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# TOORA POLICE STATION & RESIDENCE (FORMER)



Toora Police Station (former)



Toora Police Station (former,  
2000)

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## Location

26 HARRIET STREET, TOORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

### What is significant?

The former Toora Police Station and residence, at 26-28 Harriet Street, Toora, including the portable lock up, built in c.1910, are significant. The former Police Station, portable lock up and residence are all made of brick in the Federation style and has features of heritage significance to be protected, including:

Hip and gable residential Police Station

The former Police Station has a short transverse ridge with projecting gables to the front and south, with an end frame on the south gable with a projecting box bay at the front gable end, with pressed metal hood. The building features a return verandah with a contiguous roof at a lesser pitch to the main roof, with turned post supports and an open ladder frame frieze and fret brackets. The main roof also features exposed rather ends and small ridge gablets. Three-part casement windows with hoppers are throughout the building.

At the rear of the main building of 28 Harriet Street, the portable timber lock-up is from the first occupation of the site by the Toora Police in 1892.

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant.

**How is it significant?**

The former Toora Police Station and residence are of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, the former Police Station is the oldest extant Police Station building in the South Gippsland Shire.

The portable lock up on 28 Harriet Street was built in 1892 and the second Toora Police Station at 26 Harriet Street was constructed c.1910 by local builder Ernest Rispin as his own home. The more modern building on 28 Harriet Street was built in 1966 while the two sites were still used as a Police Station. Both these buildings, and the associated residence, demonstrate the importance of law and order and the development of public buildings within Toora from an early stage of settlement. The very existence of a Police Station and lock up in Toora this early in settlement also demonstrates Toora's history as a civic and commercial centre. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the former Police Station and residence is a notable example of Federation residential design using brick construction in the South Gippsland Shire. The clean lines and return verandah demonstrate the style in a classical way. These two properties significantly contribute to the aesthetic and historic character of Harriet Street and Toora. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1910, 1910, 1910,
Other Names	Thematic, -,
Hermes Number	31005
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Police Station at 26 Harriet Street, Toora is a substantial red brick Federation hip and gable house with a corrugated iron roof with a short transverse ridge and projecting gable bays to the front and south. Its return verandah is contiguous with the main roof at a lesser pitch and is supported on turned posts with an open ladder frame frieze and fret brackets. Its main chimneys are now missing. Other notable elements include: - The exposed rafter ends.

- The projecting battened pressed metal bay supporting the gable end above the box bay casement windows, which are protected by bracketed bullnose pressed metal hoods.
- The three part casement windows, with hoppers above.
- The chimney-breast projecting from the south side wall of the verandah.
- The gable end frame in the south gable, which is missing at the front - The small ridge gablets.
- The shaped barge boards to the projecting gables.

On the adjacent site is a small portable timber police lock-up, which presumably dates from the earliest occupation of the site by the Toora police and is a reminder of the first police station constructed in 1892.

*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/>*