HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Determination Date</th>
<th>3 August 2017</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place/Object Name</td>
<td>Elsternwick Fire Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>2-4 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VHR Number</td>
<td>H2376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Heritage Place</td>
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At a meeting of the Heritage Council of Victoria on 3 August 2017 it was determined that, the above place is of cultural heritage significance and should be included in the Heritage register in accordance with ss42(1)(a) and (4) of the Heritage Act 1995, including the additional changes jointly agreed to by the owner and the Executive Director, noted in the document at page 235 of the papers for HC223. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council’s criteria and other information, including the proposed amendments contained in the attached report and submissions received in response to the Executive Director’s recommendation.

The Heritage Council endorses and adopts the attached report for the purposes of making its decision.

Professor Stuart Macintyre AO  
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria
ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

NAME: FORMER ELSTERNWICK FIRE STATION
LOCATION: 2-4 SELWYN STREET, ELSTERNWICK
VHR NUMBER: PROV VHR H2376
CATEGORY: HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE OVERLAY: CITY OF GLEN EIRA, HO81
FILE NUMBER: FOL/17/15093
HERMES NUMBER: 2645

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That the Former Elsternwick Fire Station be included as a Heritage Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 1995 [Section 32 (1)(a)].

TIM SMITH  OAM
Executive Director
Recommendation Date: 19 May 2017

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.32 of the Heritage Act 1995.
EXTENT OF NOMINATION

Date that the nomination was accepted by the Executive Director
21 March 2017

Written extent of nomination
The Former Elsternwick Fire Station including all of the land known as Lot 23 on LP2360 (shaded in blue below).

Nomination extent diagram

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station was nominated on the basis that it satisfies six of the Heritage Council’s criteria for inclusion in the Victoria Heritage Register (Criterion A, B, C, D, E and H).
EXTENT OF REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2376 encompassing all of Lot 23 on Lodged Plan 2360.

The extent of registration of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2376 including the land and buildings (including the exteriors and interiors).

RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The recommended extent is the cadastral block which includes the Former Elsternwick Fire Station building and the formerly open area to its east. This block was acquired for use by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) in 1895. The east/rear area originally contained a yard and stable building to accommodate the fire horses, but since the mid-1950s has been enclosed by corrugated-steel clad and timber-framed wall and roof surfaces. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station was the location of the MFB’s Station No. 31 until this Station closed in 1926.
AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING EXTENT OF REGISTRATION
STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station building and associated land.

History Summary

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station was built and commenced operation in 1896. It was one of 32 new fire stations built between 1892 and 1896 by the newly formed Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) to form a comprehensive fire-fighting network across Melbourne. The MFB was established in 1891 as Victoria’s government-run fire-fighting service in Melbourne and its growing suburbs. By 1918 motorised fire engine appliances had replaced horse-drawn fire vehicles across the metropolitan area, and the consequently larger areas that fire stations could protect meant the 1896 Elsternwick Fire Station was one of many which was becoming obsolete. The MFB continued to use the Elsternwick Fire Station up until the Station’s closure in 1926. From 1927 the former Fire Station was leased by neighbouring timber merchants JJ Webster Pty Ltd who subsequently purchased the property from the MFB in 1934. From 1954 the ‘Esquire Motors’ car repair business traded at the site, and changes to the former Fire Station building including the complete enclosure of its yard by corrugated steel walls and roofing appear to have been completed in the mid-1950s. In 1990 the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (‘ABC’) purchased the former Fire Station together with five other adjoining land parcels in Selwyn Street. From that time until 2017 the former Elsternwick Fire Station has been used by the ABC as office and storage space in its Selwyn Street television studio complex.

Description Summary

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station consists of an 1896 building on Selwyn Street and adjoining 1950s-built additions under a group of skillion and flat roofs to the 1896 building’s east/rear. The single-storey 1896 building has walls of brick and stone construction with an asymmetrical principal façade built to the Selwyn Street (west) site boundary. A stone-framed horseshoe arch entrance to the former Station’s fire engine room is the dominant feature of this façade. The arch features a carefully-detailed composition of rusticated and smooth-faced limestone, trachyte and fine axed basalt, and frames the engine room’s original bi-fold timber doors. This portion of the Selwyn Street façade is surmounted by an Anglo-Dutch gable with a central large heraldic emblem which contains what appears to be the 1891 MFB-designed corporate shield. Most of the original eastern masonry wall of the fire engine room has been removed to create a larger garage area, most probably in the mid-1950s. Several courses of this wall’s original brickwork remain above a steel lintel. The garage area’s floor is a concrete slab and is also likely to have been installed in the mid-1950s. The south elevation of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station is built to the site boundary along an un-named lane. Conventional timber-framed pitched and hipped roofs above the original former Station building appear to have retained their original form, but the original roofing slates have been replaced by corrugated steel sheeting. A corrugated galvanised steel-clad external wall and skillion and flat roofs, which are likely to date from the mid-1950s, completely enclose the east/rear portion of the site. The area beneath these roofs is divided by timber-framed partition walls into four separate storage areas and a small lavatory/washroom area. Apart from ceramic tiles in these lavatories, the floors of the 1950s-built spaces are concrete floor slabs. The north and east boundaries of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station site abut the corrugated-steel sheeting clad walls of a large building containing production and storage areas in the ABC’s Selwyn Street television studio complex.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Boonwurrung people.

