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## Eltham South Preschool Centre



Eltham South Kindergarden  
Colour 2 - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



Eltham South Kindergarden  
Colour 1 - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



Eltham South Kindergarden  
Colour 3 - Shire of Eltham  
Heritage Study 1992



Eltham South Preschool  
Centre

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### Location

35 Fordhams Road ELTHAM, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

### Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO202

### Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### ELTHAM STUDY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Crowned by its large and unique roof-top sculpture; this building is a good example of The Eltham idiom of design during the 1960's, 1970's. Features of the refined design include the triangular floor plan, quite steeply pitched slate roof, eaves, open eastern end, timber windows and the use of second-hand bricks.

### REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (with AHC criteria):

Eltham South Preschool Centre is significant to the Nillumbik Shire:

- as one of the best publicised examples of the Eltham Style as practiced by architects after WW2;
- as a good example of the Eltham Style, with its unusual plan and elevation, use of second hand materials, and integration of sculpture into the design;
- for its association with Charles Duncan a well known and prolific practitioner in the Frank Lloyd Wright architectural idiom;
- for its role as a public building over a long period, being one of the first of a group of organic styled post WW2 public and commercial buildings in the Nillumbik Shire.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study 2001, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 2001;
Other Names	Eltham South kindergarten,
Hermes Number	64124
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### ELTHAM STUDY DESCRIPTON:

Only building on the site - extensive native planting.

Style Eltham style.

Design unique.

Plan triangular.

Single storey.

Walls re-used Hawthorn type face bricks.

Roof pitched slate clad roof with wide eaves.

Features are the roof-top metal sculpture, open east end and corner brick details.

REVISED OR EXTENDED DESCRIPTION:

(S.W. CNR. METERY & FORDHAMS ROADS) The prismatic form of the building preceded the organic forms of the Sapir House and the brick and timber character of the construction was in keeping with Duncan's other contemporary designs. More typically he followed the organic architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright but this example differs from the more rectilinear plans of his other work.

Crowned by its large roof-top sculpture, this building is a good example of the Eltham idiom of design during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Features of the design include the triangular floor plan, steeply pitched slate roof, deep eaves, open eastern end, timber windows and the use of second-hand bricks. The use of three-dimensional sculpture as part of the architecture was unusual at that time, Matcham Skipper being the best known practitioner of this type of work, often taking the form of mandalas placed against walls.

## **Integrity**

Externally substantially intact/some intrusions

## **Physical Conditions**

Externally good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

## **Historical Australian Themes**

ELTHAM LIFESTYLE, SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

*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/>*