

## East Ballarat Fire Station



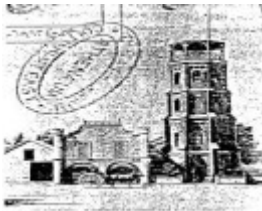
20 Barkly Street



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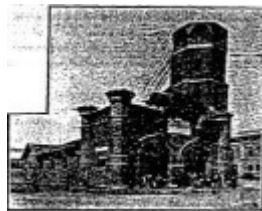
East Ballarat Fire Station -  
Ballarat Heritage Review,  
1998



East Ballarat Fire Station -  
Film 2 / Frame 29- Ballarat  
Conservation Study, 1978



East Ballarat Fire Station -  
Ballarat Conservation Study,  
1978



East Ballarat Fire Station -  
Ballarat Conservation Study,  
1978

### Location

20 BARKLY STREET, BALLARAT EAST - PROPERTY NUMBER 2046978, BALLARAT CITY

### Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1001

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO178

HO11

## Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 5, 2024

**What is significant?**

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

Part of Recommended Area A4.1

No SoS provided in this citation. Please refer to the Attachments section in this place record for further information.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Ballarat - Ballarat Conservation Study, Jacobs Lewis Vines Architects, 1978; Ballarat - Ballarat Heritage Review, Andrew Ward, 1998;
Construction dates	1864,
Architect/Designer	Caselli, Henry R,
Hermes Number	142657
Property Number	

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### Physical Description 1

The Ballarat East Fire Station was constructed in two stages. The tower was constructed in 1864, the architect H.R. Caselli, and the builder William Cowland. The tower was built to house the Lady Barkly Fire Bell. A timber engine house preceded the current brick building which would appear to have been constructed nearer the turn of the century. The tower is the principle component and is of a most unusual design. It is an octagonal buttress structure which rises in four stages. Each stage separated by angled brickwork to accommodate the reduction in width. There are arcaded brickwork to accommodate the reduction in width. There are arcaded corbel tables above the first and third floors. The adjacent block engine house is more elaborate with octagonal turrets, blind arcades and dentillation. The pair of arched openings have been defaced by a concrete lintel. This building is intact other than the new front opening which has disfigured the building but not destroyed its inherent architectural qualities, The tower is one of the most important brick structures of its kind in Victoria, and as a fire station can only be compared to West Ballarat which is totally different in construction materials and design.

### Intactness

INTACTNESS: concrete lintel of engine entry

### Physical Description 2

The Ballarat East Fire Brigade was formed by volunteers in 1856 and was the first in Victoria to procure a steam fire engine. The Ballarat Star reported on Saturday January 2.d, 1864.

"The foundation stone of the watch and bell tower of the Ballarat Fire Brigade was laid on Friday with great ceremony. Architect Henry R. Caselli, builder William Cowland. James Henry Spark, Captain I laid 'the stone."

The tower was built to house the Lady Barkly Fire Bell. 2 Originally a "timber engine house was constructed, as shown, which has been replaced by the extant brick building. The room on the first floor of the timber building was used as the Ballarat East Free Library between 1862 and 1867, and earlier in 1860 had been the reading room for the Mechanics Institute.

The most conspicuous and unusual element is the octagonal tower which rises in stages; the first of which has a line of angled brickwork, the next a simple brick arcaded corbel table and another line of angles bricks above, the third simply the angle bricks, and the fourth again an arcaded corbel table with no angled bricks. Above this is a timber balustrade with criss-cross members in it which originally had been roofed, as shown on the accompanying photograph. The windows are brick arched in two rings, the outer one chamfered and the door similarly but in three ordered with an outer concave line of brick work, a second convex one, and the inner one chamfered. It is still all a very satisfying use of brickwork and really quite appropriately continued in the late engine house which is rather more elaborate.

This building originally has two arched doorways of which only are now visible, cut off by a modern concrete lintel. There are two oculi above the arches, a blind arcade for part of the top, and then a central section arising above a name plate with a pediment all formed in brick with dentillations and pedestals rising above the string courses; one course at impost level; another forming a continuous ovolo label mould over the main arches, and two small label, moulds over the tops of the oculi are all in moulded brick. At the corners of the elevated front section of the engine house are octagonal turrets. The rooms extending eastwards along the Barkly Street face are somewhat less important.

This building is substantially intact, other than the intrusive concrete lintel cutting through the arched openings to, the engine house, and the new door with its Perspex panels. It is the most unusual continuation of elements, the fire tower has some similarities with that of Ballarat West, perhaps only in function, and the original roof detailing resembles the remains at Ballarat West. The tower is one of the most important brick structures of its kind in Victoria, and the adjunct later brick engine room is of particular interest in spite of the damage incurred through modernisation. This building is in an area of environmental importance, particularly as it relates to the East Ballarat Library - two most important examples of the use of brickwork.

*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/>*