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# CAROLINE CHISHOLM SHELTER SHEDS

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## Location

658 OLD CALDER HIGHWAY KEILOR, BRIMBANK CITY

## Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-0131

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO129

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 30, 2010

Place data has been updated as a result of the Outer Western Metro Project, Context, March 2010.

An 1856 plan of the Keilor site shows four buildings on the site including a large shed measuring approximately 21m x 4m, a kitchen at its rear, a 'privy' and a stable block.

Interpretation of Site The site is now cleared and graded. A bluestone drain recorded in 1992 has since been removed or buried through landscaping works associated with the creation of a berm around the southern and eastern edge of the site, although some blue stone was visible amongst the vegetation suggesting that the drain may have been disturbed. A scatter of brick and stone debris recorded at this time is still visible at the south east corner of the site.

Parch marks and depressions suggest that sub-surface archaeological features survive within the site.

Archaeological Significance The site was subjected to excavation in 1992. Artefacts were recovered and, although few structural remains were encountered, the work appeared to indicate that there was potential for the survival of sub-surface deposits within the site.

The 2000 Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study concluded that the Keilor example has possibly the greatest archaeological potential of all of the known Caroline Chisholm shelter sites.

Historical Significance The site is of high historical significance because of its association with Caroline Chisholm and the gold rush.

Other Names CHISHOLM SHELTER SHEDS KEILOR,

Hermes Number 8777

Property Number

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## History

During Victoria's gold rushes in the 1850s, Caroline Chisholm developed a system of providing cheap and safe accommodation for families of travellers on their way to the diggings, as well as immigrants who had just arrived in the colony. Situated at strategic points along the Mount Alexander Road, the first facilities were open for travellers in November 1855 and included sheds for single men and women, sheds for families and cookhouses. Having been Prior to the construction of the sheds, the Keilor site was occupied by a police station, and when the sheds were no longer in use the site was purchased from the Crown in 1906 by Patrick Donnelly, who is thought to have been the local shed keeper for some years, and occupied as a permanent home.

*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/>*