

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT | P39501
VCA PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING [BN 864]
[PART] VHR H1541 FORMER VICTORIA POLICE DEPOT
204-234 ST KILDA ROAD, SOUTHBANK



PREPARED FOR: The University of Melbourne
DATE: 20 May 2024
FILE: 2024-001

PROJECT TEAM

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Cover page image: Proposed Bridge View (H2o Architects, dwg A20.01)

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ATTACHMENT 1: VICTORIAN HERITAGE DATABASE REPORT FORMER VICTORIA POLICE DEPOT VHR H1541



SUMMARY

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT FOR:

[Part] Former Victoria Police Depot

VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER (VHR) NUMBER:

H1541

THIS HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT FORMS PART OF A PERMIT APPLICATION FOR:

The construction of a new external lift and pedestrian ramp from St Kilda Road to the VCA Performing Arts Building to provide universal access to, and within, the building. A services riser is incorporated into the new lift structure. Minor landscaping works is also required including the removal of one (1) tree.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING NUMBER:

Architectural drawings and photographs were provided to Heritage Victoria on 27 March 2024 and a pre-application response letter was received on 2 April 2024 [P31857], which requested that a full heritage permit be lodged under s.93 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

ADDRESS AND LOCATION DESCRIPTION:

The heritage place comprises the land and buildings that made up the former Victoria Police Depot (now part of the Victorian College of Arts (VCA)) and is located at 234 St Kilda Road, 1-39 Dodds Street and 148-170 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank.

The works only affect part of this large heritage place, that being the Performing Arts Building [University of Melbourne Building Number 864] constructed for the VCA between 1978-1980 to a design by Sir Roy Grounds.

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PART A: INTRODUCTION & HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

1 BACKGROUND

The Former Victoria Police Depot (VHR H1541) is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. The place retains its ongoing use as a public institution, albeit its former police uses have been replaced by tertiary education uses as part of the Victoria College of the Arts (VCA) campus, now the University of Melbourne Southbank Campus.

The VCA has operated from the site since 1973. The Performing Arts Building [BN864] addressing St Kilda Road was constructed between 1978-1980 to a design by acclaimed architect Sir Roy Grounds. This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) assesses the impacts of the proposed addition of an external lift and services core and pedestrian access ramp from St Kilda Road on the cultural heritage significance of the place.



Figure 1. Location map of the subject site (Source: Melway).

2 SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE HERITAGE PLACE

The Statement of Significance for the place (Victorian Heritage Database, attached in full to this HIS) includes a summary history for the whole heritage place.

2.1 Pre-contact occupation

The heritage place forms part of the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation and was frequented by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples.

2.2 Victoria Police Depot

After the region was colonised, the area of works formed part of a vacant area of land at the rear (west) of an ‘Emigrant’s Home’ established in the mid-nineteenth century by the Immigrants’ Aid Society. A hospital and superintendent’s cottage were built at the corner of St Kilda Road and Grant Street by 1868. These buildings



were repurposed for military and police uses in the early twentieth century. A parade ground was established on the vacant land to the west and remained in use after the construction of the Stables, Riding School and Drill Hall building.

After the region was colonised, the area of works formed part of a vacant area of land at the rear (west) of an 'Emigrant's Home' established in the mid-nineteenth century by the Immigrants' Aid Society. A hospital and superintendent's cottage were built at the corner of St Kilda Road and Grant Street by 1868. These buildings were repurposed for military and police uses in the early twentieth century. A parade ground was established on the vacant land to the west and remained in use after the construction of the Stables, Riding School and Drill Hall building.

By 1925, the land to the rear of the stables, drill hall and riding school was denoted on a plan of the site as 'training areas for horsemen'. A 1927 plan shows this area to be a 'parade ground' with horse yards situated alongside the stables and riding school buildings, and a row of tree plantings in between. These trees survived largely intact into the 1980s. A large grassed sports oval was also established in the centre of the depot at this time. Today, this is largely covered by the 'Southbank the Hub' building (formerly the Lenton Parr Music and Performing Arts building).

The parade ground and horse yards can be seen in a c. 1930s photograph of the site. The horse yards to the north of the drill hall and riding school comprise a substantial single-storey brick building, while the yards to the east of the stables comprise modest timber fenced areas. The ground appears to be laid with a sand or gravel material. Few changes to this area were made into the 1940s, as evidenced by a 1946 aerial showing the police depot.

By the end of the 1960s, the parade ground had been converted for use as a car park and the horse yards to the east of the stables had been relocated to the rear of the octagonal building. A number of sheds were also constructed within the area at the time. The 1920s tree plantings adjacent to the stables building remained.

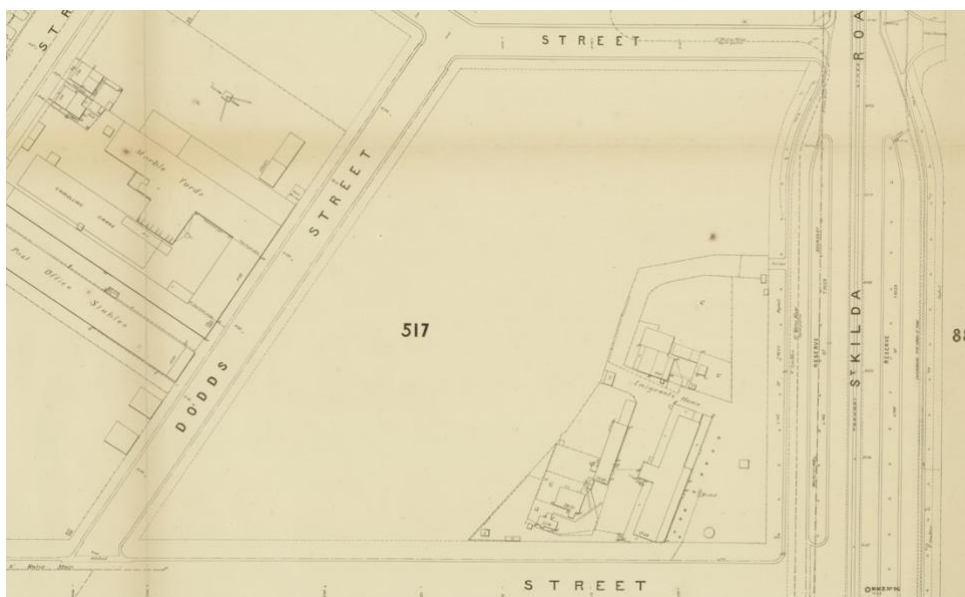


Figure 2. MMBW plan, dated 1895, showing the heritage place bounded by St Kilda Road, Dodds Street, Grant Street and Nolan Street (now Southbank Boulevard). (Source: State Library of Victoria (SLV), Detail Plan 516, 517, ID 1167400)



Figure 3. Historic photograph showing morning parade and roll call, c.1914-18. (Source: Australian War Memorial)



Figure 4. Historic photograph showing police lined up at the parade ground, c. 1930. (Source: Victoria Police Stables Complex, Mounted Branch photograph collection)

2.3 Victorian College of Arts

The Victorian College of the Arts has its origins in the National Gallery Art School, a private fine arts college established in 1867. Following the opening of the new National Gallery of Victoria on St Kilda Road in 1968, discussions commenced regarding an affiliation between the National Gallery Art School and the recently established Victoria Institute of Colleges. Founding director Lenton Parr envisaged a college comprising separate schools, which would operate for the most part free of non-art disciplines. The notion of incorporating the school into a multi-disciplinary College of the Arts gained the support of the State Government and on 1 January 1973 the National Gallery Art School officially became the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA).

The site chosen for the new VCA was the Victoria Police Depot located on St Kilda Road in Southbank. By the 1970s, many of the police operations had outgrown the St Kilda Road Police Depot. The VCA commenced its occupation of the site in 1973 as Victoria Police progressively relocated their training facilities to new Police Academy facilities in Glen Waverley. A building committee for the VCA was established and Sir Roy Grounds was commissioned to prepare a master plan for the campus, and to undertake the conversion of existing buildings on the site. The former Police Barracks (now the Elisabeth Murdoch Building [BN860]) served as the nucleus for the burgeoning college.



In 1986 Daryl Jackson was appointed to prepare a concept plan for the VCA. Completed in 1987, the concept plan envisioned the campus as an integral component of the Arts Precinct that had begun to take shape in Southbank, with its centrepiece as the National Gallery of Victoria. The concept plan focused on the acquisition of Crown land on the west side of Dodds Street. This land was progressively sold to the VCA from the 1990s. The VCA became an affiliated college of the University of Melbourne in 1988.

On 1 January 1992 further expansion of the VCA occurred when the fine arts programs of the former Faculty of Art and Design at Victoria College (formerly Prahran College of Advanced Education) were incorporated into the School of Art. In the same year, the Swinburne Film and Television School, established as Australia's first film school in 1966, also transferred to the VCA. The VCA School of Film and Television remained at Hawthorn until 1 July 1994 when it moved into a purpose-built building on the VCA campus.

The VCA became fully integrated with the University of Melbourne in 2007, becoming the Faculty of the Victorian College of Arts in 2007. The VCA was amalgamated with the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Music in 2009, becoming the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music, within which three schools were established: the School of Arts, the School of Music and the School of Performing Arts.

In 2016, the former Stables, Drill Hall and Riding School was refurbished to award-winning design by Kerstin Thompson Architect to provide theatre, exhibition, and studio spaces for VCA students.

2.4 Performing Arts Building

The VCA School of Dance was established in 1979. The School was originally accommodated in temporary premises in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy before being transferred to a new purpose-built building at the VCA campus in St Kilda Road, Southbank. In February 1978, concept drawings prepared by Grounds for the first new teaching buildings at the VCA, the School of Music and the School of Dance - now the Performing Arts Building. Grounds also designed the nearby National Gallery of Victoria (VHR H1499) in 1968.

Grounds' School of Dance building was completed in 1980. Comprising a series of cuboid forms of varying heights with rows of clerestory windows, angled roof forms, and a full-height glass window to the principal east elevation, the building was highly functional in its design. Milton Johnson & Partners were engaged as structural engineers for the project and VCA staff provided input into the design of the dance studios.





Figure 5. View of the newly established Victorian College of the Arts looking north towards Melbourne CBD in the mid-1970s, prior to the construction of the School of Music and School of Dance buildings (Source: *Creating: the Victorian College of the Arts*, 2000)

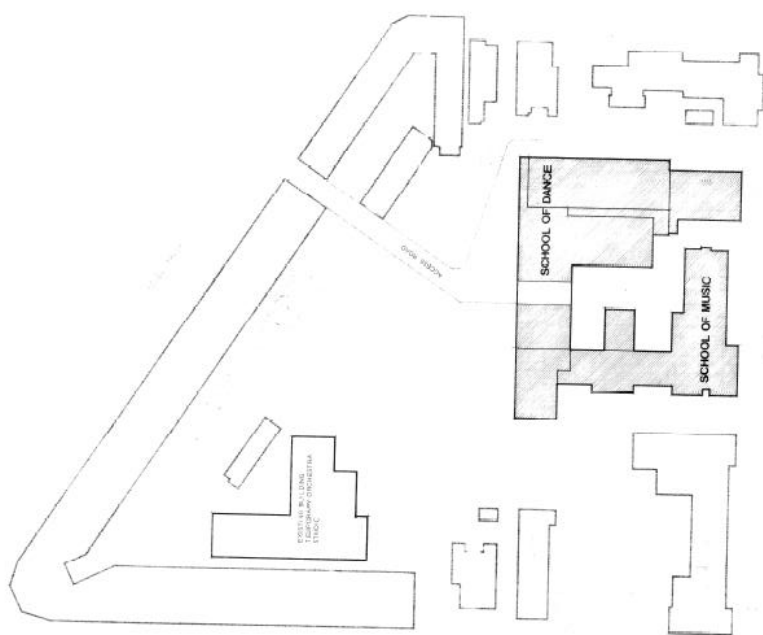


Figure 6. Site plan for VCA showing proposed new School of Dance and School of Music buildings, Roy Grounds, 1978 (Source: University of Melbourne Estate Portal Property Management System)

The School of Music and School of Dance were the first purpose-built buildings constructed for the VCA in Southbank. Prior to their construction, the VCA repurposed buildings formerly occupied by the Victoria Police. The official opening of the School of Dance building (together with the newly completed School of Music building, also designed by Grounds) took place on 10 March 1982 by His Excellency the Right Honourable Sir Zelman Cowan, Governor-General of Australia.