Name: Former Elsternwick Fire Station
Hermes Number: 2645
HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?
The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is of architectural, cultural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

**Criterion A**
Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.

**Criterion D**
Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?
The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is historically significant as one of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the newly established Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. These fire stations were constructed following the establishment in 1891 of the MFB, Victoria’s government-run fire-fighting service for metropolitan Melbourne and its growing suburban population. These new stations formed a crucial part of the MFB’s fire-fighting network across Melbourne. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station clearly demonstrates the historical development of fire-fighting services in Melbourne, especially the expansion of the newly-formed MFB throughout Melbourne’s suburbs during the 1890s. [Criterion A]

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is architecturally significant as a fine example of a late nineteenth century fire station. Constructed shortly after the establishment of the MFB, it displays characteristics of its class of place that remain mostly unchanged from the former Station’s historically important period of development and use. A particularly strong element of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station is the large and strikingly-detailed stone horseshoe arch, designed for horse-drawn fire-fighting vehicles, at the street entrance to its fire-engine room. [Criterion D]

RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.34A(2)]
Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines* (2014).

**CRITERION A**
Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria’s cultural history.

**STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The place/object has a CLEAR ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria’s cultural history.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plus</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The EVENT, PHASE, etc is of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.</td>
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</table>

Name: Former Elsternwick Fire Station
Hermes Number: 2645
Executive Director’s Response

In May 1891 the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) was formed. The subsequent construction of 32 new fire stations for the MFB within the four-year period from 1892 to 1896 is an event of historical importance which made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station, completed and fully operational by 1896, is a place which has a clear association with this event and this period in Victoria’s cultural history.

The association of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station to this event of historical importance and this period is evident in the physical fabric of the former Fire Station building, and in documentary resources.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

| The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be **UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.** |

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is one of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the MFB during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. These 32 stations formed a crucial part of the newly-formed MFB’s fire-fighting network across Melbourne. The Eastern Hill Fire Station [VHR 1042] in East Melbourne is currently the only one of the remaining 10 included in the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is one of the most intact of these 10 remaining fire stations. It is therefore significant for its ability to illustrate the historical development of fire-fighting services in Melbourne, especially the expansion of the MFB throughout Melbourne’s suburbs in the 1892-1896 period. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station allows its clear association with this event and this period to be understood better than most other places in Victoria with substantially the same association.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B

| The place/object has a **clear ASSOCIATION** with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria’s cultural history. |

**Plus**

| The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc IS **EVIDENT** in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history. |

**Plus**

| The place/object is **RARE OR UNCOMMON**, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc. |

| OR |

| The place/object is **RARE OR UNCOMMON**, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated |

| OR |
The existence of the class of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is ENDANGERED to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is an example of the ‘fire station’ class of cultural place, within the broad ‘buildings for emergency services’ place type.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station, has a clear association with the construction of 32 new fire stations for the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) during the years 1892 to 1896. This four-year construction programme was an event and a period of importance in Victoria’s cultural history. The association of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station to this event and this period is evident in the physical fabric of the building, and in documentary resources.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is not one of a small number of places remaining that demonstrates the early development of the MFB. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station does not contain unusual features of note that were not widely replicated, and the existence of the ‘fire station’ class of place is not endangered to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places.

Criterion B is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

<table>
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<th>The:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• visible physical fabric; &amp;/or</td>
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<tr>
<td>• documentary evidence; &amp;/or</td>
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<tr>
<td>• oral history,</td>
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relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of historical interest that is NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD.

Plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an INTEGRITY and/or CONDITION that it COULD YIELD INFORMATION through detailed investigation.

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station does not have the potential to yield information that is not currently visible or understood (such as archaeological information) that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.

Criterion C is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

| The place/object is one of a CLASS of places/objects that has a clear ASSOCIATION with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria’s history. |

Plus
The EVENT, PHASE, etc is of HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Plus

The principal characteristics of the class are EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object.

