

**Place Name and Address:** Former Police Station  
Lot 23, Cooke Street  
Kingston SE SA 5275

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**SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUE:****Description:**

The former Police Station stands at the edge of the government precinct with open space beside it which would have been used for grazing police horses. It is a large stone masonry building, about 15m x 18m in plan, with an irregular form, the result of numerous additions and alterations. It consists of a residence, an internal courtyard and a row of cells. A separate stable stands at the rear. The building is screened from the street by large Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) and Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) trees.

**Statement of Heritage Value:**

The former Kingston Police Station is a distinctive building, similar in general form to other country police stations, but not identical to any others. It played a major role in government administration in the South-East for a hundred years from 1866.

**Relevant Criteria (Under Section 16 of the *Heritage Act 1993*):**

- (a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history
  - (d) It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance
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**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the former Police Station be provisionally entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

**ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:**

- (a) It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.**

The former Police Station was built following the proclamation of Port Caroline in 1865, in the expectation of an upsurge of population and government business in the Kingston district. With the Court House and Post Office, both built nearby in the same period, the area became the nucleus of the government town.

The Police Station was designed by Colonial architect William Hanson and erected by local builder W.H. Dallison in 1866. It was in a semi-walled design, the residence and police office facing Cooke Street with cells accessed from a separate entrance at the side, and a detached stable block behind that.

As the town grew, so did the Police Station. There were extensions and repairs to the Police Station buildings in 1871 and 1876.

One of the most notable events associated with the building was the murder of Trooper Pearce in 1881 at the age of 24. Trooper Pearce, based at Kingston, had been sent to arrest a man reported to be selling alcohol to Aborigines. The prisoner attacked Pearce, let his horse loose and left him for dead. He was the first South Australian policeman to die on active duty.

There is another insight into the workings of the Kingston Police Station in its early decades. Sarah Burke was the wife of Lance-Corporal Jack Burke who was based at Kingston in the 1880s. In later life, using the pen-name "Yakunga", she wrote a series of articles on their experiences which were published as the series "A Country Police Station", in the *South Australian Register* between November 1927 and April 1928. She fictionalised the name of the town as "Brownweed", a reference to the mounds of seagrass on the foreshore, a familiar part of life in Kingston.

The Police Station closed in 1961 when a modern building in Hanson Street replaced it. The complex was sold privately. It has continue to undergo extensions and modifications, and has been re-roofed in recent years. It is now Bell's Antiques, with a blacksmith's workshop in the stables and an art gallery in the cell block.

**(d) It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

The police stations and court houses built in South Australian regional centres in the nineteenth century followed a number of standard patterns. The great majority (Strathalbyn, Goolwa, Redruth and Willunga are examples) had a court house and police station combined into a single building complex. Only a relatively small number of towns (Wallaroo and Mount Barker are examples) had their court houses and police stations entirely separate, usually because they were built at separate times.

In Kingston the police station was finished in 1866 and the court house followed, apparently as the result of a separate administrative decision, four years later in 1870. As a result, the Kingston police station is a distinctive one-off design among South Australia's government buildings in country towns. It is an interesting and important representative of this class of buildings.

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**REFERENCES:**

- Sarah Burke, "A Country Police Station", *South Australian Register* 1927-1928  
Robert Clyne, *Colonial Blue: a History of the South Australian Police Force*, 1987  
Danvers Architects, *Heritage of the South East*, 1984  
Marie Dunn, *A Man's Reach*, 1969  
Hensel & Golding, *Interesting Walks around Kingston SE*, 1998  
Kingston Heritage Advisory Committee, file notes, 2005  
Information from Kath White

**SITE RECORD:**

**FORMER NAME:** n/a

**DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:** Stone masonry police complex of irregular plan, constituting office, residence, cells and stables, in a conspicuous setting on Cooke Street but concealed by large trees.