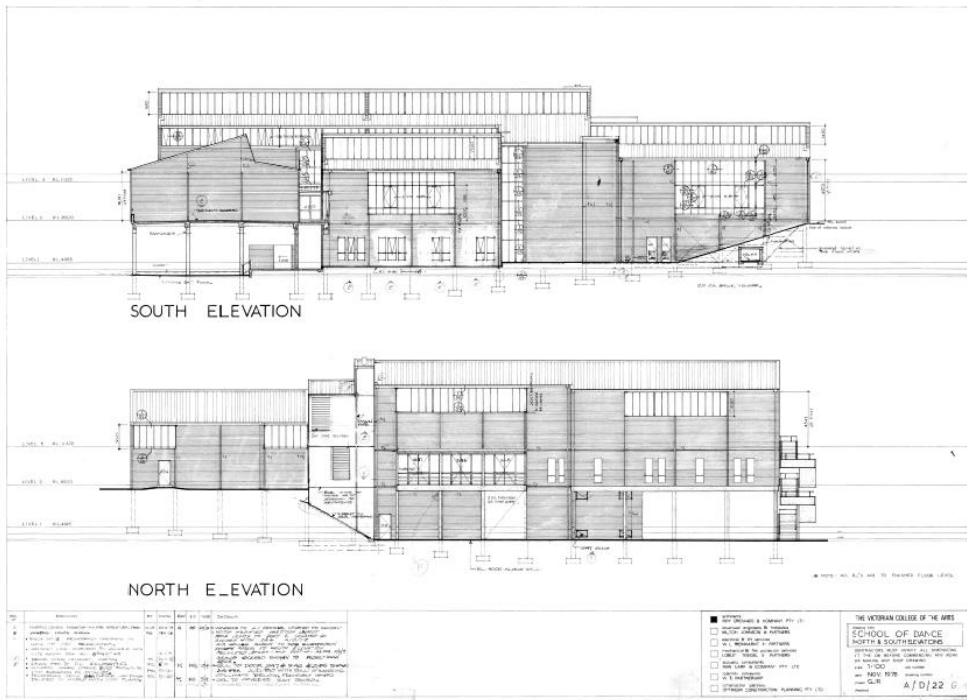


Figure 7. South and north elevations of the new School of Dance building designed by Roy Grounds, 1978 (Source: University of Melbourne Estate Portal Property Management System)

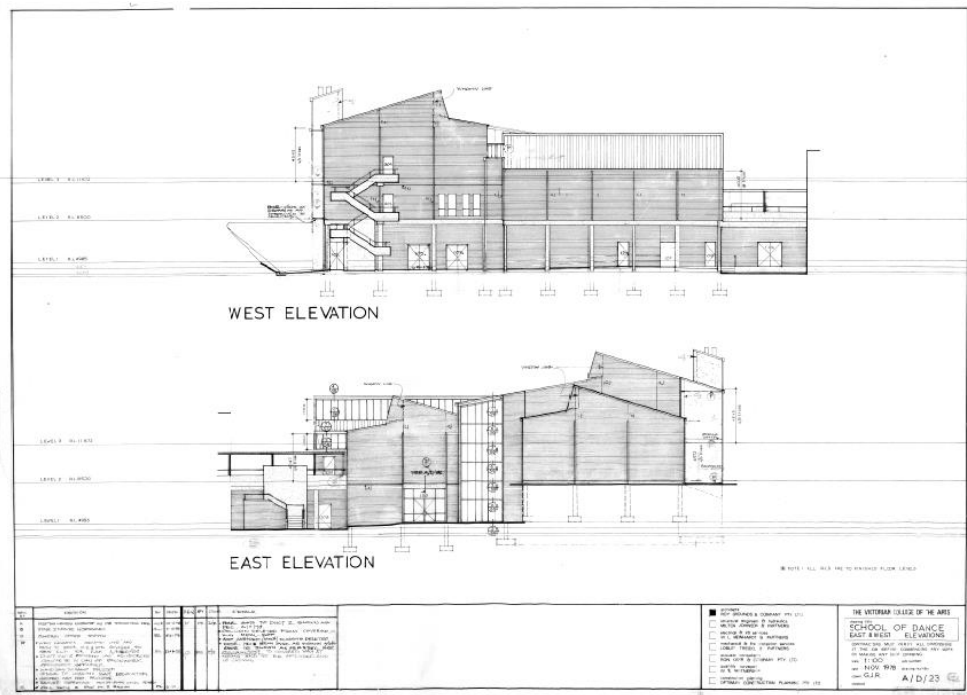


Figure 8. West and east elevations of the new School of Dance building designed by Roy Grounds, 1978 (Source: University of Melbourne Estate Portal Property Management System)



Figure 9. Exterior of the School of Dance building, c 1980 (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 10. Exterior of the School of Dance building, c 1980 prior to the construction of the new foyer entrance (Source: State Library of Victoria)



Figure 11. Performance class in the School of Dance building, c 1980 (Source: State Library of Victoria)

The School of Dance building underwent alterations in 1995 when architect, Daryl Jackson AO, designed a new foyer for the principal (east) elevation. The design of the new foyer extension, comprising a lightweight, single-storey flat-roofed

structure with full-height windows, complemented Grounds' original design. Irwin Johnston & Partners were engaged as structural engineers.

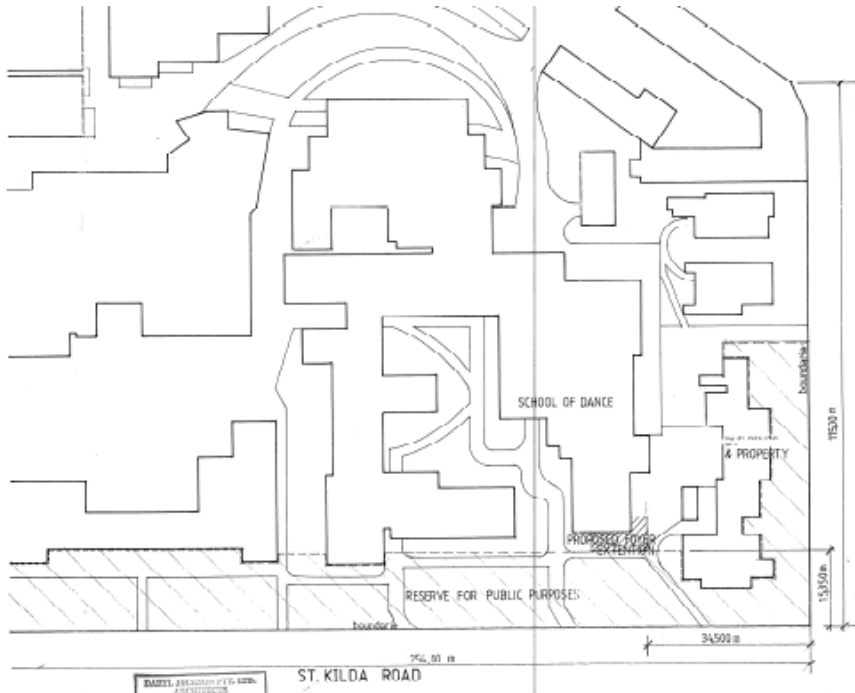


Figure 12. VCA site plan showing proposed new foyer extension by Daryl Jackson, 1995 (Source: University of Melbourne Estate Portal Property Management System)

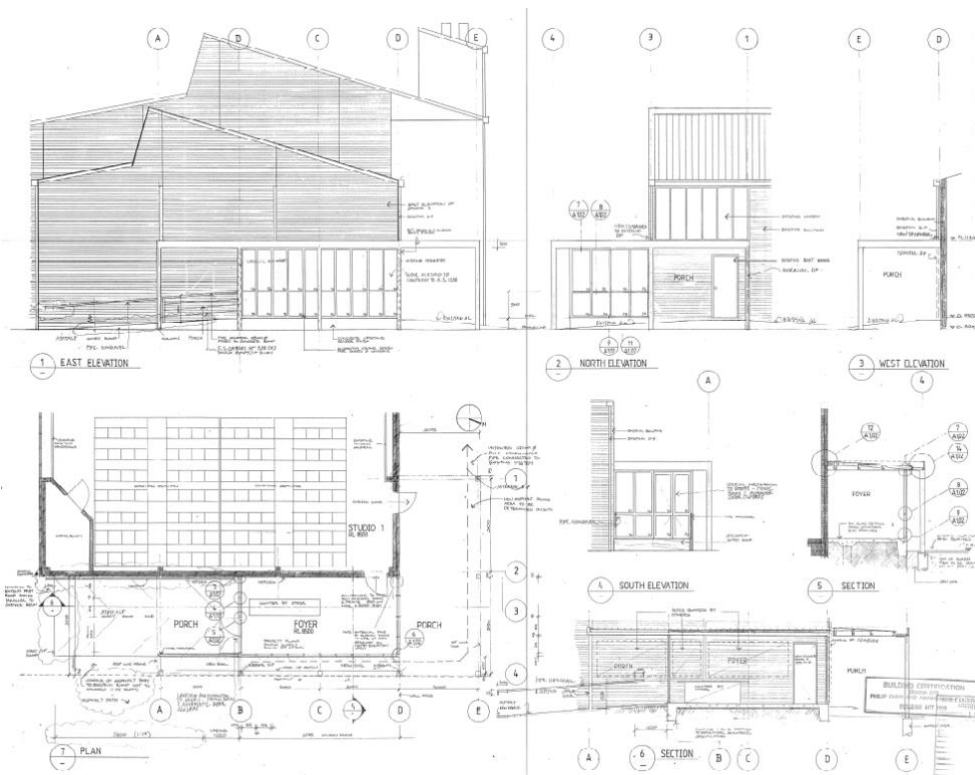


Figure 13. Proposed new foyer designed by Daryl Jackson, 1995 (Source: University of Melbourne Estate Portal Property Management System)

The School of Dance building was renamed the Performing Arts Building in 2009, concurrent with the amalgamation of the VCA with the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Music to form the Faculty of Fine Art and Music. The building has undergone only minor changes to the exterior since 1995. Internally, the principal



studio spaces remain substantially intact and retain their original timber-trussed ceilings and clerestory windows.

3 SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

3.1 Former Victoria Police Depot

The Former Victoria Police Depot is located within the University of Melbourne Southbank Campus on a site bounded by St Kilda Road to the east, Southbank Boulevard to the north, Sturt Street to the west and Grant Street to the south. The heritage place comprises buildings constructed for police uses from the early twentieth century including: the Former Police Barracks (1925) now Elizabeth Murdoch Building [BN860]; Former Stables, Drill Hall and Riding School (1912-1913) now art studios and performance spaces [BN872 & BN873]; Former Workshops and Stores (c.1916-1920) now the Buxton Contemporary Gallery [BN868]; Former Rough Riders Residence (1929) now Southbank Building 867; Former Dispensers Residence (1914) now the Wilin Centre [BN866]; and the Former Police Hospital (1914) now Old Police Hospital [BN 865].

The land that was once occupied by parade and sports grounds has been developed with buildings constructed for the VCA that date from the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including the Performing Arts Building.