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is an example of the ‘fire station’ class of cultural place, within the broad ‘buildings for emergency services’ place type. It has a clear association with the historically important construction of 32 new fire stations for the newly-established MFB within the four-year period from 1892 to 1896 – a process which has made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station exhibits typical principal characteristics of this class of place, including a fire engine garage with large doors, office rooms, and a staff room. The form and detailing of the stone horseshoe arch at the Selwyn Street entrance to the Station’s engine room illustrates this building’s function particularly strongly. Although the Former Elsternwick Fire Station’s former service and horse-stabling yard is currently enclosed with a wall and roofs of unpainted corrugated-steel, these elements can be clearly understood as later additions to the Station and does not compromise the capacity to read the 1896 building’s principal façade.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION D

The place/object is a NOTABLE EXAMPLE of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is a notable example of the ‘fire station’ class of cultural place in Victoria. The building displays characteristics of this class that remain mostly unchanged from its historically important period of development and use as a fire station. It is also a fine example of a fire station, displaying characteristics that are of higher historical relevance than are typical of places in this class. The north side of the Selwyn Street façade is dominated by a finely-detailed stone horseshoe arch and surmounted by an Anglo-Dutch gable containing a large heraldic emblem. This arch contains the Station’s original bi-fold fire engine room doors, which are of framed and braced vertical timber boards, and which feature fixed glass panels and door hardware that appear original.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The PHYSICAL FABRIC of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station building combines aspects of both American Romanesque and Federation Free architectural styles. The building’s aesthetically-pleasing façade features characteristics of these styles including a prominent arched opening defined by large stone voussoirs, informal massing and fenestration, and contrasting material colours and textures.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.
STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

*critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director’s Response

The aesthetic characteristics of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station have not received critical recognition within art, design, architectural or related disciplines as an outstanding example within Victoria, or received wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria in mediums such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications or other print media.

Criterion E is *not* likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION F

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

**Plus**

The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

Executive Director’s Response

The integrity of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station is good. The physical evidence at the Former Elsternwick Fire Station demonstrates standard building construction techniques that were typical of similarly-scaled buildings dating from the time of its creation in the mid-1890s.

Criterion F is *not* likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION G

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to indigenous people as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION G

Evidence exists of a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* between the place/object and a *PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP*.

(For the purpose of these guidelines, ’COMMUNITY or CULTURAL GROUP’ is defined as a sizable group of persons who share a common and long-standing interest or identity).

**Plus**

The *ASSOCIATION* between the place/object and the community or cultural group is *STRONG OR SPECIAL*, as evidenced by the regular or long-term use of/engagement with the place/object or the enduring ceremonial, ritual, commemorative, spiritual or celebratory use of the place/object.

Name: Former Elsternwick Fire Station
Hermes Number: 2645
Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station was built for the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade and remained in its ownership from 1896 to 1934. However, the Station does not have a direct strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group which is evidenced by continuing use of engagement with this place.

Criterion G is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION H
Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria’s history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION H

The place/object has a DIRECT ASSOCIATION with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential CONTRIBUTION to the course of Victoria’s history.

Plus

The ASSOCIATION of the place/object to the person(s) IS EVIDENT in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

Plus

The ASSOCIATION:

directly relates to ACHIEVEMENTS of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
relates to an enduring and/or close INTERACTION between the person(s) and the place/object.

Executive Director’s Response

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is associated with its architect John Thomas Kelleher (1844-1928). On the available evidence Kelleher’s contribution to the course of Victoria’s cultural history cannot be described as strong or influential.

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied.
PERMIT POLICY

Preamble
The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of the former Elsternwick Fire Station in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2376 including the land and buildings (exteriors and interiors). Under the Heritage Act 1995 a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans
The most current version of a conservation management plan (or similar document) should be used to guide the management of this place in a manner that respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage
If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

Other approvals
Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.
Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance
The cultural heritage significance of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station lies in the physical fabric of the face brick and stone 1896 Fire Station building. The timber-framed and corrugated galvanised-steel sheeting clad structures dating from the 1950s and later on the eastern portion of the site are of no significance.

All of the buildings and features listed here are of primary cultural heritage significance in the context of the place. The buildings and features of cultural heritage significance are shown in red on the diagram. A permit is required for most works or alterations. See Permit Exemptions section for specific permit exempt activities:

- The 1896 Fire Station building at the western side of the site.

Buildings and features that are listed here have no cultural heritage significance. They are shown in blue on the diagram. See Permit Exemptions section for specific permit exempt activities:

- The 1950s and later additions, comprising the timber-framed and corrugated galvanised-steel sheeting clad structures on the eastern portion of the site.
PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

General Condition 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.

General Condition 2
Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3
All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4
Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5
Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions:

1896 Building – Exterior
- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like.
- Removal of non-original items such as pipe work, ducting, wiring and making good in a manner that does not have a detrimental effect on the heritage fabric.
- Removal of non-original external fixtures and fittings such as hot water services and taps in a manner that does not have a detrimental effect on the heritage fabric.

1896 Building – Interior
- Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.
- Installation, removal or replacement of non-original carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of non-original curtain tracks, rods and blinds.
- Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art.
- Demolition or removal of non-original wall linings (including plasterboard, laminate and Masonite), non-original flush panel or part-glazed laminated doors, kitchen wall tiling and equipment, lights and built-in cupboards.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation and/or plant in the roof space.
1950s and later extensions/additions
- Works that do not increase the footprint of these structures.
- Demolition of the 1950s and later additions subject to a permit being issued for the management of original fabric where it intersects with the later additions.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

Local Government Authority: City of Glen Eira

Heritage Overlay: HO81
Former Elsternwick Fire Station 2-4 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick

Heritage Overlay Controls
- External Paint: No
- Internal Alteration: No
- Tree: No

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register: No

Other listings
- Commonwealth Heritage List: Place ID 105216
- Register of the National Estate: Place ID 15720, File No 2/17/009/0029
- National Trust of Victoria (Australia): File number B3466, (classified as being of local significance)

Other Names: Former MFB Station No 31; Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station (former).

