garden accommodates the gravel drive sweeping to the house with a small formal garden to the eastern side and a lawn edged by trees to the west. A path leads to the front door of the extensive additions designed by prominent Architect Marcus Martin.

South of the house the land falls away quite quickly to the River Yarra. A small orchard occupies this slope with apples, mulberry and figs and to the west a *Cupressus macrocarpa* windbreak. West of the house is an extensive and handsome pergola which also crosses the north of the house. This is clad with a fine mature wisteria. A swimming pool occupies a lower level to the west, below the pergola and to the west of this; sloping paddocks lead the eye into the distance and down to the riverside meadows. The land-form, tree plantings and general character of this area and its relation to the house is entirely picturesque, full of charm and contributes a significant element to the history of Eltham. North of the swimming pool is a heated conservatory.

## Usage/Former Usage

Original and Continuing Use: House

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*