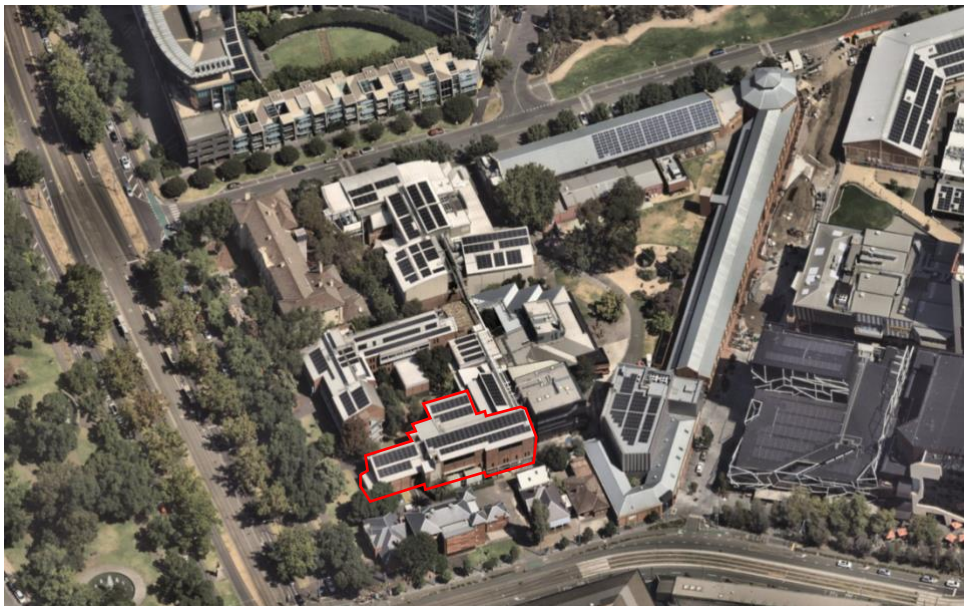


Figure 14. Aerial (3 February 2024) looking south over the heritage place, with Performing Arts Building indicated. St Kilda Road at left, Grant Street at top. (Source: Nearmap, accessed 22 March 2024)

3.2 VCA Performing Arts Building

The Performing Arts Building is located towards the eastern edge of the VCA Southbank Campus and is setback from St Kilda Road behind a grassed area and presents a narrow elevation to St Kilda Road. The former Police Hospital is situated immediately to the north, at the corner of St Kilda Road and Southbank Boulevard, and the VCA Music School is situated to the south.

The VCA Performing Arts Building is a three-storey building with elevated single-storey section at the north end of the east elevation. Comprising a series of cuboid forms with angled roofs, the building is of brick construction with extensive rows of

clerestory windows to each elevation and a stairwell, with fully glazed eastern wall, setback from the principal (east) elevation at the south side. Unadorned walls are constructed of tumbled and mottled red brick, with recessed joints, and window and door openings are steel- and aluminium-framed. Eaveless skillion roofs fall to edge gutters with exposed downpipes at the corners and metal flashing caps to the sloping sides. A glazed porch, with metal-framed canopy and ramped entrance, is located at the east elevation of the elevated single-storey section.

Internally, walls are of exposed or painted brickwork throughout the building and spaces are well lit by large windows and rows of clerestory windows, all with fine glazing bars. A number of large studio spaces have timber trusses which support high ceilings, lined with acoustic panels, and are shaped to accommodate rows of clerestory windows. The stairwell has exposed brick walls with full glazing to the east which provides a clear view to St Kilda Road. Rows of tubular metal pipe, with supporting tubular stanchions, provide balustrading to the stair and surrounding open areas.



Figure 15. South elevation of Performing Arts Building (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)



Figure 16. Principal (east) elevation of Performing Arts Building (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)



Figure 17. North elevation of Performing Arts Building (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)



Figure 18. East elevation showing 1995 foyer extension of the Performing Arts Building (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)

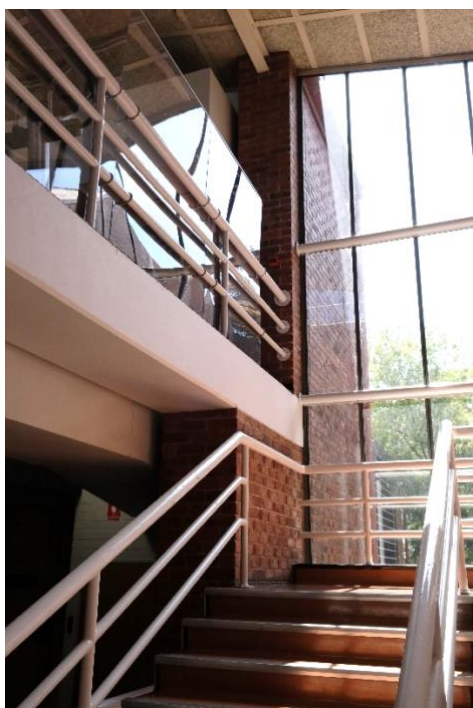


Figure 19 and 20. Internal stairwell (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)



Figure 21. Internal dance studio (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)



Figure 22. Internal performing arts studio (Source: GJM Heritage, January 2024)

4 CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The whole of the land bounded by St Kilda Road to the east, Southbank Boulevard to the north, Sturt Street to the west and Grant Street to the south is included in the VHR as Heritage Place H1541.

4.1 Extent of Registration

The extent of registration is described in Diagram 1541 as held by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria (Figure 24). It is also described as follows:

1. *All the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 1541 held by the Executive Director:*
 - B1 Former Police Barracks (1925)*
 - B2 Former Stables, Drill Hall and Riding School (1912-13)*
 - B3 Former Workshops and Stores (c.1916-20) including the original perimeter wall to Dodds Street and Southbank Boulevard.*
 - B4 Former Workshops and Stores (c.1916-20)*
 - B5 Former Rough Riders Residence (1929)*
 - B6 Former Dispensers Residence (1914)*
 - B7 Former Police Hospital (1914)*

2. All the land bounded by Dodds Street, Southbank Boulevard, St Kilda Road and Grant Street marked L1 on Diagram 1541 held by the Executive Director.

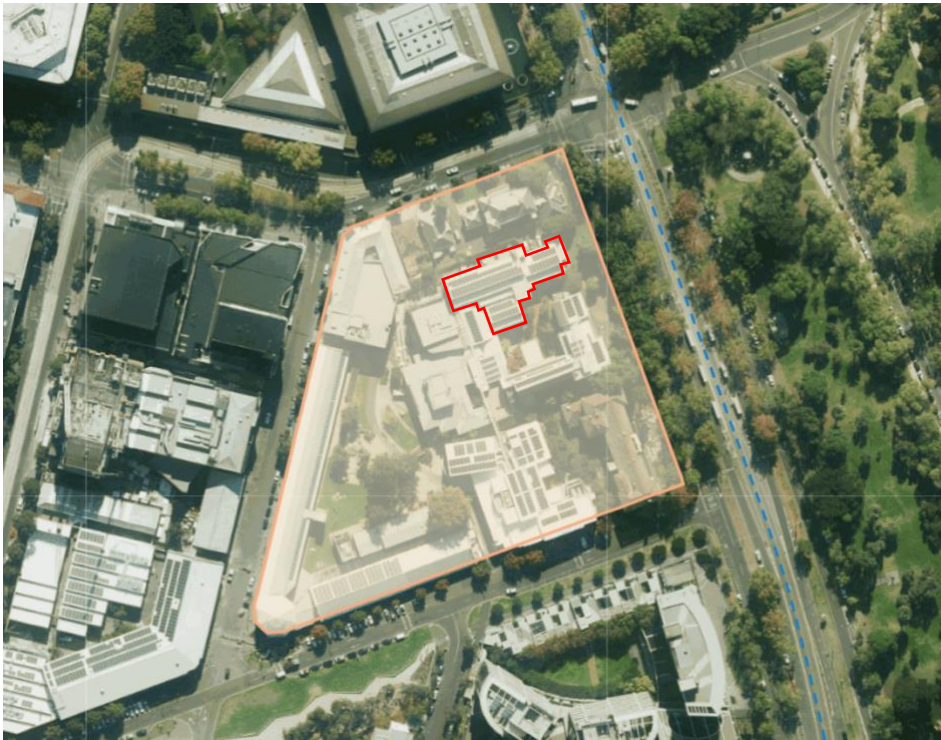


Figure 23. Aerial image of the VCA campus overlaid with extent of registration for H1541 (orange polygon) – Performing Arts Building indicated. (Source: VicPlan, accessed 21 March 2024)

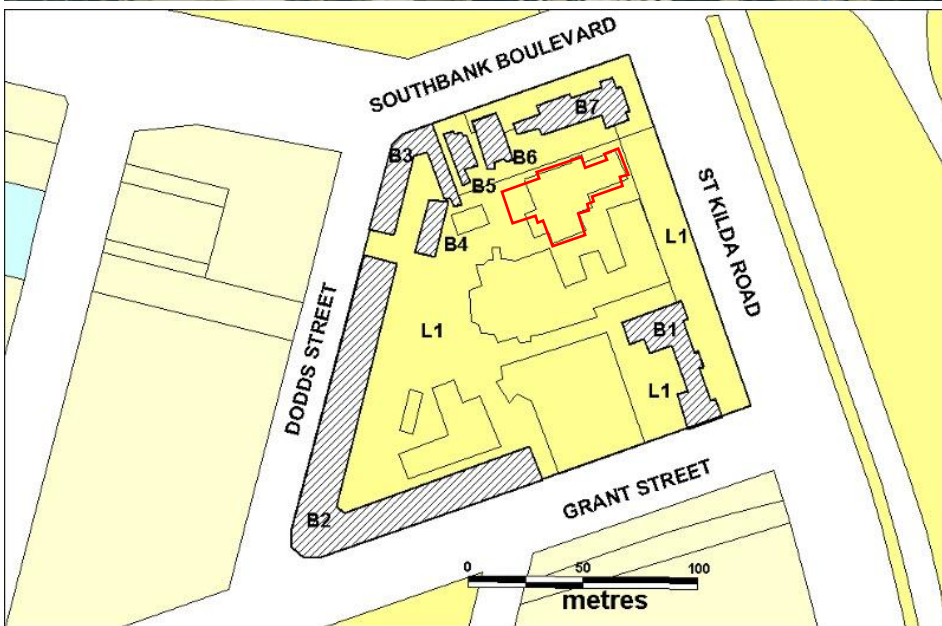


Figure 24. Diagram 1541 as held by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria – Performing Arts Building indicated. Note: the mapped outline of the Performing Arts Building in the VHD differs slightly from the actual building footprint (Source: Victorian Heritage Database, accessed 21 March 2024)

4.2 Statement of Significance

The Statement of Significance for the Former Victoria Police Depot reads [emphasis added]:

Why is it significant?

The Former Victoria Police Depot, including the Stables, the Riding School, and Drill Hall (1912-13), Police Hospital and Dispensers Residence (1914, Police



Stores and Workshop, (c.1916-20), Police Barracks (1925) and Rough Riders Residence (1929), was constructed between 1912 and 1929 as the headquarters for police training and mounted police operations in Victoria. The building resulted from the Federal Government's decision to establish the Victoria Barracks as the headquarters for the newly formed Commonwealth Department of Defence in 1906. As the Victoria Police had occupied a significant proportion of the Barracks since 1881, provisions were made by the Government to relocate the Police to the nearby St Kilda Road site. The St. Kilda Road site of the former Barracks has important associations with the history of Melbourne as the location of Canvas Town in 1852-54 and the Immigrants Home from 1856-1914. The Victorian College of the Arts began occupying the police buildings on the site from 1973. They subsequently erected substantial buildings and now occupy all the site except the Police Stables which remain in their original use by the Police as the Operational Headquarters for Mounted Police in Victoria. The whole of the land is significant as the curtilage of the island site of the Victoria Police Depot notwithstanding the buildings which have been erected or modified by the Victoria College of the Arts.

How is it significant?

The former Victoria Police Depot is architecturally and historically significant to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Victoria Police Depot is historically significant as a police training establishment of the early twentieth century and a police hospital. The Former Police Depot demonstrates the association of the site with the Victoria Police and in particular the Mounted Police Branch since 1912. The St. Kilda Road site of the former Depot has important associations with the history of Melbourne as the location of Canvas Town in 1852-54 and the Immigrants Home from 1856-1914.

The Police Barracks within the Police Depot (now the Administration Building for the Victorian College of the Arts) is historically significant for its association to the police strike of November 1923 and subsequent Royal Commission in 1924, which found that many police barracks and stations provided poor living conditions for officers. As a result, the old Immigrants Home buildings previously used by the Police recruits were demolished and construction of the new barracks was commenced. The new building set new standards for the accommodation of recruits with the provision of comfortable living conditions and recreational grounds and facilities.

