
HO201 - Lee house and Gossip Tree (red box), 1533 Eltham Yarra Glen Road CHRISTMAS HILLS



O201 - Lee house and Gossip Tree (red box), - House street elevation, with gabled wing at rear



O201 - Lee house and Gossip Tree (red box), - Plan prepared from recent aerial image

Location

1533 Eltham Yarra Glen Road CHRISTMAS HILLS, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO201

Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 1, 2009

HERITAGE VALUE 2005: Local

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

What is significant?

Fabric & trees associated with:

- the Victorian & Edwardian-eras
- Annie Lee/Powderly, Charles Young tenure

How is it significant?

Lee house and Gossip Tree (red box) are locally significant historically and socially:

Why is it significant?

Lee house and Gossip Tree (red box) are significant:

- for the relative age of the house and associated distinctive detailing (Criterion 82)
- for the associations of the house complex with the local pioneering Young family and, later the Jorgensen family as part of a local meeting place (Criterion A4, G1)
- for the value given to house and tree by the local community, the tree being known by local historians as a meeting place and coach stop over an extended period (Criterion G1).
- part of a locally significant building group, including the former post office, mechanics institute and war memorial, each having had a major role in the local community (Criterion A4, G1).

Hermes Number 118817

Property Number

Physical Description 1

DESCRIPTION

The house consists of two main wings. The older wing is a low verandahed and gabled two-room section on the east end of the road facade, with a ridge line parallel to the road, and the younger, a gabled one-room wing on the west end, with a gable end facing the road complete with carved finial. Both have walls clad with square edge weatherboard (some replaced recently on the west wing) and roofs with corrugated iron. The timber verandah posts on the east wing are stop-chamfered, the valance in a scalloped profile (used generally on the building for barges to old and new wings), and the gutter a half-round section: all typical of early construction. The older east wing has an attached brick chimney on the east end and both wings have double-hung six-pane sash windows. A Victorian-era half-glazed door is used at the front and on one of the side entry points.

Inside the older section has sheet wall cladding where there may have been papered hessian or similar. The west wing has a chamfered profile ceiling with red pine T&G bead edge lining, as have the walls.

What was once a gabled weatherboard clad detached kitchen, with attached brick chimney, has been joined to the house by the construction of a skillion roof, Tudoresque style section of two rooms. The cladding and detailing generally match the earlier building, with double-hung sash windows two trellised porches, moulded architraves, use of an Edwardian-era door (east side) and a matching broad attached brick chimney (added?). This fire place is fitted with a cast-iron one fire stove internally. . A large cemented dome-top underground tank is located to the north-west of the house. At the east side of the block is a recent adobe building ..

Physical Description 2

Red box

A large red box (*E. polyanthemus* ssp 'vestita') stands in the road reserve, measuring about 25m high and 3m diameter at 1.5m above ground. It is reputedly an early meeting place in Christmas Hills as the coach stopping place and sited opposite the post office, as the only major shade tree.

Integrity

Integrity

The house underwent rear extensions and some change in detail under the Montsalvat Trust ownership, blurring the period expression of the house by use of matching or period elements externally. Windows have been added to the east wing, east end. A skillion roof wing has been added to the west end of the west wing although the weatherboards are continuous across both sections on the north face; Victorian-era doors are used externally on this room.

Physical Description 3

Tree

The tree is in the road reserve. It has recently dropped some limbs but appears in fair health. There is a small section of Lyctid borer on a scar caused by a recent car accident: this is unlikely to harm the tree but some form of barrier (boulders?) located at the drip line may deter similar accidents.

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/>