

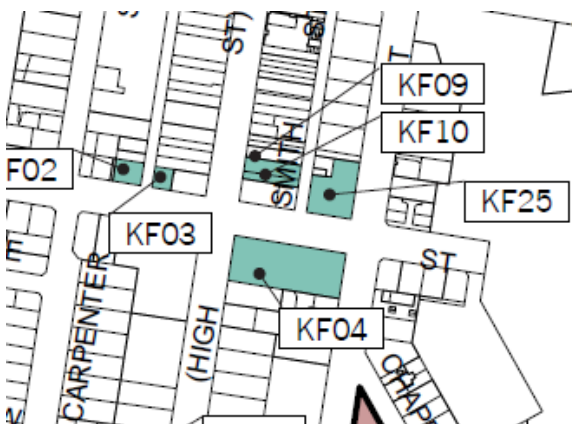
Name	Former police station and quarters	Reference in 1998 Marong Study	KF25
Address	Corner of Camp and Church streets, Kangaroo Flat	Map reference	VicRoads 613 M3
Building type	Police station (disused)	Survey date	June and August 2010
Date of construction	1883	Recommendation	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Significance	The former police station and quarters is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: East elevation of the police station and quarters, showing the three 1880s transverse gables,



Left: Rear view of the police station and quarters, with the classroom addition at left (east). Right: West elevation of the freestanding 1963 addition at the south-west corner of the site.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as KF25.

Intactness Good ✓ Fair Poor

History

The Kangaroo Flat district was first policed in the 1850s with a station opened at the gold mining settlement of Crusoe Gully (also known as Robinson Crusoe). From the mid-1850s, a Constable Black was a regular presence in Kangaroo Flat,¹ and by the end of the decade Sergeant Babington, who served for a long period as head of the Kangaroo Flat police station, is recorded as having been called to attend a number of incidents at the Italian camp in the nascent settlement.² However, the policing of the area was a matter of concern to residents. In 1863, local surgeon George O'Donnell wrote to the *Bendigo Advertiser* to complain that only two policeman were present to manage a population of 3,000-4,000 over an area spreading for six miles (10km).³

In 1883, the present four-room, double-fronted timber police station and quarters was built on the corner of Camp and Church streets, shortly before the proclamation of the township in 1886. The building was drawn by architect John R Brown and approved by Charles Barrett, an architect with the Victorian Public Works Department. Brown was noted for his ornamental designs utilising sunshades, multi-gabled facades with decorative woodwork, Gothic roof vents and elaborate chimneys. The Kangaroo Flat design was one of nine double-fronted four-roomed police station and quarters complexes erected in Victoria during the first half of the 1880s.⁴

The station was closed in late 1922, with the officer-in-charge being transferred to nearby Golden Square. It was not until 1963, after several submissions from local representatives, that a local police presence was again established. At that time, a new police station was erected at the south-west corner of the site and the former police station and quarters reconfigured internally.⁵ Kangaroo Flat Police Station closed again between 1971 and 1974, and operations finally ceased in 2006. The property is presently redundant. A recent fire caused some damage to the north wall of the rear gable, internally and externally.⁶

Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 7.3: Maintaining law and order

Description & Integrity

The disused 1883 police station and quarters at the corner of Camp and Church streets, Kangaroo Flat, occupies a large asymmetrical site, with street frontages to the south, east and west. The built elements are located on the south of the allotment and include the 1880s police station and quarters, a demountable classroom addition to the north-east and a small freestanding police station (1963) to the south-west. Open landscaped areas are located to the south of the site and at the south-east corner. There is a large concrete area to the north of the buildings, and there are a number of freestanding lock-ups and demountables at the site, used for storage.

The original 1880s weatherboard police station and quarters addresses Camp Street (south). Asymmetrically planned, it comprises a pair of transverse gables and is connected to a rear wing of similar age and appearance. The building has a timber-framed roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel and a timber-posted verandah. The front door is in a filled-in verandah bay. Some early timber-framed windows survive, although some have been replaced. The Camp Street frontage comprises a projecting wing and recessed verandah. Each of the gables is fronted by long finials with square bases. The east end of the building is framed by a large brick chimney, repeated in the gabled block immediately behind and seen from Church Street. The chimneys are in overpainted brick with broad backs and brick cornices, tapering in to the stacks. The stacks are panelled on the two facing Church Street, and all five chimneys' upper levels have tapered tops above angled header bricks, forming notched collars and capped by cylindrical flues or chimney-cans. The timber gable finials, accentuated bargeboards and chimney details are broadly expressive of the Gothic Revival. The stepped chimneys and serrated ornamentation are prominent elements.

The demountable block facing Church Street is a standard timber school room of the post-war period, with horizontally proportioned top-hung windows and an apron of vertical planking. It has a roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel, rather rusty. The 1960s police station, at the Smith and Camp Streets corner, is also timber with vertical planking and a low pitched roof.

The 1880s police station and quarters appears to be in fair condition. Successive internal renovations and modifications, and the recent fire damage, have had some impact on the building.