The former Rough Riders' Residence within the Police Depot is historically significant as a representative example of a police residence, but also as one for a special use as it was erected to accommodate those involved with breaking in new horses acquired for police work.

The Police Depot is architecturally significant in providing an extremely rare and unique solution to the institution's requirements. The architectural form of the stables, riding school and drill hall demonstrates the reliance on the horse as a means of transport for police work at that time. The combination of stables, octagonal entrance hall, riding school and drill hall was regarded with pride at the time it was built. The Stables is one of the largest stable buildings



to have been constructed and to still remain in metropolitan Melbourne. The original design for the Riding School and former Drill Hall was for one large open space divided in the centre by a mezzanine viewing platform. The Riding School is located in the wing extending east from the octagonal entrance hall.

The former Police Hospital is historically and architecturally significant as the first purpose-built Police Hospital to be constructed in Victoria and one of the few Police buildings to still remain in metropolitan Melbourne. Its design was based on the pavilion principle, which expressed the late nineteenth and early twentieth century attitudes to hospital design. The design was intended to provide ample sunlight and ventilation for the convalescing patients, and included a two-levelled verandah on the north and south elevations. The hospital building included a dispensary, reflecting the function carried out by the dispenser in medical practice at that time. The hospital also included a single storey operating theatre attached to the western end of the building. The associated former Dispenser's Residence remains virtually intact. It is significant in medical history as it demonstrates the role of the dispenser in the early twentieth century medicine, in providing 24 hour medical assistance to the Police Hospital. The Rough Riders' Residence is historically significant in the history of mounted police in Victoria, as it is contemporaneous with the continuing training of police horses on this site in the period after the introduction of motor transport to police work. In the twentieth century the emphasis was changed from general transport use in city and rural areas. Horses had to be trained for ceremonial work and the control of hostile crowds, a use which continues to be necessary today. The police stores and workshop buildings as remaining elements of the entire complex help link the buildings and contribute to an understanding of the historical use and appearance of the site.

The former Police Barracks is architecturally significant as a notable example of the Georgian Revival style which developed in Australia during the early twentieth century. The building is a rare example of the combination of this building type with the Georgian Revival style, as it was an aesthetic usually reserved for private residences or commercial buildings such as banks and offices. The design of the former Police Barracks is a major example of the work of the architect, E. Evan Smith. As Chief Architect of the Public Works Department from 1922-1929, Smith was responsible for many buildings, none of which were as controversial or publicly discussed as this. Smith's signature style of Georgian Revival also forms an important part of Australia's architectural history as it was the first time that an earlier style practised in this country was revived.

4.3 Permit exemptions

The citation for Former Victoria Police Depot includes specific permit exemptions, as follows:

- 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.*
- 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place*



or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

5. All interior works to the former police stores (B3 and B4).
6. All interior works to the buildings erected by the Victorian College of the Arts or superficial works to the exteriors of these buildings.

The Hermes entry for the heritage place also includes the following permit exemption policy:

The policy is to maintain the cultural significance of the buildings which relate to the police presence on the site from 1912 to 1973 for the barracks, riding school, drill hall and hospital, quarters and store and from 1912 to the present in the case of the stables. The relationship of the Dispenser's Residence to the Former Police Hospital is of particular significance. All remaining fabric is of significance.

The relationship of the former Barracks to St Kilda Road is of primary significance. The building has been designed to address the street with its longest facade being parallel with the road. It has also been specifically set back from the street to provide a landscaped area between the entrance of the building and St. Kilda Road. The remaining open space at the rear of the building is of contributory significance. Although originally a much larger space used for many purposes including parades of the resident police officers, the current space provides an area which not only enables the rear of the building to be identified but also allows the immediate surrounds of the site to be viewed from the balconies and verandah on the building's west facade.

The retention, preservation and restoration of all original fabric is the main priority in the conservation of the former Depot. The original fabric of the external facades is substantially intact and should therefore be retained and conserved as appropriate. The significance of the interior of the buildings however, has somewhat diminished due to substantial alterations made to some of the original fabric of the buildings in the past. Specific areas identified as being significant in the Conservation Plan should be considered as significant and retained and conserved as appropriate.

5 CONDITION OF THE REGISTERED PLACE

Having undergone substantial renovation and conversion to new uses associated with the VCA the buildings that comprise the Former Victoria Police Depot are in very good condition and are well maintained by the University of Melbourne.



Similarly, the later buildings constructed for the VCA – including the Performing Arts Building – are also in very good condition and are well maintained.

6 CURRENT USE OF THE REGISTERED PLACE

The whole of the heritage place is occupied by the VCA and is used for a wide range of fine, performing, and technical arts teaching and research. Publicly accessible facilities include the Buxton Contemporary Gallery, Grant Street Theatre and Lionel's Café.

PART B: PROPOSAL

7 PROPOSED WORKS

7.1 Documentation

The proposed works are described in the following architectural drawings prepared by H2o Architects dated May 2024:

2356-A0.00_COVER PAGE
2356-A0.01_EXISTING SITE PLAN
2356-A0.10_EXISTING PLAN_GROUND
2356-A0.11_EXISTING PLAN_LEVEL 2
2356-A0.12_EXISTING PLAN_LEVEL 3
2356-A0.13_EXISTING PLAN_ROOF
2356-A0.50_EXISTING ELEVATION_SOUTH&WEST
2356-A0.51_EXISTING ELEVATION_NORTH
2356-A0.60_EXISTING SECTIONS
2356-A0.61_EXISTING SECTIONS
2356-A0.90_EXISTING DETAILS
2356-A1.00_PROPOSED PLAN_GROUND
2356-A1.01_PROPOSED PLAN_LEVEL 2
2356-A1.02_PROPOSED PLAN_LEVEL 3
2356-A1.10_PROPOSED PLAN_LEVEL 2_AMENITIES
2356-A1.20_PROPOSED PLAN_ROOF
2356-A5.02_PROPOSED ELEVATION_SOUTH&WEST
2356-A5.03_PROPOSED ELEVATION_NORTH
2356-A6.00_PROPOSED SECTIONS
2356-A6.01_PROPOSED SECTIONS
2356-A10.00_PROPOSED LIFT DETAILS
2356-A10.01_PROPOSED LIFT DETAILS
2356-A10.02_PROPOSED LIFT SECTION DETAILS
2356-A10.10_PROPOSED BRIDGE LINK DETAILS
2356-A10.11_PROPOSED BRIDGE LINK DETAILS
2356-A20.00_EXISTING VIEW_BRIDGE LINK
2356-A20.01_PROPOSED VIEW_NEW BRIDGE LINK
2356-A20.02_PROPOSED MATERIALS

The works to the landscape setting to the immediate south of the Performing Arts Building are described on Landscape Plan P1 prepared by Bush Projects dated 13 May 2024.

An arborist report prepared by Glen Waters Arboriculture and dated 1 May 2024 is provided in relation to Tree #8, a maturing Drooping She-oak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*).



7.2 Exterior works

While “...superficial works to the exteriors of [VCA] buildings” are permit exempt from through place-specific permit exemption 6, the proposed works go beyond the ordinary definition of ‘superficial’ and therefore require a full permit under Part 5 of the Heritage Act. The exterior works comprise the following:

- erection of an external lift and services tower located on the south wall of the main (eastern) dance studio [Room 221];
- creation of a lift lobby and linking element between the new entrance and the existing stair core;
- installation of a lightweight (steel) pedestrian walkway link from the St Kilda Road forecourt to the new Level 2 entry and lift;
- demolition of part of the brickwork on the east elevation adjacent to the main stair;
- demolition of a small area of the existing south façade to accommodate services;
- removal of the existing sunshades to the main dance studio[Room 221]; and
- replace existing glazing to the north elevation at level 2 to suit the changed back-of-house facilities.

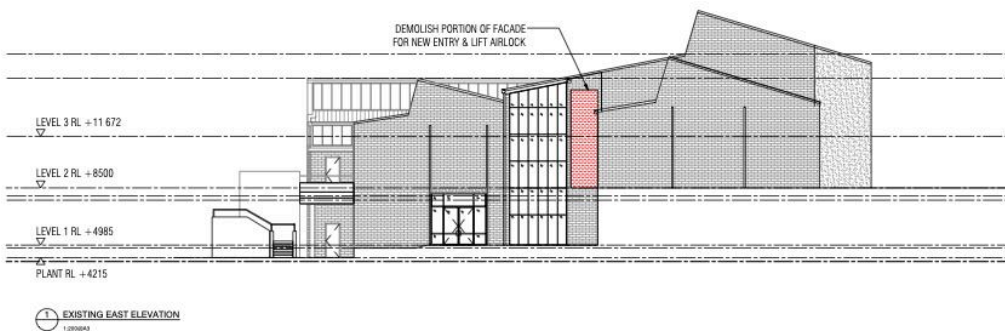


Figure 25. Existing east elevation showing demolition (H2o Architects dwg A0.50)

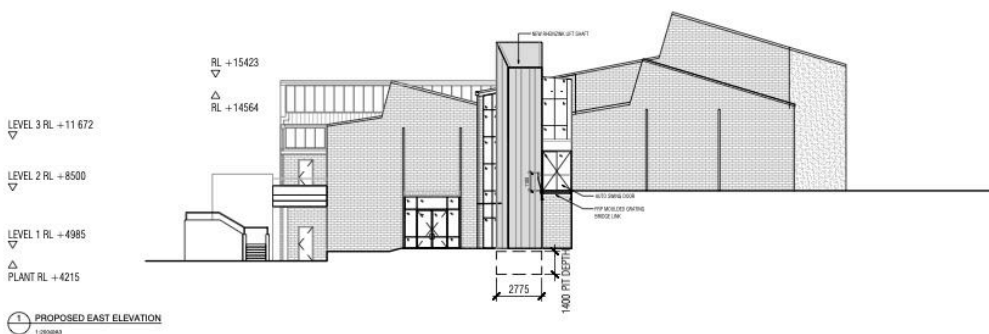
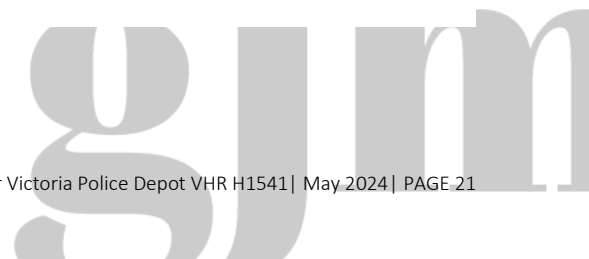


Figure 26. Proposed east elevation (H2o Architects dwg A5.02)



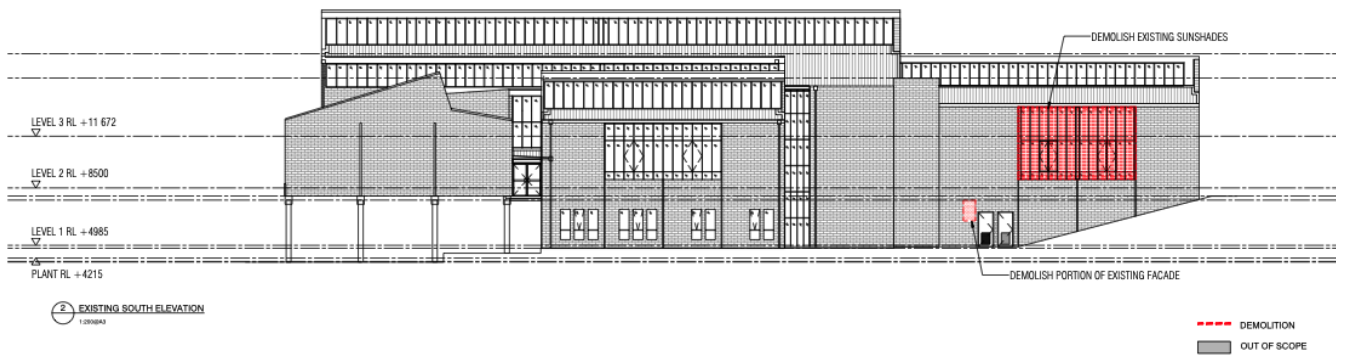


Figure 27. Existing south elevation showing demolition (H2o Architects dwg A0.50)