**DATE OF COMPLETION:** 1866

**REGISTER STATUS:** **Description:** n/a

**CURRENT USE:** **Description:** Art Gallery  
**Dates:** 1961+

**PREVIOUS USE(S):** **Description:** Police Station  
**Dates:** 1866-1961

**ARCHITECT:** **Name:** Colonial Architect's Office  
**Dates:** 1865

**BUILDER:** **Name:** W.H. Dallison  
**Dates:** 1866

**SUBJECT INDEXING:** **Group:** Law & Enforcement  
**Category:** Police Station

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** **Description:** Kingston DC

**LOCATION:** **Unit No.:** -  
**Street No.:** -  
**Street Name:** Cooke Street  
**Town/Suburb:** Kingston  
**Post Code:** 5275  
**Region No.:** 6  
**Region:** South East

**LAND DESCRIPTION:** **Title Type:** CT  
**Volume:** 5879  
**Folio:** 551  
**Lot No.:** Lot 23 D 58591/23  
**Section:** -  
**Hundred:** Lacepede

**SITE RECORD (Cont.):**

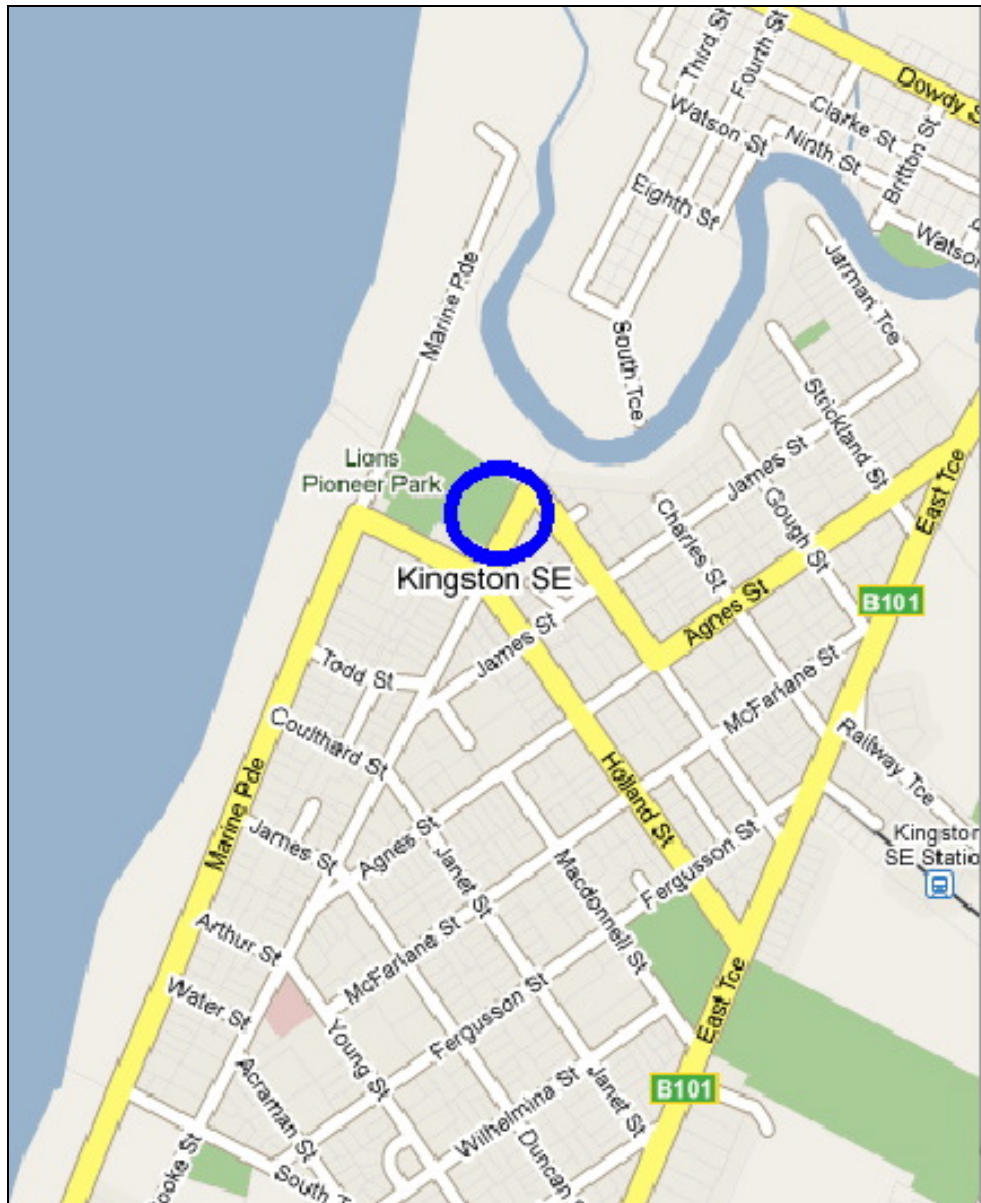
**AMG REFERENCE:**

**Zone:** 54  
**Easting:** 0397680  
**Northing:** 5923580  
**Map Sheet:** 6824-II Kingston  
**Map Scale:** 1:50,000

**OWNER:**

**Name:** Rex & Ann Bell  
**Address:** Cooke Street  
**Town/Suburb:** Kingston  
**Post Code:** 5275

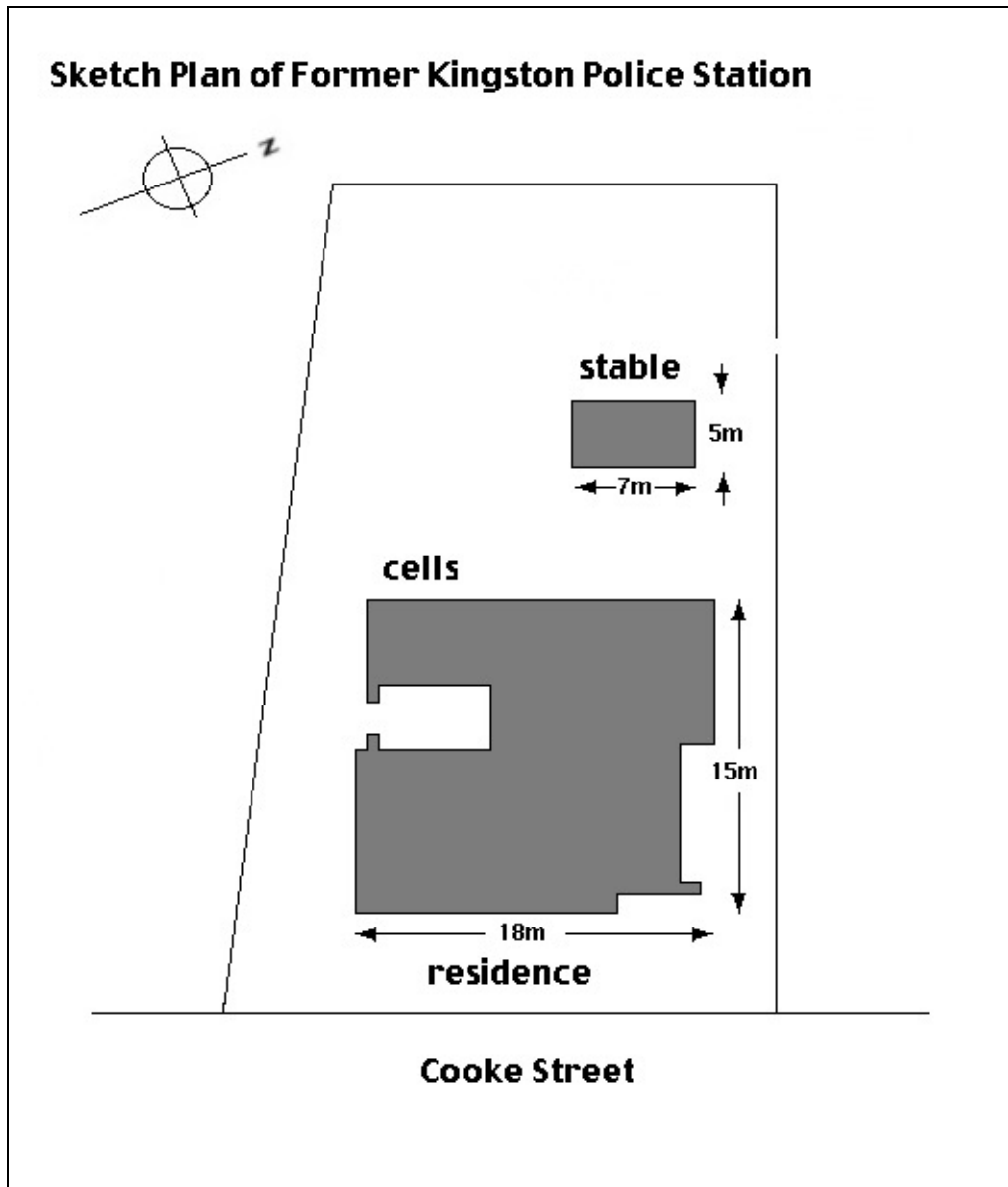
Location Map



Location of Former Kingston Police Station

(Source: Google Maps)

Site Plan



Plan of Former Kingston Police Station



**Police Station, front wall from NE**



**Stables at rear of Police Station**





**General view of Police Station complex from N**