
Lock Up (former)



Former Bannockburn Lock Up



National Estate Register, 2003.

Location

Victor Street BANNOCKBURN, Golden Plains Shire

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO18

Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former lock up, Victor Street, Bannockburn, has significance as a rare surviving example of a 19th century bluestone lock up and a physical legacy of early law enforcement in the Golden Plains Shire. Initially built at Lethbridge in 1860 and dismantled and relocated to its present site in 1869, the austere building is a representative example of standard Public Works Department design as expressed in the gabled forms clad in

slate, square coursed basalt wall construction (with each block being numbered), moulded timber bargeboards, broad eaves, small window openings with iron security grilles, narrow ventilation openings in the gable ends and the iron grille gate in the front porch. Internally, the original function of confinement and imprisonment is reflected in the rudimentary and intact fabric, including the cobbled stone porch floor, timber-lined ceilings, timber floors to the cells, solid vertically-boarded cell doors and white-washed stone walls. The relocation of the building to its current site has not diminished its significance. The lock up functioned on the existing site for almost one hundred years. It is in good condition and is predominantly intact.

How is it Significant?

The former lock up at Bannockburn is architecturally, historically and socially significant at the local level. It represents one of only two surviving 19th century lock ups in the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The former lock up at Bannockburn is historically significant (Practice Note Criteria A & B) for its associations with the evolution and development of law and order (and particularly a police presence) in Bannockburn for almost a hundred year period between 1869 and c.1967. The building is a physical legacy of the 19th century court system, when the Magistrate's Court sat in the Bannockburn Shire Hall with a visiting police magistrate, and the lock up serviced prisoners awaiting trial.

The former lock up at Bannockburn is architecturally significant (Practice Note Criteria D & E) as a predominantly intact and rare surviving example of a standard Public Works Department austere lock up design of the late 1860s in the Golden Plains Shire. Although relocated from Lethbridge in 1869, it still reflects the original exterior and interior design and construction. The only other surviving lock up of similar design and construction in the Shire is at Smythesdale.

The former lock up at Bannockburn is socially significant (Practice Note Criterion G) as a symbol of 19th century law and order in the town. While no longer functioning for its original purpose, the lock up is recognised and valued as a tangible link to the town's public infrastructure heritage.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 1, Lorraine Huddle P/L, 2003;
Hermes Number	23521
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The former lock up in Victor Street, Bannockburn, is set on a contextually large and open-grassed site. The lock up is centrally located on the site which is also characterised by peppercorn and pine trees near the stone structure, together with trees of similar species and eucalypts near the property boundaries.

The symmetrical, single storey, square coursed basalt lock up is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with a minor porch gable that projects towards the street frontage. These roof forms are clad in slate and there are moulded timber bargeboards and broad eaves. Each of the basalt blocks are numbered, being a physical legacy of the relocation of the structure in 1869.

High up on the side and rear walls are small, horizontally-aligned, rectangular openings having projecting basalt sills and iron security grilles. Narrow vertical ventilators are located in the gable ends.

The lock up is accessed through a central door opening in the front porch. It has an early iron gate. Internally, the porch has an early cobbled stone floor, timber lining board ceiling and white-washed walls. From the porch are two door openings that lead into the two cells that are separated by a stone wall. There are solid vertically-boarded timber doors with access hatches and substantial iron bolts and hinges. The cells have timber-lined ceilings, timber floors and white-washed stone walls, the spartan appearance reflecting the original 19th century function of confinement and punishment.

Condition

The former lock up is in good condition. There is evidence of rusting in the ironwork to the porch gate and grilles, but the roof and wall construction show little signs of deterioration. It appears that the galvanised ogee forms gutters have recently been introduced (replacing earlier gutters) and they are connected to introduced downpipes and sealed drainage.

Integrity

Predominantly intact.

Integrity

Condition and Integrity:

The lock-up at Bannockburn is maintained in good condition and used as a store house by the present owners, the Shire of Bannockburn

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/>