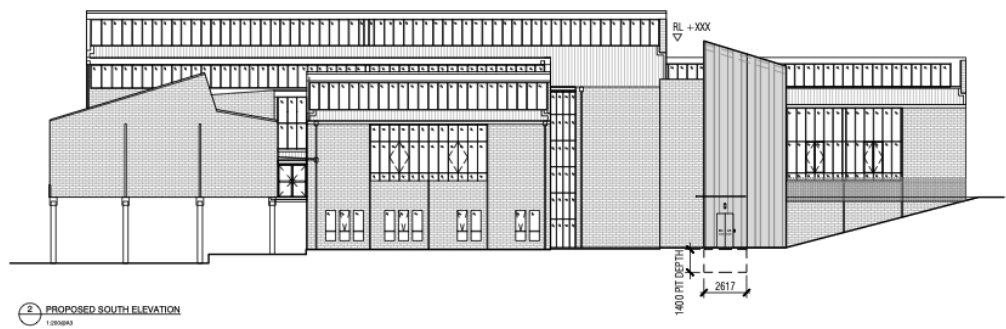


Figure 28. Proposed south elevation (H2o Architects dwg A5.02)

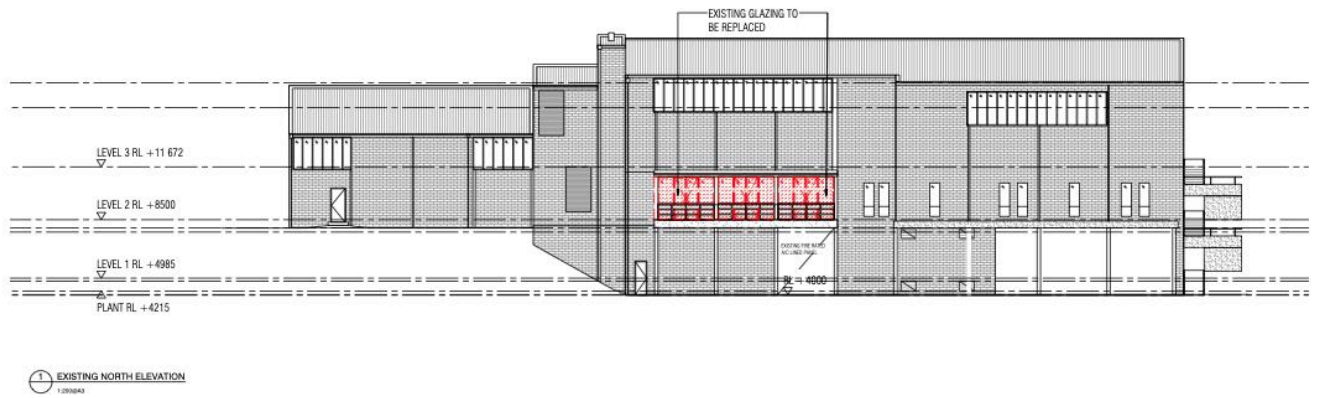


Figure 29. Existing north elevation showing demolition (H2o Architects dwg A0.51)

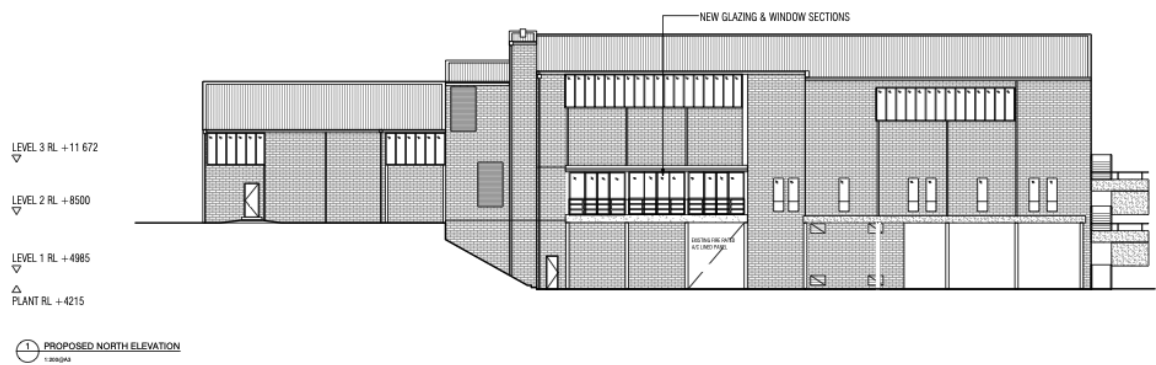
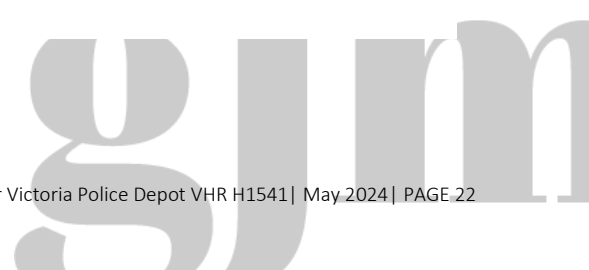


Figure 30. Proposed north elevation (H2o Architects dwg A5.03)

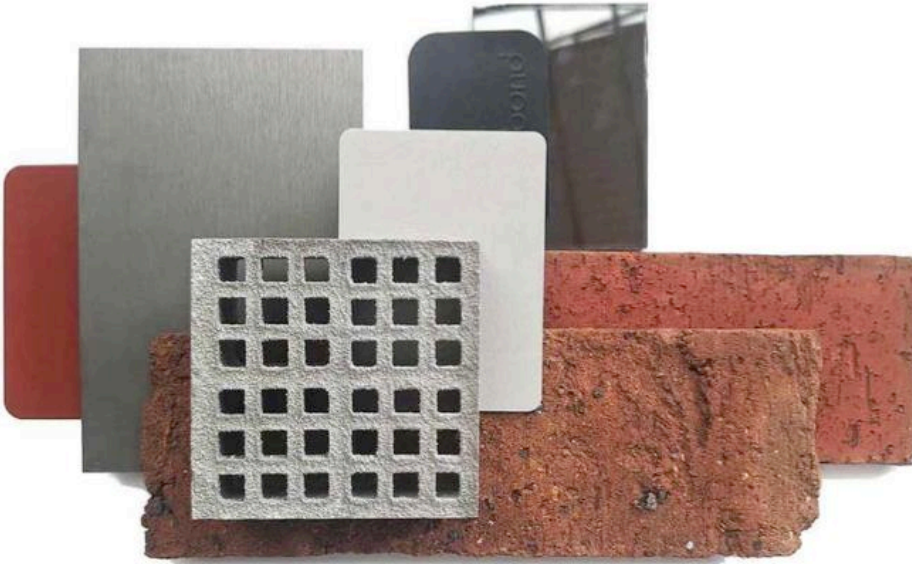


7.3 Materials and finishes

The existing building is clad in red brick with long run tray steel roofs and steel and aluminium framed joinery. The proposed materials palette includes:

- red face brick
- tumbled brick
- Rheinzink prePatina Zinc Graphite Grey zinc cladding to the lift service core
- aluminium joinery Interpon d2525 Champagne Pearl matt powder coat finish
- Balustrade and walkway galvanised steel with a CFC base.

Figure 31. Proposed materials board (H2o Architects dwg A20.02)



PROPOSED MATERIAL BOARD

7.4 Interior works

The proposed works to the Performing Arts Building comprise interior changes to back-of-house facilities on level 2, replacement of floor finishes to performance studios and upgrades to building services. All works to the interior of the Performing Arts Building are exempt from requiring a permit under Part 5 of the Heritage Act as they wholly comprise “...interior works to the buildings erected by the Victorian College of the Arts” identified as place-specific permit exemption 6. This HIS therefore does not address any interior works.

7.5 Landscape works

The landscaping works are limited to a small area below the new walkway and adjacent to the lift and services core. One tree [#8] a Drooping She-oak is required to be removed to accommodate the walkway. Other landscape works comprise:



- alterations to the existing stairs and handrails adjacent to the south wall of the main dance studio [Room 221]; and
- local replanting of shrubs and ground cover plants.

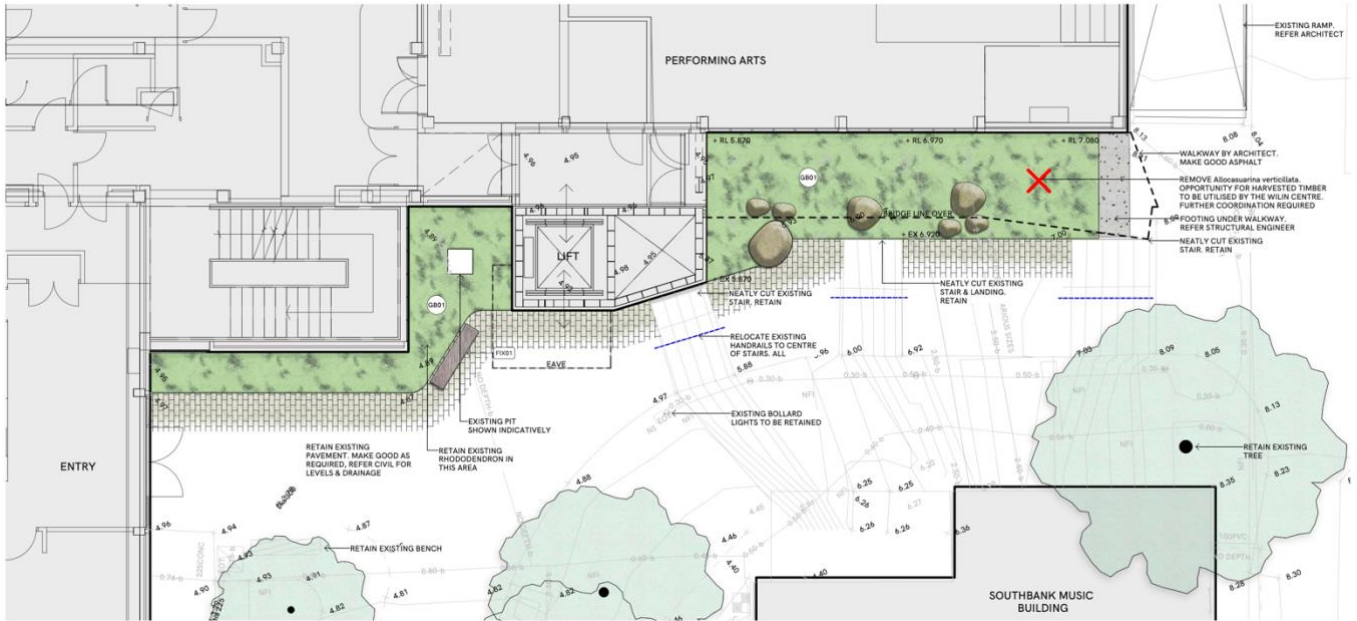


Figure 32. Landscape Plan (Bush Projects dwg P1)

8 ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS THAT WERE CONSIDERED AND REASONS WHY THESE WERE DISMISSED

Alternative mechanisms for the provision of *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cmth) (DDA) compliant access were considered but the construction of a lift and ramp from St Kilda Road was necessary to provide universal access to all levels of the Performing Arts Building. Locating the lift within the internal volume of the building was not possible as it would have impacted on one or more studio spaces and would not have been able to service all three levels of the building from a single publicly accessible location. In addition, the proposed ramp and lift location off St Kilda Road also provides access to the lower ground level and therefore to the Friends Courtyard and Building 863. This access is not currently available directly off St Kilda Road and access is via Gate 3 (Dodds Street) or Gate 2 (Grant Street) and will respond to this need.



PART C: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9 THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE APPLICATION AFFECTS THE CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE (relates to s.101(2)(A))

The identified heritage values of the Former Victoria Police Depot relate to its pre-VCA, Police Depot uses and built fabric. The alteration of the exterior of the Performing Arts Building will have no adverse impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place or the legibility of the pre-1973 fabric or values of the wider site.

