
Former Camel Stables



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Location

Dallas Brookes Drive,, SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141 - Property No B6772

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 6, 2005

Statement of Significance: This unusual building constructed in 1859 for the Botanic Gardens to house camels for the trans-Australia expedition (which was to be led by Burke and Wills) is significant at state level for its historical and architectural values.

The building is constructed of large externally exposed principal parts apparently directly set in the ground. These were secured with similar cross bracing in most bays. Notwithstanding the partial external cladding over this original structure, the large ventilation openings are still evident in part as are the very wide lining boards mounted inside the main structure. Original roof shingles are visible in one bay only but more may remain under the present corrugated steel roof. Despite the alterations and later covering it is still clearly a very careful and sophisticated design. Stripping the various recent coverings would reveal even more of the design which is likely to be fairly complete underneath.

Although designed for the camels of Burke and Wills expedition they were never housed there but instead alpacas took up residence in February 1859.

The importance of the building lies in its unusual design function and in its even more unusual initial use. It is probably the most tangible monument remaining of the ill fated Burke and Wills expedition as well a reminder of the unsuccessful attempt by Mueller to establish a display of "useful animals" in the Botanic Gardens.

Classified: 07/09/1998

The design is architecturally important because of the strong expression of the cross braced bays contrasting with the horizontal slatted ventilation strips. The gable end is further distinguished by a large oculus.

Hermes Number 64752

Property Number

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/>