HISTORY

Fire fighting in Melbourne before 1891

Until 1891, fire fighting in Victoria was generally undertaken by brigades of volunteers. The brigades were funded by insurance companies, private companies, municipal councils and private funds. Melbourne had (from 1839) a series of insurance-company financed brigades in the City centre, and (from 1854) a collection of volunteer fire brigades in its suburban areas. In 1854 a group of insurance companies co-operated to organise the combined ‘Insurance Companies’ Brigade’. Volunteers were paid a stipend and a bonus for every fire attended. However without any central control of the various fire brigades, any number could and often did arrive to fight fires which often led to disputes over control and water access.

By the 1880s there was a proliferation of suburban brigades, and a community and fire-fighter-driven campaign arose seeking an association of volunteer fire brigades, the passage of legislation to regulate fire fighting in Victoria, the use of modern equipment such as steam fire engines, the use of electric fire alarms as in San Francisco and the appointment of paid fire fighters. Captain James Kelly, leader of the Prahran City Brigade, convened a meeting of fire fighters in May 1883 where the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Association
was formed. The objectives of the Association were to represent the interests of volunteer fire brigades (and volunteers) and to work for the passing of a Fire Brigades Act.

Formation of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB)

Toward the end of the 1880s the escalating conflicts between the various volunteer brigades and the Insurance Companies Brigade gave additional impetus to the Fire Brigades Act being passed through Parliament. In 1890 this Act created two organisations in the colony: the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’), which became a full-time professional force; and the Country Fires Brigade Board (‘CFBB’), which evolved to become the Country Fire Authority (‘CFA’) in 1945. The MFB initially took over the Insurance Companies’ Fire Brigade station at 447 Little Bourke Street. It operated from there until its new East Melbourne headquarters, the Eastern Hill Fire Station in Gisborne Street, was completed in November 1893.

In 1892 the MFB implemented a plan to establish a wide network of fire stations throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area. Some would be refurbished existing station buildings, but thirty-two of the fire stations in the new MFB network were to be constructed from scratch. Between 1892 and 1896 these MFB fire stations were duly built at a total cost to Victoria of £77,750. This four year period thus saw the realisation of the MFB’s initial plan to put in place a new government-run fire-fighting service for metropolitan Melbourne and its growing suburban population. Several architects were engaged to design the new MFB fire stations during this period, resulting in a wide range of styles and forms.

Establishment of MFB Station No 31 at 2-4 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick

A volunteer fire brigade had been formed in Elsternwick in early 1890, ‘principally through the financial support of a number of leading residents’, and operated out of basic premises opposite the Post Office. This volunteer corps was abolished in 1891 following the establishment of the MFB in 1891, and its plant and equipment were surrendered to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

Caulfield Shire Council approached the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in 1893 and again in 1894, dissatisfied at the Board’s delay in providing a fire station in the district. The MFB Plant & Buildings Committee initially proposed to construct a simple weatherboard station at Elsternwick. The Caulfield Shire Council wrote to the Board in April 1895 advocating instead the construction of a substantial structure at Elsternwick, and also to request that the old Caulfield fire station in Glenferrie Road be allowed to remain open as an ‘auxiliary’. In late April, the Chief Officer of the MFB reported to the Plant & Buildings Committee that a building similar to the newly-built station at East Prahran would be suitable for the districts of Elsternwick and Yarraville. In May, the Committee resolved to purchase the site for Elsternwick fire station and the transfer of the land to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board was registered on 17 June 1895.

The MFB appointed architect John Thomas Kelleher to design the new fire station for Elsternwick, and the contract for its construction was signed on 4 August 1895 by contractor Peter Rodger. The Elsternwick Fire Station was built for a total cost of £769 (of which £125 was paid for the land), and it was completed and fully operational in 1896.

When it commenced operations in 1896 the Elsternwick Fire Station building contained an office, accommodation for a fire crew and a horse-drawn vehicle, a kitchen and dining area, and an annex on the site’s north boundary containing a bathroom and lavatories (see the 1902 M.M.B.W Drainage Plan in the ‘Additional Images’ section of this Report). Until 1950 the MFB Board’s policy of ‘continuous duty’ for firefighting personnel meant that fire stations were fire fighters’ homes as well as places of work. To the rear (east) of the Station building was an open yard which also contained a stable for the Station’s fire horses.