The maturing Drooping She-oak proposed to be removed has been assessed by Glenn Waters Arboriculture (refer arborist report) as being in fair-poor health and has 'Low' arboricultural/retention value was planted after the construction. Further, this tree was planted after the construction of the Performing Arts Building and does not contribute to the identified heritage values of the Former Victoria Police Depot.

10 WHAT PHYSICAL AND/OR VISUAL IMPACTS WILL RESULT FROM THE PROPOSED WORKS? (relates to s.101(2)(a) and (f))

No key views of any of the buildings included with the extent of registration for H1541 will be impacted. The new walkway and zinc-clad lift shaft will be visible when viewed directly from St Kilda Road. However, these elements are of modest scale compared with the Performing Arts Building and the nearby Music Building. The use of compatible materials (brick and metal-framed aluminium joinery) and new recessive materials (pre-patinaed zinc clad to the lift shaft) minimises the visual and physical impacts of the proposed works.



Figure 33. Existing view from St Kilda Road forecourt (H2o Architects dwg A20.00)



Figure 34. Proposed view from St Kilda Road forecourt (H2o Architects dwg A20.01)

11 MEASURES PROPOSED TO AVOID, LIMIT OR MANAGE THE DETRIMENTAL IMPACTS (RELATES TO S.101(2)(b), (d) AND (f) AND S.101(3) OF THE *HERITAGE ACT 2017*)

The design has been cognisant of the simple rectilinear forms and massing of Ground's Performing Arts and Music buildings and continues the Modernist aesthetic of the building and its immediate context. The continuation of the existing materials palette will help avoid any detrimental impacts of the new elements. Similarly, the use of a high-quality standing-seam, pre-patinaed zinc cladding to the lift and services shaft and face brickwork is commensurate with the status of this building and the broader campus as a major tertiary and arts facility.

The minor landscaping works continue the established planting regime and existing hard landscaping elements and materials found in this part of the Southbank Campus.

12 THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE APPLICATION, IF REFUSED, WOULD AFFECT THE REASONABLE OR ECONOMIC USE OF THE REGISTERED PLACE (relates to s.101(2)(b))

In order for the original use of this Class 9b building (public building: university) to continue universal access is required to all three publicly accessible levels, which is not currently available. Similarly, the upgrading of building services to contemporary standards requires an additional vertical services run within the building, which has been designed to be incorporated into the new lift element.

No undertaking this work would severely limit the ability of the university to continue to operate this building within the State's premier performing arts faculty. The proposed works, if refused, would ultimately require the relocation of the studio and teaching spaces to another facility which would adversely affect both the reasonable and economic use of this part of the heritage place.

13 THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE APPLICATION, IF REFUSED, WOULD UNREASONABLY DETERIMENTALLY AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITY TO PERFORM A STATUTORY DUTY (relates to s.101(2)(d))

Not applicable.

14 AFFECT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE VALUES OF THE LISTED PLACE OR ANY RELEVANT APPROVED WORLD HERITAGE STRATEGY PLAN (relates to s.101(2)(e))

Not applicable.

15 HAS THE PROPOSAL BEEN INFLUENCED BY, OR DOES IT ADDRESS ANY LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME OR BUILDING ACT 1993 REQUIREMENTS? (relates to s.101(2)(f) and s.101(3)(b))

The proposed works do not address any specific local planning scheme requirement.

The *Building Act 1993* and the Building Regulations 2018 adopt the Building Code of Australia which is part of the National Construction Code (NCC). Amongst other things, Part D4 of the NCC sets down minimum provisions for access for people with disabilities consistent with the expectations of the DDA. This project will ensure that the University of Melbourne fulfils its obligations to provide universal access to the Performing Arts Building and improve access to the Friends Courtyard and Building 863.

16 ASSESSMENT OF THE AFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOSE ADJACENT PLACES (relates to s.101(2)(f) and s.101(3)(b))

The Former Victoria Police Depot immediately abuts St Kilda Road (VHR H2359) and is located in close proximity to the National Gallery of Victoria (VHR H1499) and the Domain Parklands (VHR H2304) on the eastern side of St Kilda Road. The proposed works, while be visible from St Kilda Road will have no adverse impact on the presentation, setting or cultural heritage significance of any adjacent VHR-listed heritage places.

The Former Postmaster General Postal Workshops, 45-99 Sturt Street (now part of the VCA) are included in the Heritage Overlay of the Melbourne Planning Scheme as HO1201. Located on the western side of Dodds Street the proposed works will have no adverse impact on the presentation, setting or cultural heritage significance of this heritage place. Similarly, the sculpture 'Vault' (HO1225) located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Grant and Dodds streets will not be impacted in any way by the proposed works.

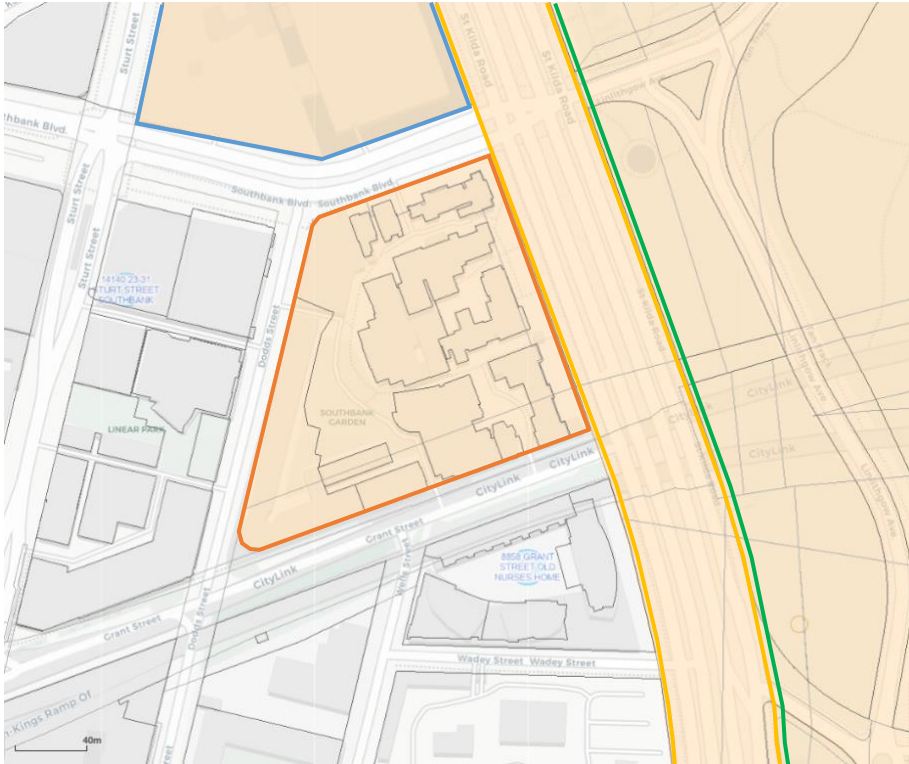


Figure 35. Map showing extent of VHR listed properties (Source: Vicplan, accessed 14 May 2024)
Figure 35

- Former Victoria Police Depot (H1541)
- National Gallery of Victoria (H1499)
- St Kilda Road (H2359)
- Domain Parklands (H2304)

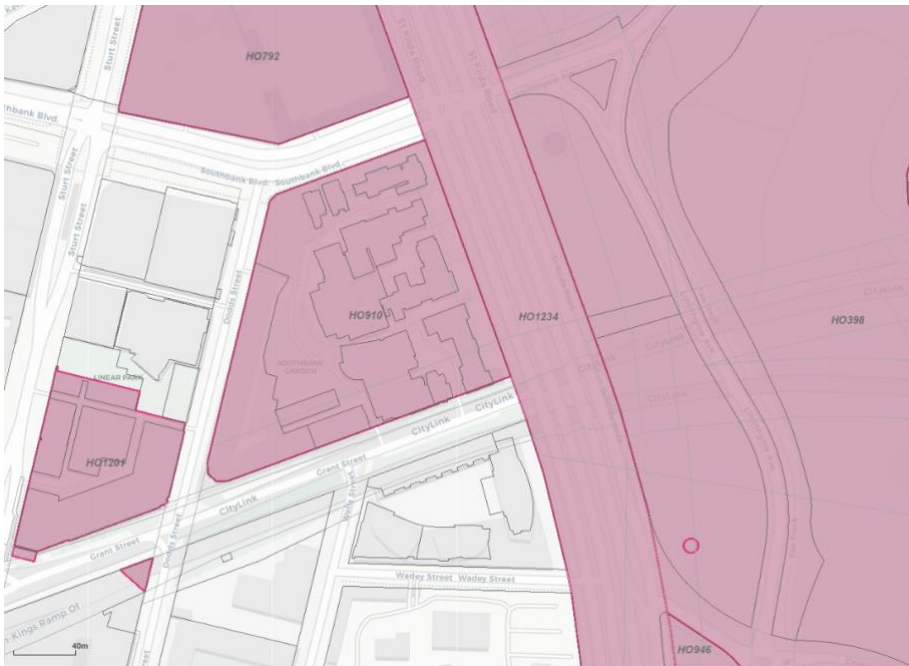


Figure 36. Map showing extent of Heritage Overlay (Source: Vicplan, accessed 14 May 2024).

PART D: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND CONCLUSION

17 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The physical impacts on the Former Victoria Police Depot will be negligible and will not adversely affect the presentation or the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place. The proposed works will not adversely impact on the setting or legibility of any nearby or adjacent heritage places include in the VHR or the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

18 CONCLUSION

The proposed works are necessary to provide universal access to this teaching and performance building as well as the Friends Courtyard and lower ground level of the Hib (BN863). The high quality design has appropriately considered the Postwar Modernist aesthetic of the Performing Arts and Music building in the form and materiality of the new elements.

The proposed works represent an acceptable outcome under s.101(2) and 101(3) of the Heritage Act.

ATTACHMENT 1: VICTORIAN HERITAGE DATABASE REPORT
FORMER VICTORIA POLICE DEPOT VHR H1541



FORMER VICTORIA POLICE DEPOT



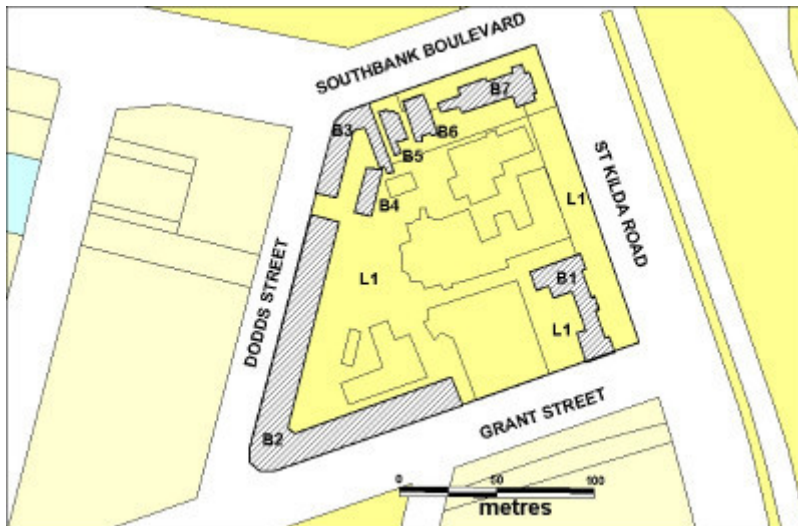
FORMER VICTORIA POLICE DEPOT SOHE 2008



1 former Victorian police mounted branch depot St Kilda Road Southbank front entrance



Former Victorian Police Mounted Branch Depot St Kilda Road Southbank Rear View March 1985



Former Police Depot plan

Location

234 ST KILDA ROAD, 1-39 DODDS STREET AND 148-170 SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD, SOUTHBANK, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1541

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO910

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

May 1, 2000

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 5, 1999

What is significant?

