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# ELTHAM POLICE QUARTERS & REAR STABLE (FORMER),



277 - Portable Timber Lock Up Eltham -  
Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



277 - Portable Timber Lock Up Eltham  
02 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



277 - Portable Timber Lock Up Eltham  
03 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



277 - Portable Timber Lock Up Eltham  
04 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992

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## Location

728 Main Road ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1539

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO122

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 7, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

#### What is significant?

The former police quarters, Eltham are part of a larger police complex designed by the Public Works Department and built by Langridge, Wright and Witney in 1859-60. The original single storey residence consisting of five rooms is constructed of brick and has a projecting front room and a timber verandah. Subsequent additions have been constructed of weatherboards. Following the relocation of police operations in 1952, the residence was used as the local office of the Lands Department and more recently as offices for the local council's Parks and Environment Section. The original single stall brick stables building with loft, built in 1859-60, is located at the rear of the residence but has been substantially altered. The original two-cell bluestone lockup was demolished c1950s. The existing detached weatherboard building, located close to the residence, is a c1980s replica of the original police office which was located in the same position but was initially relocated to the rear of the site but subsequently demolished.

A late 19th century or early 20th century portable timber lockup has recently been relocated to the site from Youth Road, Eltham- see also HO67 (The portable lock up was formerly HO174 in the Nillumbik planning scheme).

#### How is it significant?

The former police quarters, Eltham is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

The late 19th or early 20th century portable timber lockup is historically, technically and aesthetically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

#### Why is it significant?

The former police quarters, Eltham, together with the brick stables, are historically significant for their early date of construction. The buildings are important for their relationship with the nearby courthouse which together form an example of an early justice precinct (Criteria A & B) The residence and stables are also important for their association with the earliest development of Eltham township (Criteria A). The former police quarters, Eltham is architecturally significant as one of the earliest examples of police buildings erected throughout Victoria in the mid nineteenth century. The simple detailing and lack of ornament are important features as they reflect the building's utilitarian function and demonstrate an important period in the development of the Public Works Department (Criteria F).

The portable timber lockup is historically significant because there are only a few similar structures in Victoria (Criteria B). It is historically, aesthetically and technically significant because it was designed to be cheap, effective and mobile and features: vertical framing members and an iron bar covered window (Criteria A, F & E).

#### BUTLER STUDY, 2001

The former Eltham police quarters is of State significance (historically, socially and aesthetically,):

. it is one of four Victorian police quarters known to survive in-situ from the large number of police residences built in the peak era of Public Works Department construction of 1859, prior to a long period of relative inactivity. It expresses an important phase of building which sought to establish the physical presence of centralised control over law and order in the colony after the 1852 Snodgrass Committee Report on the Victorian police force and the resulting 1853 'Police Regulation Act ';

' it is (with the Heidelberg and Kilmore quarters) the oldest masonry (stone & brick) example, and among a small number of similarly aged examples, of a building type and form which was largely built of timber outside of Melbourne and was still used for police residence construction well into the 1880s;

. its construction reflects (for its type) the great wealth gained by the community during the 1850s gold-era and

the major boost in population which required and could pay for a permanent police presence in new locations;  
. it was among the first group of quarters built to promote a new domestic image of the Victorian Police Force, in place of the quasi-militaristic image which had been blamed for provoking gold-field unrest.

The former Eltham Police Quarters is also of Metropolitan significance because:

- the police quarters and attendant court house were among the very few combinations of this kind (quarters and court house) built in Melbourne's suburbs during the 1850's -60's, underscoring the importance of Eltham as an early and significant locality near Melbourne for its strategic position on the gold tracks going north;
- the Eltham Police Quarters, with Heidelberg, are the oldest known police residences in the Metropolitan Area.

The former Eltham Police Quarters is of significance to the Nillumbik Shire because:

- it (with the court house) is the oldest public building in the Nillumbik Shire;
- its sitting on the old town reserve, complements other early buildings in the vicinity and together they underscore this part of Eltham's role in the early history of the Shire;
- it has played a public role in the keeping of law and order and many other functions over an extended period in the district and is still recognised in the area for its antiquity.

The rear stable is one of just two 19th century stable buildings in the Municipality (the other being the local stone one at Sweeney's Cottage in Sweeney's Lane).

**BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

**ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES**

**HISTORY**

**ARCHITECTURE**

**STREETSCAPE**

**DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE: STATE SIGNIFICANCE**

**EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: ALL OF BOTH BUILDINGS, REAR STABLE, DETACHED REPLICA TIMBER BUILDING**

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;
Construction dates	1800,
Hermes Number	104535
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

Residence

Style/era mid Victorian.

Design standard.

Plan rectangular, with projecting front room and timber verandah beside it.

Single storeyed.

Walls solid face brick.

Roof hipped with front gable and shallow eaves. Features are the projecting front room and timber front verandah, the chimneys, multi-pane windows, the simple design and the stable.

Stable

Style Victorian utilitarian.

Design standard.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed with loft.

Walls solid face brick.

Roof gabled with no eaves, corrugated iron clad. Features are the simple design. The building has been variously unsympathetically altered.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Original Use: Police residence

Later use: Lands Department's local office

## **Historical Australian Themes**

7.6 Administering Australia

7.6.3 Policing Australia

7.6.5 Incarcerating People

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/>*