John Thomas Kelleher (1844-1928): architect of the Elsternwick Fire Station

J T Kelleher began at the Victorian Public Works Department (‘PWD’) in October 1863 as a Class 5 Draftsman and continued to work within the Department for 31 years. In 1887, Kelleher was appointed Architect Grade II in sub-charge of the newly created Buildings Division of the PWD, and was then Architect grade I in charge of this Division from 1893 onwards. During his time in the Eastern District of the Buildings Division, Kelleher
was assisted in architectural design by several experienced architects including Alexander James Macdonald (b 1864) and John Russell Brown (b. 1857). Kelleher’s signature as the senior architect appears on architectural drawings produced by the Division, but architectural historians have argued that Macdonald is more likely to have been responsible for the designs produced therein.

Kelleher resigned from the Victorian Public Service in 1894. Soon after, he was commissioned by the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board to design three new small suburban fire station buildings: at Kensington (also known during its working life as Newmarket and Flemington), Yarraville and Elsternwick.

**1911 onward: motorisation of the MFB**

During the years 1898 to 1907 the MFB had established an additional eleven suburban fire stations. Then in 1911, as motorised fire engines began to be introduced in Melbourne, the MFB began to sell its horses. Motorisation was accompanied by a major building programme across the network of fire stations. At its simplest this was a matter of removing stables and feed stores and altering the width of engine room doorways.

But motorisation also meant that fire fighters could travel further and more quickly than had previously been possible. The increased radius of operation of suburban fire stations led to large-scale changes. Some stations closed, other new ones opened, and the distribution of Melbourne’s fire stations was affected across the whole network. In 1914 the MFB secured a £100,000 loan for its building and motorisation programme.

At Elsternwick in 1916 the horse stable building was converted into additional dormitory accommodation for fire fighters. By 1918 motorised vehicles had replaced horse-drawn vehicles across Melbourne and the Elsternwick Fire Station was one of many which was becoming obsolete.

The Elsternwick Fire Station was used by the MFB up until the Station’s closure in 1926. Its functions were then transferred to a newly-constructed district fire station nearby, at the north-west corner of the intersection of Brighton Road and Scott Street (in what is now Elwood).

**1927 to 1989: JJ Webster and Esquire Motors era**

In 1927 the Elsternwick Fire Station Service ceased operation at Selwyn Street, and its personnel and equipment moved to new premises. The MFB Board subsequently leased the redundant Selwyn Street Elsternwick Fire Station to timber merchants JJ Webster Pty Ltd, who at that time were operating a timber yard on the neighbouring property at 6-12 Selwyn Street.

In November 1934 the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board sold the Former Elsternwick Fire Station (2-4 Selwyn Street) to JJ Webster Pty Ltd for the sum of £1100. It is not known to what use JJ Webster then put the former Station building. In 1954 JJ Webster in turn leased out the former Fire Station, and the property was then converted into a car repair business which traded for many years as ‘Esquire Motors’. Physical and documentary evidence indicates that modifications made to the former Elsternwick Fire Station following the commencement of this arrangement include:

- removal of the original roofing slates and their replacement with corrugated iron;
- removal of fireplaces;
- replacement of timber floors with concrete slabs in the building’s southern rooms;
- painting of the building’s whole Selwyn Street (west) and part south facades;
- near-complete removal of the fire engine bay’s original east wall and installation of a steel beam lintel to support some remnant brickwork over the opening; and
- construction of substantial timber-framed additions over the whole open yard area to the eastern side of the former Station building.

**1990-2017: ABC ownership**

In 1990, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (‘ABC’) purchased property in Elsternwick (adjoining the subject site) to provide additional accommodation in its Selwyn Street television studio complex. The ABC
purchased the 2-4 Selwyn Street former Fire Station from JJ Webster Pty Ltd (in liquidation) together with five other adjoining land parcels in Selwyn Street. Since that time the Former Elsternwick Fire Station has been used by the ABC as office and storage space, with the ABC undertaking minor works and alterations to the building including:

- c.1995: installation of smoke detectors and illuminated exit signs to meet statutory requirements;
- c.1995: removal of paint from exterior wall surfaces; and
- c.2000: installation of an external cupboard recessed into the external face of the south wall at its Selwyn Street end for a fire hydrant booster assembly.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

**Architect name:** John Thomas Kelleher (1844-1928)

**Architectural style name:** American Romanesque combined with Federation Free Style

**Builder name:** Peter Rodger

**Construction started date:** 1895

**Construction ended date:** 1896

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

06 Building towns, cities and the garden state

6.2 Creating Melbourne

6.3 Shaping the suburbs

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station occupies a site of approximately 340 square metres at the northeast corner of the intersection of Selwyn Street with an unnamed lane linking Selwyn Street and St Georges Road. It comprises an 1896 building which faces Selwyn Street, and to that building’s east/rear an adjoining 1950s-built addition with a group of skillion and flat roofs. The south elevation of the 1896 building and the 1950s addition is built to the site boundary along the un-named lane. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is also built to the site’s north and east boundaries, which abut the corrugated-steel sheeting clad walls of neighbouring large production and storage buildings in the ABC’s Selwyn Street television studio complex.