The Former Victoria Police Depot, including the Stables, the Riding School, and Drill Hall (1912-13), Police Hospital and Dispensers Residence (1914), Police Stores and Workshop, (c.1916-20), Police Barracks (1925) and Rough Riders Residence (1929), was constructed between 1912 and 1929 as the headquarters for police training and mounted police operations in Victoria. The building resulted from the Federal Government's decision to establish the Victoria Barracks as the headquarters for the newly formed Commonwealth Department of Defence in 1906. As the Victoria Police had occupied a significant proportion of the Barracks since 1881, provisions were made by the Government to relocate the Police to the nearby St Kilda Road site. The St. Kilda Road site of the former Barracks has important associations with the history of Melbourne as the location of Canvas Town in 1852-54 and the Immigrants Home from 1856-1914. The Victorian College of the Arts began occupying the police buildings on the site from 1973. They subsequently erected substantial buildings and now occupy all the site except the Police Stables which remain in their original use by the Police as the Operational Headquarters for Mounted Police in Victoria. The whole of the land is significant as the curtilage of the island site of the Victoria Police Depot notwithstanding the buildings which have been erected or modified by the Victoria College of the Arts.

How is it significant?

The former Victoria Police Depot is architecturally and historically important to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Victoria Police Depot is historically significant as a police training establishment of the early twentieth century and a police hospital. The Former Police Depot demonstrates the association of the site with the Victoria Police and in particular the Mounted Police Branch since 1912. The St. Kilda Road site of the former Depot has important associations with the history of Melbourne as the location of Canvas Town in 1852-54 and the Immigrants Home from 1856-1914.

The Police Barracks within the Police Depot (now the Administration Building for the Victorian College of the Arts) is historically significant for its association to the police strike of November 1923 and subsequent Royal Commission in 1924, which found that many police barracks and stations provided poor living conditions for officers. As a result, the old Immigrants Home buildings previously used by the Police recruits were demolished and construction of the new barracks was commenced. The new building set new standards for the accommodation of recruits with the provision of comfortable living conditions and recreational grounds and

facilities.

The former Rough Riders' Residence within the Police Depot is historically significant as a representative example of a police residence, but also as one for a special use as it was erected to accommodate those involved with breaking in new horses acquired for police work.

The Police Depot is architecturally significant in providing an extremely rare and unique solution to the institution's requirements. The architectural form of the stables, riding school and drill hall demonstrates the reliance on the horse as a means of transport for police work at that time. The combination of stables, octagonal entrance hall, riding school and drill hall was regarded with pride at the time it was built. The Stables is one of the largest stable buildings to have been constructed and to still remain in metropolitan Melbourne. The original design for the Riding School and former Drill Hall was for one large open space divided in the centre by a mezzanine viewing platform. The Riding School is located in the wing extending east from the octagonal entrance hall.

The former Police Hospital is historically and architecturally significant as the first purpose-built Police Hospital to be constructed in Victoria and one of the few Police buildings to still remain in metropolitan Melbourne. Its design was based on the pavilion principle, which expressed the late nineteenth and early twentieth century attitudes to hospital design. The design was intended to provide ample sunlight and ventilation for the convalescing patients, and included a two-levelled verandah on the north and south elevations. The hospital building included a dispensary, reflecting the function carried out by the dispenser in medical practice at that time. The hospital also included a single storey operating theatre attached to the western end of the building. The associated former Dispenser's Residence remains virtually intact. It is significant in medical history as it demonstrates the role of the dispenser in the early twentieth century medicine, in providing 24 hour medical assistance to the Police Hospital. The Rough Riders' Residence is historically significant in the history of mounted police in Victoria, as it is contemporaneous with the continuing training of police horses on this site in the period after the introduction of motor transport to police work. In the twentieth century the emphasis was changed from general transport use in city and rural areas. Horses had to be trained for ceremonial work and the control of hostile crowds, a use which continues to be necessary today. The police stores and workshop buildings as remaining elements of the entire complex help link the buildings and contribute to an understanding of the historical use and appearance of the site.

The former Police Barracks is architecturally significant as a notable example of the Georgian Revival style which developed in Australia during the early twentieth century. The building is a rare example of the combination of this building type with the Georgian Revival style, as it was an aesthetic usually reserved for private residences or commercial buildings such as banks and offices. The design of the former Police Barracks is a major example of the work of the architect, E. Evan Smith. As Chief Architect of the Public Works Department from 1922-1929, Smith was responsible for many buildings, none of which were as controversial or publicly discussed as this. Smith's signature style of Georgian Revival also forms an important part of Australia's architectural history as it was the first time that an earlier style practised in this country was revived.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

5. All interior works to the former police stores (B3 and B4).
6. All interior works to the buildings erected by the Victorian College of the Arts or superficial works to the exteriors of these buildings.

Construction dates	1912,
Architect/Designer	Smith, Edwin Evan,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS, FORMER POLICE BARRACKS, POLICE DEPOT, POLICE HOSPITAL, POLICE STABLES,
Hermes Number	1065
Property Number	

History

Contextual History:

History
The Site & Buildings

The site of the former South Melbourne Police Depot is bounded by St. Kilda Road, Southbank Boulevard, Dodds Street and Grant Street. The area has been gradually taken over by the Victorian College of the Arts since 1973. However, the Victorian Police still occupy the Stables and the Riding School in the south west corner of the site.

Aboriginal Use

The study area lies within the tribal territory of the Woiworong or Wurundjeri people. The territory of the

Wurundjeri has been described as all the land drained by the river Yarra and its tributaries.

Until 5000 or 6000 years ago, the Port Phillip Bay coastline was roughly along the line of St Kilda Road. It is likely that Aboriginal people used the bay foreshore and waters for fish, shellfish and plants. When the water level fell, the swampy areas around Albert Park and South Melbourne were exposed. The swamps contained eels which the Aborigines caught at certain times of the year. Birds and water fowl were plentiful around the swamp land, providing food for the Aborigines.

The area selected by the first settlers for the town of Melbourne was the place used for intertribal gatherings of the Kulin, the confederacy of tribes occupying the Port Phillip area.

Agriculture and Brick making

The first known use of the site by European settlers of the land on the west side of St Kilda Road was for agriculture and brick making. The brick fields extended from the Government House reserve to the base of Emerald Hill. Garryowen claimed that they were "the resort of a drunken, bloodthirsty, thieving crew".

Stage 1 1850s-1914

Canvas Town and the Immigrants' Home

When gold was discovered in Victoria in December 1851, the resulting influx of population could not be accommodated in Melbourne. The government established two 'Immigrants' Homes'. In November 1852 the Public Houseless Immigrants Home opened on the Government Reserve south of the Yarra. The government also leased a building at the foot of Batman's Hill which had been the city abattoirs. It was subdivided into fifty small rooms to accommodate 200 people. There was a charge of one shilling a night per head for lodging in this establishment. In addition two acres of land on the south side of the Yarra were covered with wooden buildings to take in 400 to 500 people. These measures were inadequate to cope with the vast numbers needing accommodation. The Immigrants Aid Society was founded in May 1853 to help "the fearful distress amongst the newly arrived population". It urged the government to take further steps to help the new arrivals.

Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe also set aside land on the west side of St. Kilda Road for those with tents across the river from Melbourne. The settlement quickly filled up with tent-dwellers and became known as Canvas Town. (Fig. 1)

By the end of the year 'Canvas Town' held over seven thousand people paying 5s per week, and tradesmen of all kinds had moved in to supply local needs. Men lived there in conditions corresponding to their natures, in reasonable extemporized comfort or in squalor and filth... Many of the residents were the poverty-stricken families of those trying their luck on the fields, 'forlorn, wretched, outcast'. Many had pitched their tents on swampy ground and paid the penalty, for in the summer the encampment was swept with low fever, ague and children's diseases.

Canvas Town stretched for about a mile along the western side of St Kilda Road, south of City Road. The government closed down its immigrants' institutions in 1854 and Canvas Town in the same year.

The Immigrants Aid Society took over the buildings on the east side of St Kilda Road in 1855, paying the government £1000 raised by public subscription. (Fig. 2) However the government soon took back the site of the Immigrants Homes to house the 40th regiment which was transferred from Sydney to Melbourne. The inmates of the Immigrants Home were then moved across to the west side of St Kilda Road. Six years later, the military moved out and the buildings were returned to the Society.

The Society found themselves providing accommodation for the destitute in a casual ward. If the same person returned night after night to the casual ward, they were admitted to a permanent ward where inmates had to contribute their labour in return for their board and lodging. Men worked at oakum picking or stone breaking and women did sewing and washing and other household tasks. The Society also established a hospital for destitute persons who were discharged from the Melbourne Hospital, either to convalesce or to die. By 1868, on the west side of St. Kilda Road there was "an auxiliary establishment including a good brick building used as a hospital and a handsome cottage, the residence of the efficient Superintendent of the Home, Mr. J. S. Greig."

The Society took on a number of other functions as time went on. One of these was to educate children who came into the Home.

The construction of Government House completed in 1876 was the impetus to tidy up the straggling buildings on the east side of St. Kilda Road. It was decided that the brick buildings could be allowed to remain if they were hidden by trees. The wooden buildings on both sides of St. Kilda Road were demolished. The Women's Department stayed in the brick building on the east side of St. Kilda Road. The Male Hospital was on the west side and the Casuals were accommodated in the Military Barracks still on the east side. In 1882, the Male Division moved to Royal Park. By February 1914 all trace of the Immigrants Home was removed from the east side of St. Kilda Road when the Female Division also moved to Royal Park. The Casuals Ward was moved to La Trobe Street, leaving a brick Immigrants Home building on the west side. (Fig.3)

Victoria Barracks

It was considered important in the nineteenth century that the low-lying land around the military barracks be free of settlement. The military reserve was originally extended back to Moray Street, but this was changed to Hanna Street (King's Way) in 1862. The need to protect the soldiers from disease was an impetus to providing parks and gardens for Melbourne as a buffer zone between the barracks and the nearest residential housing to prevent infection passing from the residents of the swampy land to the soldiers:

It is indispensably necessary for the healthy state, not only of the Barracks but of the whole City, that the low-lying land should be kept permanently free from human habitation. Should a population be allowed at any time to settle there, the whole cost of the barracks building would be thrown away, as the troops would certainly be withdrawn for sanitary reasons.

There had been several locations for Police Barracks throughout Melbourne in the second half of the nineteenth century, but following the closure of the Barracks on the corner of Punt Road and Wellington Parade in 1881, the men and horses were transferred to buildings within the Victoria Barracks on St. Kilda Road. They occupied a number of buildings at the Victoria Barracks site. The police were quartered in the building now known as G Block. During this period separate facilities were maintained for the police and the military. In 1882, when a military canteen was opened, the police were reminded that their own canteen was for the use and convenience of the Police Force only ... in future liquor is not to be served out of it to any other person." The part of the site occupied by the police was fenced off from that used by the military. The eight to ten foot high fence ran alongside the north end of G Building, effectively separating the military parade ground from the much smaller police parade ground. The building now known as J Block was used as the Police Hospital from 1881 to the end of World War I.

After Federation the Commonwealth took control of the Victoria Barracks as part of the Department of Defence, so the police could not continue to use part of the Barracks as their base. The police then took over the site on which the Immigrants Depot had its hospital.

A 1905 plan shows a Continental Picture Garden on the part of the site later occupied by the Police Hospital.

HISTORY OF PLACE

The setting up of the Police Depot on the present St. Kilda Road site arose from the need to move the police from the Victoria Barracks once it was taken over by the Commonwealth Defence Department c.1910 .

The Police Depot was built in three stages. It was decided that the complex would be built on the five acre site and that the work would be carried out in sections, attention being first directed to provision of necessary accommodation for 60 men in order to vacate the Barracks as early as possible. There was to be a hospital, a riding school, a drill-hall, extensive stores for all the police departments, stables for 75 horses, workshops for mechanics, horse-breaking yards, quarters for sub-officers and wagon and van sheds.

However, the first building for the Police Department constructed on the site from September 1912 was the stables, with a street front to Dodds Street and an octagonal entrance hall at the intersection of Dodds and Grant Streets. The stables consisted of 53 loose boxes around a central basalt pitched access way. A riding school and drill hall were built along Grant Street.

The stables were put to use as a military hospital during World War I and also after the war as a hospital for influenza patients in the pandemic that swept the world in 1919. The beds were placed in rows with the heads

against the walls of the loose boxes and a central aisle allowed the nursing staff to move amongst the patients. The temporary wards were illustrated in an issue of Police Life Magazine.

