

# MONTSALVAT



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham - Main (south) Facade of the Great Hall, photographed in 1949? - NOTE the secondhand windows, slate roof and the local stone walls - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 05 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 05 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 06 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 07 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 09 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 11 - 1949? Photograph of the first building constructed for the Montsalvat Artists Colony - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 12 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



133 - Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave Eltham 13 - 1949? Photograph showing the swimming pool and behind, the great hall still being constructed - NOTE the visible construction of the side wall of the swimming pool building - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Montsalvat Hillcrest Ave  
Eltham 05 - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992

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## Location

7-15 HILLCREST AVENUE ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0716

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO82

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### ***What is significant?***

The pre-1934 buildings used as a painting studio, gallery and store. All buildings and other structures on the site constructed between 1935 and 1972, including the 1937 students' quarters and studio, the 1938 great hall and gallery, the 1942 store, the 1942 stable near the animal yards, the 1943 Skippers' wood turning studio, the enamelling studio and residence, the 1946 craft shop, the 1954 painting, enamelling jewellery and leadlight studios, the 1954 foundry, the 1954 greenhouse, the 1957 jewellery shop, the 1957 joinery shop, the 1958 stalls near the animal paddock, the 1960 painting studio, the 1960 leadlight studio, the 1961 metal spinning studio, and the 1961 garage.

The c1920 Camellia (*Camellia Japonica*), and the c1940 Cork Oak tree (*Quercus Suber*).

(see also VHR HO716)

### **How is it significant?**

Montsalvat is historically, technically, architecturally, aesthetically, socially and spiritually significant to the State of Victoria.

The Camellia (*Camellia Japonica*) and the Cork Oak Tree (*Quercus Suber*) are historically and aesthetically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Montsalvat complex is historically significant because it was established in 1934 by the noted artist and architect Justus Jorgensen. Sigmund Jorgensen (Justus' younger son) continues to take an active role in the management of the site (Criteria G & H). Past members of the Montsalvat community include: Phil Taffe (joiner and cabinet maker), Horrie Judd (builder), Ken Howard, Clifton Pugh (painter), Myra Skipper (jeweller), Helen Skipper (painter), Mervyn Skipper (novelist and journalist), Leslie Sinclair (painter), Len French (painter), Arthur Munday (builder) and Bert Tucker (painter) (Criterion H). Montsalvat is historically and socially significant because through its teachings it has continued to influence the many artists who made their home in the Eltham district. Today Montsalvat still operates as an artist's colony and is home to the noted jeweller Matcham Skipper (Criteria A, H & G).

Many of the buildings (including the great hall, the students quarters and studio, the stable near the animal yard and the Skipper's wood turning studio, enamelling studio and residence) were designed by Justus Jorgensen in Gothic and/or vernacular styles using mud brick and recycled materials. The buildings form a precinct that resembles an English/European manor house (the great hall being the manor) with a series of outbuildings constructed over time. Jorgensen's choice of materials was later to have a profound influence on the development of the 'Eltham-style' of architecture for which the Shire is famous (Criteria A, E & F). The scale of Montsalvat, the range of vernacular architectural styles employed in its design and the heavy use of recycled materials was unique in Victoria at the time (Criterion B).

The Camellia is historically and aesthetically significant because it is unusual for its age (about 90 years) and size (Criteria B & E).

The Cork Oak tree is historically and aesthetically significant because it is associated with the Montsalvat complex and community and because the species is relatively uncommon in Victoria (Criteria B & E).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;
Construction dates	1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1942, 1942, 1960, 1960, 1961, 1961, 1970, 1934, 1943, 1946, 1954, 1957, 1957, 1958,
Hermes Number	63347
Property Number	

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## **Historical Australian Themes**

DISTINCTIVE ELTHAM

BUILDING STYLES

ARTISTS AND THE ELTHAM LANDSCAPE

EMERGENCE OF AN ELTHAM LIFESTYLE

PROMINENT RESIDENTS

3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction

8.10.2 Creating visual arts

8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **Physical Description 1**

Montsalvat contains a complex of buildings constructed in a range of materials, including mud brick, stone, brick nog and timber. The group nearest to Hillcrest Avenue have a variety of designs and materials-and form a loose courtyard and entrance -to the main building containing the Great Hall. The main building is constructed in sandstone, with a slate roof and contains three storeys. The original mud brick house is on the east side of the Great Hall.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Original and later Use: Artists Colony

*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/>*