1896 building

The original Elsternwick Fire Station building addresses Selwyn Street and occupies an L-shaped portion of the site’s western side. This single-storey building has walls of brick and stone construction with an asymmetrical principal façade built to the Selwyn Street (west) site boundary.

The dominant feature of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station’s Selwyn Street façade is the stone horseshoe arch at the base of the larger of the façade’s two gables. This arch marks the entrance to the former Fire Station’s engine room and features a carefully detailed composition of rusticated and smooth-faced limestone, fine axed basalt and trachyte. This portion of the façade is surmounted by an Anglo-Dutch gable which contains a large heraldic emblem. The stone surfaces of the emblem’s central area have spalled but it appears to be the MFB corporate shield designed in 1891 by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, which was based on the shield of the then Council of the Town of Melbourne. The shield is quartered by a cross with a crown symbol at its centre, representing allegiance and loyalty to Great Britain.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station’s external walls are of Flemish bond face brickwork. The Selwyn Street façade contains bands of contrasting black body bricks with red dressings – white and black tuck-pointed
respectively – together with stone detailing, a decorative concrete parapet and a triangular-shaped inset of terracotta tiles at the apex of the smaller of its two gables.

The building’s main pedestrian entrance in the building’s south elevation is a traditional four-panel timber door with a fanlight. Double-hung timber-framed windows in the external walls facing Selwyn Street and the un-named lane appear to be original.

The stone horseshoe arch in the Selwyn Street façade contains the Station’s original bi-fold fire engine room doors. These doors are of vertical timber boards, framed and braced on the inward-facing side, and contain fixed glass panels which have been painted over. Much of the door hardware appears original.

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station building’s timber-framed pitched and hipped roofs appear to have retained their original forms. These roof surfaces are clad with corrugated galvanised steel sheeting, although photographic evidence indicates that the Station’s roof was originally clad with terracotta-trimmed slates. This was most probably first replaced with corrugated iron in the late 1950s. The present-day corrugated steel roofing dates from c.2000 works undertaken by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. One original brick chimney remains, but fireplaces within the former Station building have been removed.

A substantial portion of the original eastern masonry wall of the Station’s former fire engine room has been removed to create a larger garage area, most probably in the mid-1950s. Several courses of this wall’s brickwork remain above a steel lintel. A space which now reads as a large garage merges the 1896 building’s original fire engine room with the area once occupied by the bathroom and lavatory annex in the former open yard’s north-west corner. This garage area’s concrete slab floor is also likely to have been added in the mid-1950s. In 2016 two rectangular portions of the garage’s concrete slab were cut out and removed to provide access for the inspection of underground fuel tanks.

1950s and later additions

Timber-framed and corrugated galvanised steel-clad external wall and skillion and flat roofs, which the available evidence suggests are likely to date from the mid-1950s, completely enclose a substantial eastern portion of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station site. The area beneath these roofs is divided by timber-framed partition walls into four separate storage spaces and a small lavatory/washroom area. Apart from ceramic tiles in the lavatory/washroom area, the floors of the 1950s-built spaces are concrete floor slabs. These areas’ corrugated external wall cladding and corrugated and clip-fixed steel roof sheeting were installed as part of works undertaken in c.2000 by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The south (lane-facing) external wall contains a steel roller-shutter door and three separate timber-framed windows.

LANDSCAPE

There are no trees or vegetation at this place.

INTERIORS

Many original fixtures and fitments have been removed and replaced throughout the former Elsternwick Fire Station building, but what appear to be original timber-board ceilings and vented plaster ceiling roses remain in the 1896 building’s western rooms.

ARCHAEOLOGY

There is no identified archaeology of state level significance at this place.
INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness

The intactness of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station building is good to fair. Its exterior fabric remains largely intact. Elements associated with the original open yard to the east of the site, including the original horse stable building and an annex to the engine room on the site’s north boundary which contained a bathroom and lavatories, have been removed. [March 2017]

Integrity

The integrity of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station is good. The cultural heritage values of the place are evident in the 1896 building’s original form and its extant fabric. The interiors of the former Fire Station have been adapted by its successive owners but the original internal layout of the building is still recognisable. The timber-framed and corrugated galvanised steel-clad wall and roof surfaces on the eastern portion of the site built from the 1950s and later can clearly be read as later and unrelated additions to the former Station building’s original fabric. [March 2017]

CONDITION

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is in good to fair condition. There is evidence of localised deterioration and replacement of some finishes throughout the building. A cyclical maintenance program implemented by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation since it purchased the site in 1990 has identified and addressed some issues. The 1896 building’s exterior face brickwork was painted during the 1950s, however the ABC removed the paint in c.1995 to recover the appearance of the original fire station building. In 2010 a portion of the external brickwork of the 1896 former Fire Station building’s wall on the un-named lane was painted at Glen Eira Council’s instigation. [March 2017]

COMPARISONS

1. Early fire stations (pre-MFB) in the VHR

Former Prahran Fire Station [VHR H0519]

Built in 1889 for the Prahran Fire Brigade, the Former Prahran City Fire Station is a two-storey brick building with an attached brick watchtower. The ground floor of the building contained an apparatus room to accommodate the brigade's hose reels, a steam fire engine and a workshop. The top floor of the fire station housed a library, a meeting room and an office. As the members of the fire brigade were volunteers and did not live at the station, no accommodation spaces were provided.

