

# POLICE GARAGE



POLICE GARAGE SOHE 2008



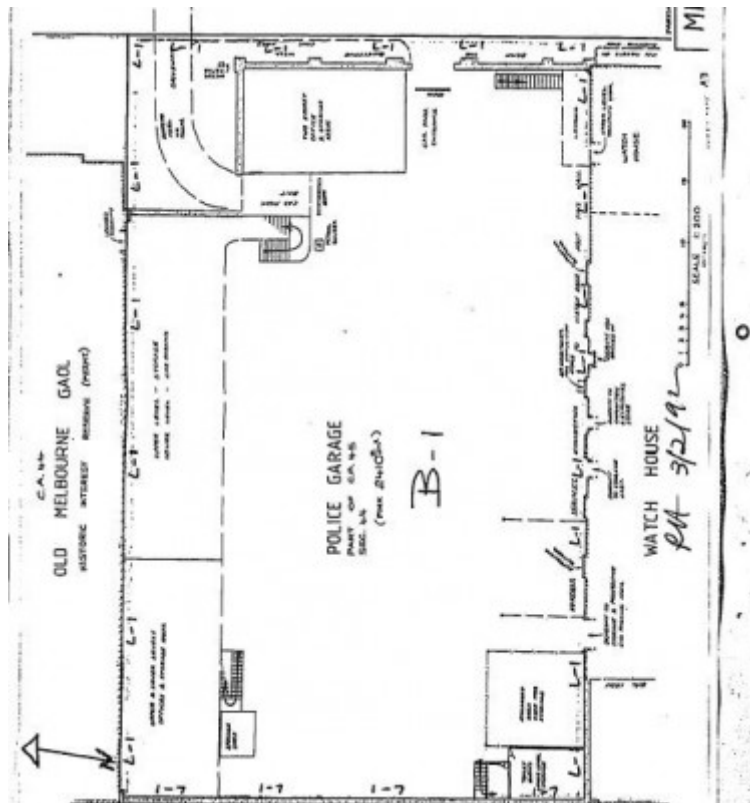
1 police garage russell street melbourne front view of entrance



police garage russell street melbourne detail of entrance



police garage russell street melbourne view of side of building



h00912 plan h0912

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## Location

357-375 RUSSELL STREET MELBOURNE, Melbourne City

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0912

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO486

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

April 1, 1992

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 1999

What is significant?

The former Police Garage in Russell Street was developed on the site of the Old Melbourne Gaol hospital from 1925. Temporary structures were erected on the area to the south of the surviving cell block and to the north of City Watch House. In 1937 all structures, excluding the existing bluestone gaol walls but including the surviving hospital, were demolished and a new structure was erected to designs signed off by Public Works Department chief architect Percy Everett. The garage was formed by the south wall of the surviving 1857 gaol block, the north wall of the 1908 City Watch House and by the bluestone walls, circa 1864, formerly surrounding the hospital to the east and west. A concrete slab floor carries steel columns supporting a sawtooth roof of corrugated cement sheets and tiles. Parapets added in 1937 hide the roof from street level. The area of the old gaol hospital was the one of the sites for the burial of executed prisoners. Several bodies were dug up during the 1937 building work and were transferred to Pentridge Prison.

How is it significant?

The former Police Garage is of historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Police Garage is historically significant as evidence of the important role the police played in the

continuing development of the area as a legal precinct. The juxtaposition of the garage to the former Russell Street Police Headquarters and the City Watch House provides a historical continuum of the development of the police force in Victoria. The garage is additionally significant for demonstrating the modernisation and motorisation of the police force in Victoria.

The former Police Garage is architecturally significant for its integration into the surviving fabric of the Old Melbourne Gaol complex. The walls are evidence of three different periods of the complex's construction. The architecture is significant for the integration of a modern 1930s lightweight sawtooth roof into the existing historic bluestone fabric.

The former Police Garage is archaeologically significant as a site that has the potential to reveal evidence of the original gaol hospital built in the early 1860s. It has additional archaeological significance as the burial site of prisoners executed at the gaol.

Construction dates	1937,
Architect/Designer	Everett, Percy,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	Former Police Garage,
Hermes Number	798
Property Number	

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## History

History of Place:  
In 1912 the Police Department constructed an extensive stables complex at the South Melbourne Police Depot in St Kilda Road. This was the twilight era of mounted policing as the automobile was about to replace the horse. The formation of the Police motor patrol unit in the early twentieth century brought significant changes to the nature of policing in Victoria, with new requirements and demands on the department. Thus only thirteen years after the stables were built, the Department took possession of the site formerly used by the Hospital of the Melbourne Gaol in Russell Street. A number of timber and corrugated iron structures were built in 1925 but the hospital itself survived, albeit with alterations including the removal of the verandah. The hospital was converted to offices. All works were to plans drawn up by Public Works Department architect A J Wood. In 1937 the remaining hospital structures were demolished and a free standing steel structure was built within the surviving bluestone walls on the site. The architect is tentatively given as Percy Everett, but he was in the habit of personally signing off all PWD drawings anyway. The area provided workshops and storage for motorcycles, cars and bicycles. In 1955 ten windows with precast reinforced concrete lintols were inserted into the Russell Street facade. Two similar windows were inserted in the west facade and four in the north facade next to a new doorway. The building use as a garage in 1995. (from Former Police Garage, RMIT Historic Legal Precinct, by Heritage Assets Branch BSA 1998)

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 912 - Police Garage, Russell Street, Melbourne - to the extent of:

1. The building known as the Police Garage, Russell Street, Melbourne marked B-1 on Plan 6035112, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.
2. All the land marked L-1 on Plan 6035112 being part of Crown Allotment 45 of section 44, Parish of Melbourne North, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G13 1 April 1992 p.789]

*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/>*