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# PLENTY BRIDGE HOTEL & TOLL HOUSE

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## Location

2 MAIN ROAD LOWER PLENTY, BANYULE CITY

## Municipality

BANYULE CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0265

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

HOTEL IS A SIGNIFICANT SITE IN TERMS OF LOCAL HISTORY, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT, TRAVEL AND CULTURAL LIFE OF THE AREA. IT IS ADJACENT TO TWO HERITAGE VIC SITES.

The area is of major historical significance in terms of early European settlement and as early as 1837 was part of the sheep run of Edward Willis.

The 1985 Heidelberg Conservation Study - historical riverland landscape assessment by loader and Bayley (McBriar 1985), identifies the site of Edward Willis' hut as just east of the Old Lower Plenty Bridge and it is likely it is located within the proposed development site. It is considered of major historical significance as one of the earliest recorded sites of European settlement near Melbourne and is listed in the 1841 census as a wattle and daub hut with ten inhabitants.

Interpretation  
of Site

The 1990 archaeological survey of Lower Plenty River Valley (Weaver, 1990) advocated the collective significance of the individual sites of the Lower Plenty Valley in terms of early European heritage and the importance of further investigation and identification of the sites. It recommended the continuation of McBriar's work including examination of areas for substructure archaeological remains.

The site of the Old Lower Plenty River Hotel and Toll Shed is immediately adjacent to the proposed development and can easily be identified by old photos and comparison with the poplar trees and red river gum still growing near the site and is again an important local heritage site.

Hermes  
Number 12811

Property  
Number

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## History

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE HOTEL WAS CALLED BRIDGE INN INITIALLY. A DETAILED HISTORY OF THE SITE WILL BE PROVIDED TO HERITAGE VIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PLENTY RIVER BRIDGE HOTEL WAS A STOPPING POINT FOR COBB & CO COACHES, TRAVELLERS AND DROVERS ON THEIR WAY NORTH VIA ELTHAM. THE AREA AROUND THE HOTEL IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST RECORD SITES OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE MELBOURNE. THE HOTEL IS LOCATED BESIDE THE HERITAGE LISTED ROAD AND RECENTLY RESTORED BRIGHT.

*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/>*