At the end of the nineteenth century the building was taken over by the Prahran Council and remodelled for other uses. The double doors of the apparatus room were converted into a large window, the internal space was divided into smaller rooms, and a balcony, porch and two rooms were added to the front the building.
2. 1892-96 MFB-commissioned fire stations

The Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’) was established in 1891. In the following four years it rapidly built 32 new fire stations, including its new headquarters at Eastern Hill. Only 10 of these 32 fire stations now remain. The Victorian Heritage Register includes one – the former Eastern Hill Fire Station.

**Eastern Hill Fire Station [VHR H1042]**

The Eastern Hill Fire Station is a two storey brick building with accompanying watch tower built on an elevated site in East Melbourne with a wide panorama of the City. The fire station was opened in 1893 as the headquarters station for the newly established Metropolitan Fire Brigade (‘MFB’). It is one of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the MFB during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. Residential and workshop extensions made to the rear of the building in the 1920s were replaced by a new head station building in 1978, and in later years the west wing of the original building was demolished. The ground floor boardroom and the watch room installed in the former hayloft in the 1920s are significant intact elements.

The Eastern Hill Fire Station is of historical significance as the first major building project undertaken by the MFB Board. It is a focal point in the historical development of organised fire fighting in Melbourne. The building remained the MFB’s flagship for nearly ninety years and set the standard for the development of fire fighting installations throughout the metropolis. The tall watch tower, which dominated the city skyline for over half a century, became an important civic landmark.

The Eastern Hill Fire Station now also houses the Fire Services Museum of Victoria, an organisation dedicated to the preservation and display of fire-fighting memorabilia from Victoria, Australia and overseas. Its collection includes display of vintage fire vehicles and other appliances, helmets, 18th century uniforms, badges, models, and historical photos of firefighters and fires of the past. The Museum is operated by volunteers, most of whom are retired fire fighters.
**Former Kensington Fire Station (1896) – Not in VHR**

This two-storey former suburban fire station is one of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the MFB during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. It is also the other one of the remaining two of the original three fire station buildings designed by architect J T Kelleher. Known during its life as the Newmarket and the Flemington Fire Station too, the MFB No. 49 Fire Station at Kensington remained operational until 1961. Following its closure this Former Kensington Fire Station was refitted as a private house. Single-storey brick additions now adjoin two of its sides. Like the Former Elsternwick Fire Station, the Kensington Station building’s principal façade is dominated by a stone horseshoe arch opening into the former fire engine garage. However, the principal façade of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station is relatively more intact than that of the former Kensington Fire Station.

**Former Prahran East Fire Station (1895) – Not in VHR**

This one-storey former fire station building is another of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the MFB during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. Following its closure as MFB No. 29 Fire Station in 1916 the building was used by a local business as a product store until bought by the 2nd Prahran Scout Group.
in 1940. The intactness of the former Prahran East fire station appears to be fair. The arched opening to the former fire engine room is still evident, but its original doors were removed and the opening infilled in 1957. Much other original fabric also appears to have been removed or altered. A collection of single storey additions built from the late 1950s to mid-1970s abut the former Station’s non-street elevations. The available evidence suggests that the former Prahran East Fire Station’s intactness and integrity is at a lower level than that of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station.

The former Prahran East Fire Station (Google streetview)

Former ‘Essendon’ (now Moonee Ponds) Fire Station (1893) – Not in VHR

This one-storey former fire station building is another of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the MFB during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. Following its closure as MFB No. 51 Fire Station in 1917 the subsequent history of this station is unclear, although it appears to have been refitted many years ago as a pair of private homes. What remains of its original fabric appears to be in good-to-fair condition, but the available evidence suggests that the former Essendon Station’s intactness and integrity is at a lower level than that of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station.

The former Essendon Fire Station (Google streetview)

3. Post-1896 MFB-commissioned fire stations in the VHR

Three of the MFB fire stations that have been commissioned in the years following 1896 are included in the Victorian Heritage Register: the Former Hawthorn Fire Station (commissioned 1910), Former No.3 Carlton Fire Station (1928-29), and Brunswick Fire Station and Flats (1937). Of these three, the age, size and condition of the Former Hawthorn Fire Station make it the closest equivalent to the Former Elsternwick Fire Station.
**Former Hawthorn Fire Station [VHR 1327]**

The Former Hawthorn Fire Station was constructed in 1910. The two storey asymmetrically-planned red brick building consists of a fire station at ground-floor level and two flats above. The building is designed in the Edwardian Freestyle and its most notable features are its arched vehicle openings with original timber doors, and its Art Nouveau wrought iron detailing. Apart from minor and reversible modifications the building is remarkably intact. The building is important for its ability to demonstrate the way of life, accommodation and methods of work in an early twentieth century fire station.

