

ELTHAM COURT HOUSE, former, 730 MAIN ROAD, ELTHAM



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 02 - 1949? photograph showing the court house, previous/original timber picket fence, site planting and the police residence chimneys - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 03 - Setting of the court house and police residence during the late 19th/early 20th century (ELHPC NO. 628 & 629) - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 04 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 05 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 06 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



199 - Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham 07 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Colour 1 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Colour 2 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Colour 3 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Colour 4 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Black & White 1 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Black & White 2 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



Court House 730 Main Rd Eltham Colour 5 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992

Location

730 MAIN ROAD ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0784

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO123

Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 7, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

What is significant?

The former c1860 court house, its fittings, furnishings and the mature exotic planting and the surrounding site to the title boundaries.

How is it significant?

The courthouse is historically and aesthetically significant to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The court house is historically significant as the oldest public building remaining in Eltham together with the former police station (HO122), as one of the earliest 'suburban' court houses in greater Melbourne and because there are only six remaining examples of similar small brick country houses (with small projecting entry porches

and a gabled form) in Victoria (Criteria A & B). The court house is historically significant because its construction was intended to emphasise the centralised control over law and order in the colony in the wake of the 1852 Snodgrass committee report and the resulting *Police Regulation Act (1853)* (Criterion A). The court house is historically and aesthetically significant as a fine example of a mid 19th century brick rural court house constructed in the immediate aftermath of the gold rush (Criteria D & E and because, together with the former police station, it forms a major part of an important historic civic group in the Shire (Criteria A & E). The court house is aesthetically significant because it is of a modest scale and features: Italianate style eaves and exposed timber purlin ends, symmetrically placed central front porch with its round headed top-lit front door, an oculi gable end vent, twelve pane window, plinth and chimney (Criterion E).

BUTLER STUDY, 2001

The former Eltham Court of Petty Sessions is significant to Victoria, Nillumbik Shire and the metropolitan area:

- . as one of the earliest 'suburban' court houses in Greater Melbourne;
- . as a fine example of a mid 19th century brick rural court house (with furnishings) from the first boom period of Colonial law and order in the immediate aftermath of a police inquiry and the effects of the gold rush - 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 ';
- . as one of two 1850s police quarters and court houses combinations to survive from this period;
- . as the only 19th century court house in the Nillumbik Shire;
- . for its important associations with the early, history of the Eltham township, its use for Eltham Road Board meetings and later school accommodation. { 2};
- . as the oldest public building remaining in Eltham; and
- . (with the adjoining former police station)'as a major part of an important historic civic group in the Shire.

BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES

HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

STREETSCAPE

SOCIAL

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE:STATE SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

ENTIRE BUILDING, FITTINGS, FURNISHINGS, MATURE EXOTIC PLANTING AND SITE

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;
Construction dates	1859,
Hermes Number	63590
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Style/era mid Victorian.

Design standard.

Plan rectangular with projecting front porch.

Single storeyed.

Walls solid face brick with quoins.

Roofs gabled with eaves, slate clad.

Features are the modest scale of the building, the Italianate style eaves and exposed timber purlin ends, symmetrically placed central front porch with its round headed top lit front door, oculi gable end vent, twelve pane windows, plinth and chimney.

This court house and the police station nearby represent the surge in police and court building after a review of the police presence in the Colony and the effects on the population and its distribution caused by the gold rush. A similar era complex once existed in Heidelberg (now only the police station and a later court house) but otherwise these structures were mainly located in the many rural areas affected by gold.

The National Trust of Australia citation is as follows (as of 1998):

An example of the simple form of early brick courthouse with gabled roof and porch constructed in 1860.

Usage/Former Usage

Original Use: Court of Petty Sessions

Other Uses: Eltham Road Board meetings, Road Board Secretary's office (1860s), Overflow classroom for Dalton Street School (1875)

Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

7.6.4 Dispensing justice

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/>