

---

# FIRE BELL AT FIRE STATION, 909 MAIN RD, ELTHAM



Fire Bell at Fire Station 909  
Main Road Eltham - Shire of  
Eltham Study 1992

---

## Location

909 MAIN RD ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO129

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 7, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

**What is significant?**

The c1933 fire bell and the surrounding site to a radius of 10 metres.

**How is it significant?**

The fire bell is historically and technically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

**Why is it significant?**

The fire bell is historically significant as a rare example of an iron bell cast in Victoria and because it played an important part in the community life of Eltham in the earlier part of the 20th century (Criterion B). The fire bell is historically significant because it was taken from an earlier Eltham fire station and is a reminder of the growth and development of the emergency services in the area (Criterion A). The bell is technically significant because it illustrates the development of a manufacturing technology which has largely disappeared (Criteria B & D).

**BICK STUDY, 1992**

This bell presumably survives from a previous Eltham fire station and is a quite rare example of an iron bell cast in Victoria and thus illustrates the development of a manufacturing technology which has almost certainly disappeared since. Bells such as this were closely associated with community life during the 19th and early 20th centuries in Victoria including schools, churches, clocks, trains, trams and were particularly strongly associated with fire and other emergencies. During the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries, most if not all fire stations had bells to warn of fire.

**BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

HISTORY

RARITY

TECHNOLOGY

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: BELL AND SITE TO A RADIUS OF 10 METRES

Heritage Study/Consultant Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;

Construction dates 1933, 1970,

Hermes Number 104359

Property Number

---

**Usage/Former Usage**

Original Use: Fire Station Bell

Present Use: Disused - on display in front of fire station

**Physical Description 2**

Manufacturer: Smith Phillips Dawson

Cast into Bell = CF 33 Smith Phillips & Dawson Makers Melbourne (CF Country Fire 1933 or Country Fire Authority 1933?)

## Historical Australian Themes

3.16.1 Dealing with hazards and disasters

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

*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/>*