The Former Hawthorn Fire Station is architecturally important as a particularly successful adaptation of the Edwardian Freestyle to a domestically-scaled suburban fire station. It is also important as a design of the noted architect Cedric Ballantyne of the firm Oakden and Ballantyne, who designed most of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's buildings in the early twentieth century.

![Former Hawthorn Fire Station](image)

**Summary of comparisons**

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station is one of the 10 remaining fire stations of the original 32 built for the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade ('MFB') during the four-year period 1892 to 1896. These new stations formed a crucial part of the newly-created MFB's fire-fighting network across Melbourne. The small, suburban Former Elsternwick Fire Station demonstrates greater intactness and integrity than most of these other 10 remaining fire stations and is thus significant for its ability to illustrate the historical development of fire-fighting services in Melbourne, especially the expansion of the then newly-formed MFB throughout Melbourne's suburbs in the 1892-1896 period. The Former Elsternwick Fire Station allows its clear association with this important event and period to be understood better than most other places in Victoria with substantially the same association.
KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

Fire Services Museum Victoria: communication March to May 2017 with archivist Ian Munro.


Mauger, Samuel, 1934, *The rise and progress of the Metropolitan fire brigade, Victoria, Australia, Melbourne*.

*Metropolitan Fire Brigade Station (former), 2-4 Selwyn Street, Elsternwick, VIC, Australia*, in ‘Australian Heritage Database’, via Department of the Environment and Energy website, https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;search=state%3DVIC%3Blist_code%3DCHL%3Blegal_status%3D35%3Bkey_symbol%3D0%3Bkeyword_PD%3D0%3Bkeyword_SS%3D0%3Bkeyword_PH%3D0;place_id=105216


Sands & McDougall Melbourne Directories, 1893.

Sands & McDougall Melbourne Directories, 1897, especially p.1407 ‘Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Stations’.

Sands & McDougall Melbourne Directories, 1910, especially p.2586 ‘Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Stations’.

*When was the Malvern Town Hall built?* via F.A.Q. page on Malvern Historical Society Inc website, http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malvern/more_faq.htm


PROPOSED TEXT FOR THE BLUE HERITAGE PLAQUE

The Former Elsternwick Fire Station commenced operation in 1896 as one of 32 new fire stations built in the establishment of a new network across Melbourne for the recently-formed Metropolitan Fire Brigade, at a total cost to Victoria of £77,750.
Aerial view from south-west of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station in the context of Selwyn Street. (Source: Google streetview)

Selwyn St (west-facing) façade of the Former Elsternwick Fire Station. (March 2017)
Details of the Selwyn Street façade. Left: Anglo-Dutch gable and a large heraldic emblem. Right: integration of horseshoe arch’s limestone, basalt and trachyte with brickwork. (March 2017)

View from Selwyn St along the un-named laneway, showing the painted areas of face brickwork on the Former Elsternwick Fire Station’s south elevation. (March 2017)
South elevation on the un-named laneway.
Left: looking west, towards Selwyn St. Right: looking east, towards St Georges Rd. (March 2017)

View from the roof of the Fire Station building’s roofscape. Prior to the mid-1950s the original roofs were clad in slate, with terracotta capping. The present-day corrugated and clip-fixed steel roofing dates from c.2000 works undertaken by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. (March 2017)
Looking east into the mid-1950s east-wards extension of the former fire engine room. The temporary timber balustrades surround two portions of slab that have been removed to allow the inspection of the sub-floor fuel tanks. (Source: NBRS & Partners, Nov 2016)

Looking west at the original timber and glass doors to the former fire engine room. (Source: NBRS & Partners, Nov 2016)
Junction of timber-boarded ceiling with south and west walls inside the former fire engine room. The door hardware and glass panels appear original. (March 2017)

Ceiling-to-wall junction in the north-east corner of the former fire engine room. The steel lintel supports a remnant of the original 1896 building’s east wall. (March 2017)
Ceilings within the rooms in the 1986 Fire Station building’s south-west corner appear to feature original timber boarding, and are highly-intact. (March 2017)

Views showing construction materials, finishes and current state of interiors within the areas of the site built over the former stables and service yard during the mid-1950s. (March 2017)
1902: Footprint of Elsternwick Fire Station.
Source: M.M.B.W. Drainage Plan 'Town of Caulfield' No.1464.

C.1918: Selwyn Street façade of the Elsternwick Fire Station, showing the Station’s Hotchkiss Fire Engine and crew. The original roof materials are also visible.
c.1918: motorised fire vehicle at the Selwyn Street entrance to the Elsternwick Fire Station.

1974: Station building re-purposed as the ‘Esquire Motors’ motor garage.
1990: Station building at time of its purchase by the ABC and prior to removal of exterior paint.