
Former Williamstown Morgue



Former Williamstown Morgue,
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study
2006

Location

Ann Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Williamstown Morgue, designed by James Balmain and originally constructed by HR Thomas and HR Hunt in 1859 and reconstructed on its present site c.1874, at Ann Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Williamstown Morgue is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it was Williamstown's only morgue and second oldest public building and is believed to be the earliest surviving morgue in the metropolitan area. (AHC criteria A4 and B2)

Aesthetically, it is a simple, early and near original public building, one of the few in the metropolitan area, which uses a relatively uncommon construction material (stone) and illustrates its use and the special requirements of the town by elements of the design and siting near the original shoreline. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Note: The Williamstown Morgue is also of State significance and is included on the Victorian Heritage Register as VHR H1512.

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Other Names (Ports & Harbours Store),
Hermes Number 14970
Property Number

Physical Description 1

The former Williamstown Morgue is a rectangular-plan coursed basalt rubble, corrugated iron clad and hipped roof building, with a key stoned arch entrance and quarry faced voussoirs and quoins. One elevation only is visible from Ann Street; other diverse structures having been adjoined to the other sides, covering other openings (3).

The internal bluestone walls have been white washed but all paneled doors, hasp, stables, hinges and timber roof framework are original. The original use of this building is reflected in the location of window openings, as they are set high above ground level, thus concealing the processes of the morgue from the external public. Its siting also reflects its original use as it is in close proximity to the port.

Rainwater plumbing has changed; the entry door and top light appear to have been replaced; the slate roof replaced with iron; incompatible structures have been joined to it (formerly free standing in both locations); and openings closed in.

Integrity

External Integrity and condition

Integrity - Moderate. Condition - Fair

Historical Australian Themes

Developing local, regional and national economies

Physical Description 2

Associations

Victorian Colonial Government, Dr. Wilkins, Williamstown Council, William Bull

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/>