Comparative Analysis

The disused police station and quarters at Kangaroo Flat was one of nine similar double-fronted four-roomed police station and quarters complexes erected in Victoria between 1880 and 1886, to standard Public Works Department designs (see also 'History' page 2). Analysis of other surviving examples has not been undertaken for this report. More generally, timber properties of this age are relatively rare in the local context, although examples include the former Gunn's Hotel at Raywood (1873, R10) and the former Kamarooka Road School (Neilborough North) no. 1726 (1876, SU1).

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

The disused 1883 police station and quarters at the corner of Camp and Church streets, Kangaroo Flat is of historical significance, as the focus of policing activity in Kangaroo Flat for a long period from 1883, albeit intermittently, having been closed between 1922 and 1963, and again between 1971 and 1974, before operations finally ceased in 2006. The disused facility recalls the early development of the township and the formalisation of the settlement in the build-up to the proclamation of Kangaroo Flat in 1886. The former police station is also historically significant as a surviving example of a standard Public Works Department design of a timber police station with quarters dating to the 1880s.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.

The weatherboard police station and quarters is of aesthetic/architectural significance. While it is a standard Public Works Department design for a timber police station with quarters of the period (1880s) and subsequently modified and extended, it remains a picturesque and highly detailed building which retains many of the original Gothic Revival architectural elements. These include the asymmetrical planning; the striking combination of the three transverse gables; gabled ends with long finials and accentuated bargeboards; and the stepped chimneys with tapered tops.

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

N/A

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

The former police station is of some local significance as the focus of police work and activity in Kangaroo Flat, albeit intermittently, from the 1880s to 2006. N/A

Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former police station and quarters at the corner of Camp and Church streets, Kangaroo Flat, dates from the 1880s and operated intermittently as a police station until 2006. The original 1883 components are on the south of the allotment and comprise the weatherboard police station and quarters which is asymmetrically planned, has a pair of transverse gables with roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel, and a timber-posted verandah. This is connected to a rear wing of similar age and appearance. Each of the gables is fronted by long finials with square bases; large brick chimney are also attached to the gables, which are in overpainted brick with broad backs and brick cornices, tapering in to the stacks. The timber gable finials, accentuated bargeboards and chimney details are broadly expressive of the Gothic Revival. The stepped chimneys and serrated ornamentation are prominent elements. The demountable block facing Church Street is a standard timber school room of the post-war period. The 1960s police station, at the Smith and Camp Streets corner, is also timber with vertical planking and a low pitched roof. Open landscaped areas are located to the south of the site and at the south-east corner. There is a large concrete area to the north of the buildings, and there are a number of freestanding lock-ups and demountables at the site, used for storage.

How is it significant?

The former police station and quarters at Kangaroo Flat is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

The former police station and quarters at Kangaroo Flat is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance. The property is of historical significance (Criterion A) as the focus of policing activity in Kangaroo Flat for a long period from 1883, albeit intermittently, having been closed between 1922 and 1963, and again between 1971 and 1974, before operations finally ceased in 2006. The disused facility recalls the early development of the township and the formalisation of the settlement in the build-up to the proclamation of Kangaroo Flat in 1886. The former police station and quarters is also historically significant as a surviving example of a standard Public Works Department design of a timber police station with quarters dating to the 1880s. The former police station is additionally of some local significance as the focus of police work and activity in Kangaroo Flat, over periods from the 1880s to 2006 (Criterion G). With regard to its aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E), and while it is a standard Public Works Department design for a timber police station with quarters of the period (1880s), and subsequently modified and extended, it remains a picturesque and highly detailed building which retains many of the original Gothic Revival architectural elements. These include the asymmetrical planning; striking combination of three transverse gables; gabled ends with long finials and accentuated bargeboards; and the stepped chimneys with tapered tops.

Recommendations

The property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is illustrated in the above map, reflecting the current property boundary. However, the focus of significance is on the 1880s building, and consideration could be given to reducing the Overlay extent to cover this building, a curtilage around it and the setbacks to Camp and Church streets. While the demountable classroom addition to the north-east and small freestanding police station (1963) to the south-west, provide evidence of the evolution of the property, these are not elements of heritage significance. The north of the site is also not of heritage value.

Further research would assist in clarifying the extent to which other examples survive of the original nine double-fronted four-roomed police station and quarters complexes erected in Victoria during the 1880s.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

References

Arnold, *Bendigo; Its Environs; The Way It Was*, Crown Castleton, Bendigo, 2003.

David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

Specific:

- ¹ David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 13.
- ² David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 14.
- ³ *Bendigo Advertiser*, cited in David Horsfall (ed), *Kangaroo Flat, A History, Gold, Goats and Peppercorns*, Back to Committee, 1993, p. 16.
- ⁴ Bruce Trethowan, *The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900: An Architectural History in Two Volumes*, The Public Works Department of Victoria 1851-1900, volume 2.
- ⁵ 'Gold Rush Days Recalled: New Station Opened at Kangaroo Flat,' in *Police Life*, July 1963.
- ⁶ Pers comm., John Savage, Bendigo Police (Golden Square) and Adam Mornement, Lovell Chen, August 2010.