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## Wattle Glen railway 50hz electricity substation



Wattle Glen railway 50hz electricity substation Colour 2



Wattle Glen railway 50hz electricity substation Colour 1



Wattle Glen railway 50hz electricity substation

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### Location

549-557 HEIDELBERG-KINGLAKE ROAD WATTLE GLEN, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

### Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO207

### Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

ELTHAM STUDY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

This substation illustrates the process of improvement of the Hurstbridge branch railway line during the mid 20th century in response to population growth in the area and increasing sophistication in the use of electricity by the Victorian railways. The Melbourne to Eltham line was the last line to be completed in the first phase of the electrification of the Melbourne suburban rail network in 1912. (Geoffrey B Churchman, Railway Electrification in

Australia and New Zealand, IPL Books; Sydney, 1995,} Siting of the first 1929 substation at the end of the line in Hurstbridge (itself built because the mains supply was inadequate<sup>1a</sup>) was found to be unsatisfactory over time and compounded by the increasing demand for electricity, leading to the construction of the present substation which is about half the physical size of the first one, reflecting advances in technology over that period. The quality of design in the exterior of the building itself illustrates the importance of the Victorian Railways during that period and the ethic of the time that an utilitarian structure such as this should still have a pleasing appearance.

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

The Wattle Glen 50hz substation is significant to the Shire of Nillumbik:

- because it illustrates the process of improvement of the Hurstbridge branch railway line and the whole metropolitan distribution system during the immediate post WW2 period in response to greater rail traffic from the population growth in the area and a bid for increased efficiency in the use of electricity by the Victorian railways and Australian industry (Criterion A4);
- it is one of two railway substations in the Shire, being examples of an uncommon building type in the State (Criterion B2);
- the construction is near half the physical size of the 1929 substation, reflecting advances in technology over that period (Criterion A4, F1);
- the quality of design in the exterior of the building itself illustrates the importance of the Victorian Railways during that period and the ethic of the time that even an utilitarian structure should be architect designed and reflect prevailing fashion (Criterion A4, F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study 2001, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 2001;
Other Names	Railway Electricity Substation,
Hermes Number	64135
Property Number	

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### **Physical Description 1**

ELTHAM STUDY DESCRIPTON:

Style 1950s.

Design standard.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls solid cream face brickwork, parapeted.

Roof flat.

Features are the cream face brickwork cement rendered details and the rainwater heads. It is not known if any of the original equipment remains at the place.

REVISED OR EXTENDED DESCRIPTON:

The substation is a rectilinear parapeted form clad with cream brick with ventilation grills access doors, adjoining chain wire enclosed transformer yard and overhead line connection to a nearby steel pole. The architectural stylism revolves around its simplicity and expressed circular and rectangular vents in the end wall, following the tradition of domestic and industry supply substations through the years where prevailing fashions provided a thin layer of architectural treatment over a simple masonry box. Nevertheless these buildings are often distinctive within their environs, being one of a kind in each locality. Some immature Bhutan cypress may be part of a planned landscape setting at one end.

*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/>*