One of the fringe benefits received by police was free medical treatment in the Police Hospital. In the 1860s the Police Medical Officer reported that in a two year period more than 60 admissions to the Police Hospital out of a total of 356 were for gun-shot wounds, broken bones, lacerations and contusions. Other occupational hazards in the nineteenth century included tuberculosis, dysentery and typhoid fever.

From 1881 to 1914 police were treated in the Police Hospital within the Victoria Barracks. The new purpose-built Police Hospital was constructed in 1913-14 by contractor R. S. Phillips at a cost of £6567.15.9. Constructed in pavilion form, it consisted of three sections. On the ground floor, the front single-storey portion nearest to St. Kilda Road contained an office for the doctor, a dispensary and services such as kitchen, scullery, and dining room. The middle section consisted of a store, a two-bed ward and a single ward off a passage opening into a large 8 or 10 bed ward with verandahs on two sides providing fresh air, cross-ventilation and space for convalescing patients to be in the open air.

This reflected hospital design since the 1860s and followed Florence Nightingale's dictum that

No ward is in any sense a good ward in which the sick are not at all times supplied with pure air, light and a due temperature.

At the back of the ward on the ground floor was a corridor leading to the single storey operating theatre. The ward section was duplicated on the first floor. The outbuildings to the hospital consisted of a free-standing fuel store and a cook's residence. The building was renovated in 1927. It has become the Arts Building of the Victorian College of the Arts.

To the west of the Police Hospital was built the dispenser's residence. This three bedroom house facing Nolan Street cost £1124.19.5 in 1913-14.

The old Immigrants Home building on the southern corner of the site was used as the first police barracks for recruits in the Police Depot and for mounted police.

The first organised training for police recruits was introduced in 1919 by Chief Commissioner Steward, who implemented a seven-week training course at the Police Depot. The course included classes in law and police procedure, drill, "physical culture, instruction in the care and use of rifles and revolvers, first aid, swimming and life saving, and how to manage a boat and drag for a body." Steward also introduced training for detectives.

In November 1923 the police went on strike as a protest against the internal arrangements of the force. The construction of a new building for Police Barracks on the St. Kilda Road site in 1925 was directly related to the police strike and the subsequent attempts by the Government to improve working and living conditions for the police. The 1924 Royal Commission on the Police revealed disgraceful living conditions in many barracks and stations.

At the St. Kilda depot the hospital, the stables, the riding school and drill hall stand out as suitable for their several purposes. ... The stables appeared to lack nothing essential to the health and comfort of their occupants and the horses are much better served than the men. This depot is occupied by recruits in training, also by a reserve of mounted men. Their dwellings are ancient and forlorn of aspect when seen from without; within they are austere to a degree. Apparently none of the most ordinary comforts of home are permitted. Certainly none are visible. A typical dormitory held about a dozen beds. Above each was a narrow shelf, with, for covering, a strip of newspaper. Otherwise the walls were bare. No picture or ornament of any kind was observed. No lockers or other suitable receptacle for the men's belongings were in evidence. In the dining-room, it was noted that the seats were forms without backs. The whole effect was one of repelling cheerlessness, if not of actual discomfort in any body of men compelled to share them.

The Royal Commission suggested a connection between the physical conditions the men were expected to live under and their propensity to strike. As a result, police capital expenditure increased after the strike by 144% in the first year and continued to increase. The new Barracks was built in St Kilda Road, the Russell Street Barracks were remodelled, the Bourke Street West Police Station was renovated and works done at dozens of police stations throughout the state.

The 1925 Barracks dramatically improved living conditions for recruits and staff and also provided facilities for

training of recruits. The building was constructed of three storeys. On the ground floor was a kitchen, servery, officers' mess and constables' mess, married mens' lunchroom, and offices. Classrooms, a billiard room and single bedrooms for 22 men were located on the first floor. The second floor accommodated 45 men in 22 single rooms and three dormitories.

In c.1916-20 a building containing the Stores and Workshops was constructed. This was added to in 1929. The Store Room had a counter to issue uniform to police officers. . The architectural plan showed shelving for overcoats, helmets, blankets and other stores. At the same time a residence for the "Rough-Riders", those in connection with the breaking of horses for police work, was built between the dispenser's residence and the workshops.

Horse yards for training purposes with a crush gate were constructed in the stable yard in 1933 at a cost of £136.3.0.

Stage 3 Occupation by Victorian College of the Arts/Mounted Police, 1973-

In 1973 the Police acquired the former seminary, Corpus Christi College at Glen Waverley for use as the Police Training Academy. The major part of the St. Kilda Road site with the exception of the stables and the hospital was taken over by the Victorian College of the Arts. In 1981 the Police Hospital moved in to a new building at the back of the Prince Henry's Hospital, and the old police hospital on St. Kilda Road became part of the Victorian College of the Arts.

The police retained the Mounted Police Stables, which are the Operational Headquarters for the Mounted Police in Victoria. The riding school for police is no longer in use. The training school is now located at Attwood, near Broadmeadows, where the Police Stud is also located.

In 1995 a strip of land along Grant Street taking in part of the Police Stables was reserved for the purposes of the City Link Act.

The Victorian College of the Arts took over the Barracks first (now the Administration Building) and in 1981 the Police Hospital, which is now the Arts Building. The Dispenser's Residence is now used by the Australian Dance Council while the Rough Riders' Residence is used to accommodate both the Artist in Residence and a workshop for the student opera's wardrobe department. The College has also constructed a number of additional buildings on the site which have obliterated the outdoor facilities provided for the police , such as the parade ground, cricket ground and tennis court.

The Architects

The architectural division of the Victorian Public Works Department was responsible for the design of each of the buildings at the Police Depot. The buildings were erected during a seventeen year period from 1912 to 1929, and during this period, the Department's highest position of Chief Architect was filled by three architects.

George Watson

George Watson was born in England on 25 September 1850 and migrated to Australia at the age of twenty two years. Shortly after his arrival on 26 October 1872, he gained his first position with the Public Works Department as a temporary Assistant Draftsman. He was upgraded from this position to a temporary Draftsman in 1879, and three years later, he was promoted to temporary Assistant Architect. On 1 February 1885, Watson was made a permanent staff member with his new position of Assistant Architect for the Central District. In 1910, he was appointed to the newly created position of Chief Architect, following the 1909 Grainger Report on the practices of the architectural branch of the Department. Watson remained in this position until his retirement in 1915.

During Watson's time at the Public Works Department, he worked on many projects such as the Bendigo Post Office (1882), the Richmond Post Office (1879) and the Port Fairy Post Office (1880) as well as the Bendigo Law Courts (1890), the Stawell Court House (1878) and the Shepparton Court House (1881). Watson also worked on the Sunbury Lunatic Asylum, the new Female Prison at Pentridge and the State Government Offices for the Department of Agriculture at 3 Treasury Place, Melbourne. He also collaborated with S. C. Brittingham on the design for the Administration Building of the Mont Park Hospital complex.

Watson was an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects as well as the Australian representative of the London Society of Architects. He also held the rank of Major in the local forces and was in command of the Army Service Corps. He was appointed ADC to His Excellency the Acting-Governor during his term of office and Honorary ADC to the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Victoria.

Samuel C. Brittingham

Samuel C. Brittingham was born on 12 June 1860. Once joining the Victorian Public Works Department in 1875, he worked in the junior architectural positions of Trainee Draftsman in the State Schools Division and later as Assistant Architect (2nd Grade) for the North Western District. In 1908 Brittingham took the position of District Architect for the Central area, and in 1915 following the retirement of George Watson, he became the acting Chief Architect. Brittingham was officially appointed to the position of Chief Architect in 1916, and he remained in the position until 1922.

During his time with the Public Works Department, Brittingham worked on the design of many buildings including the Bourke Street West Police Station (1888), the Parkville Post Office (1889) and a number of other Post Offices and Court Houses throughout country Victoria. Later in his career he worked on many buildings in the Mont Park complex, including the Administration Building (1913), the former Paying Patients Block (1911-13), the Paying Patients Wards (1911-13), the Chronic Wards (1914-16) and the Military Mental Ward (1919-23).

Edwin Evan Smith

Edwin Evan Smith was born in Montrose, Scotland on 4 October 1870. He was articled to an unknown architect in Scotland before migrating to Australia in August 1889. In 1898, Smith gained a position as a draftsman in the Queensland Department of Public Works. Fourteen years later, he was employed by the Commonwealth Department of Works in Queensland, where he remained until 1922. At this time he was appointed Chief Architect of the Public Works Department in Victoria. In December 1929, Smith was appointed government architect of New South Wales and he remained in that position until he retired in October 1935. He died in August 1965.

During his term as Chief Architect of the Victorian Public Works Department, Smith supervised the design of many buildings, including the State Government Offices at Bendigo (1928), police buildings at South Melbourne (1925) and Malvern (1929) and the former Police Barracks on St. Kilda Road (1925). He also supervised the design of many new schools and court houses throughout metropolitan Melbourne and country Victoria.

E. Evan Smith was awarded the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Street Architecture Medal in 1930 for his design of the Emily McPherson College of Domestic Economy, corner Russell and Victoria Streets. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The St Kilda Road site of the former South Melbourne Police Depot has important associations with the history of Melbourne as the location of Canvas Town in 1852-54 and the Immigrants Home from 1856-1914. The construction of the Stables, Riding School and former Drill Hall, Hospital and Dispenser's Residence was directly related to the Federal Government's decision to establish the Victoria Barracks as the headquarters for the newly formed Commonwealth Department of Defence in 1906. As the Victorian Police Department had occupied a significant proportion of the Barracks since 1881, provision was made by the Government to relocate the Police Department to the nearby St Kilda Road site.

The former Hospital (1914) was the first purpose-built Police Hospital to be constructed in Victoria and is significant in demonstrating the support services considered necessary for the police force at that time. Its pavilion design, intended to provide ample sunlight and ventilation for patients, expressed late nineteenth and early twentieth century attitudes to hospital planning.

The construction of the new Police Barracks on St. Kilda Road was directly related to the police strike of November 1923 and subsequent Royal Commission in 1924, which found that many police barracks and stations provided poor living conditions for officers. As a result, the old Immigrants Home buildings originally used by the Police were demolished and construction of the new barracks was commenced.

The Police Depot is historically significant as a police training establishment of the early twentieth century, and demonstrates the reliance on the horse as a means of transport for police work at that time.

Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

The former police Hospital and Dispenser's Residence are examples of the few Police buildings to remain virtually intact in metropolitan Melbourne.

The Police Barracks is a rare example of the combination of this building type with the Georgian Revival style, as it was an aesthetic usually reserved for private residences or commercial buildings such as banks and offices.

Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

The Former Victoria Police Depot has the potential to educate and illustrate the history of the police in Victoria, and in particular the changes in the use of horses as a means of transport.

Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

Criterion E

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and /or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

The Mounted Police Stables, the Riding School and former Drill Hall by the architect, George Watson, Chief Architect of the Public Works Department from 1910-1915, is a remarkable building considered at the time to rival the Spanish Riding school in Vienna.

The former Police Barracks is architecturally significant as a notable example of the Georgian Revival style which developed in Australia during the early twentieth century. The building is a rare example of the combination of this building type with the Georgian Revival style, as it was an aesthetic usually reserved for private residences or commercial buildings such as banks and offices. E. Evan Smith's signature style of Georgian Revival is representative of an important part of Australia's architectural history as it was the first time that an earlier style practised in this country was re-created.

Criterion G

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance.

Extent of Registration

1. All the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 1541 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Former Police Barracks (1925)

B2 Former Stables, Drill Hall and Riding School (1912-13)

B3 Former Workshops and Stores (c.1916-20) including the original perimeter wall to Dodds Street and Southbank Boulevard.

B4 Former Workshops and Stores (c.1916-20)

B5 Former Rough Riders Residence (1929)

B6 Former Dispensers Residence (1914)

B7 Former Police Hospital (1914)

2. All the land bounded by Dodds Street, Southbank Boulevard, St Kilda Road and Grant Street marked L1 on Diagram 1541 held by the Executive Director.

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/>