Portable Police Lockups

An Analysis of Portable Police Lockups used in Victoria in the 1800s



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Authors' notes.

In writing the history of Portable Police Lockups in Victoria, I was fortunate to have direct access to an invaluable resource — an early lockup located at the Broadford Historical Precinct. This fine example served as both inspiration and a reference point, along with the Casterton 1907 drawing, they provided the foundation for all the architectural drawings featured in this book.

The primary objective in writing this book is to explain how the lockup was built which may assist future restoration work.

With the support of Bob Tomkins, I was able to visit and study numerous restored lockups across Victoria. Each site offered new insights and reinforced the unique role these structures played in the early policing of regional communities. The Public Records of Victoria also contributed to this research by providing a historical drawing of the "Casterton 1907" lockup, which proved instrumental in piecing together the broader narrative. I also found reference materials from various internet sites such as Heritage Victoria, Trove, the Victorian Heritage Database and the Shape Cut Steel website among others.

In compiling this work, I made the deliberate choice to use the modern metric system — meters and millimeters — rather than the imperial feet and inches originally used when these structures were built. Dimensions are not shown on the architectural drawings, these must be determined on site as individual lockups will vary. This decision was made to ensure greater clarity and consistency, particularly in the technical illustrations and descriptions.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the members of the Broadford Historical Society for their ongoing encouragement throughout this project. My gratitude also goes to my son, Peter, whose meticulous drawings and thoughtful revisions helped shape the final draft.



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Broadford and District Historical Society



Lockup located at the Broadford and District Historical Society.

4 Introduction.

To better understand the significance of Portable Lockups we need to examine the history of the Port Phillip District of New South Wales.

The colony went through a rapid revolution after the arrival of Europeans. The initial attraction for them was the whales and seals that could be hunted. It was forbidden for British people to be in the Port Philip district. This law was broken by the Henty family who had emigrated from Britain with the aim of making money as a family enterprise. They travelled to the Swan River District, now Perth, and then onto Van Diemen's Land. All the land there that was suitable for grazing sheep had been distributed to British people once the Indigenous inhabitants had been removed.

The Hentys, along with most others who were called squatters, had no intention of paying for land. They had heard reports of the quality of the land around what is now called Portland. It had been conditioned by thousands of years of Aboriginal fire stick agriculture which had produced fine pasture. The Hentys travelled across Bass Strait in 1834 and became successful pastoralists.

This was followed by the expedition of John Batman for the Port Phillip Association to what is now Melbourne in 1835. John Batman and John Pascoe Fawkner led the practice in this new settlement of marking out large parcels of land and claiming ownership. From 1836 'squatters' from Van Diemen's Land crossed Bass Strait and discharged convicts from New South Wales and hurried south to the Port Phillip District where they all took up large parcels of land.

By the time gold was discovered in Victoria in 1851, squatters' properties took up every inch of usable land and this was resented by unsuccessful gold diggers. This resentment led to the creation of the Land Convention Act 1857, which both opened squatters' lands to anyone who could afford to buy it and restricted the amount of land any individual could own.

Between 1836 and 1842 the Port Phillip colony grew from 244 to 23,799 people. The first gaol in Port Phillip was a hut built in 1837 on Batman's Hill surrounded by a 2.4-metre-high fence. It was burnt down by First Nations people in 1838. In 1840 two temporary gaols were built and in 1845 a permanent gaol was built in Russell Street Melbourne. In December 1851 there were only 29 people in prison in Victoria, but two years later there were 955. To deal with this very rapid increase in 1852 the Victorian Government purchased the ship 'President' and fitted it out as a floating prison. The following year they purchased the 'Deborah', "Success", "Lysander" and "Sacramento" and anchored them off Williamstown on Hobson's Bay. They were painted yellow and were known as "The yellow Perils"

Between 1842 and 1850 Port Phillip colony grew from 23,799 people to 76,000 people, and by 1860 there were 500,000 people in Victoria. On July 1st, 1850, the Port Phillip District of New South Wales became known as the State of 'Victoria' and by 1851, men flocked in their thousands to the diggings at Ballarat. In 1859 a permanent bluestone gaol was built in Kilmore and for some time afterwards the worst criminals in Victoria were housed there. After the demise of the Kelly gang and with the gradual demise of bushrangers, the gaol was little used and was sold to the Kilmore Butter Factory in 1890.

4.1. Police in Victoria.

The Hon. W.H.F. Mitchell was Chief Commissioner of Police from January 1853 until January 1854 when Captain Mac Mahon was appointed Chief Commissioner of Police.

When Mr. Mitchell became the Chief Commissioner of Police in January of 1853 the Police force in Victoria was in disarray, there was a body called the Mounted County Bourke Police under the control of Mr. Sturt. There was then the Native Police under the two Messer's. Danas, two brothers and there was the Gold Mounted Police Force under Captain Mair. The border police and several other bodies of police. They were men taken from army regiments in Sydney.

It was a New South Wales branch of the police in fact, and they were drafted into the police, and kept on the strength of the regiment as their own regiments went on, and they were always commanded by officers in the army. Then there were the Town Police of Melbourne under Mr. Sturt, who was inspector of police, and the chief constable.

Then there were the country police under the different police magistrates and benches, one in each place headed by the chief constable. The first thing was to knock all these on the head. They were fused into one general body.

4.2 Portable Buildings in Victoria.

During the Californian Gold Rush in 1849 and then the Australian Gold Rush in 1851, Edward Taylor Bellhouse, owner of the Eagle Foundry at Manchester and other builders of prefabricated cast iron structures, supplied warehouses and cottages to Victoria. They were dismantled and every component labelled, then packed in crates and shipped abroad to be reassembled in their new location. Specialist labour was not required, and they could be assembled by anyone following instructions.

By 1855, South Melbourne alone comprised one hundred of these portable cast iron buildings and another article states "hundreds of prefabricated structures, made of timber, cast iron and wrought iron were shipped from England to the new colonies in Australia"

Until about the fifteenth century, all the iron made was wrought iron. In the early days of iron making, the mismanagement of the process produced cast iron, and there was no use for this type of iron and no means were known of converting it to wrought iron. Means would eventually be found for using cast iron, and for converting it to wrought iron and then to steel. In modern iron making, most of the world's production of iron from the ore is almost entirely first into cast iron and then into either wrought iron or steel (Gale, 1967).

Iron ore deposits were discovered in 1840 at Iron Knob, South Australia but a lack of equipment meant that the process of producing steel was impossible. Even attempts at

smelting the iron ore in a blast furnace to create pig iron were unsuccessful due to the poor quality of iron ore and coke available to the budding industry.

In the other colonies at the time, such as Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales, there were minor discoveries of iron ore, but poor technical expertise and limited quantity meant that the quality of steel was poor. Compared to the far superior steel being imported from Britain at the time, the steel manufacturing industry simply couldn't compete and was unviable. By the 1870s, almost all steel production in Australia had been abandoned.

In the 1840s, steel manufacturing was attempted in several states. Poor quality iron ore, coke, and a lack of local expertise ensured that these early attempts were failures. During the Industrial_Revolution, Australia imported most of its steel from Britain. By 1880, all steel manufacturing projects in Australia had been completely abandoned. Even by today's standards, importing steel is expensive and required expensive reworking and maintenance at the receiving end of the supply chain. The situation remained unsatisfactory for many years.

4.3 Provenance of the Portable wooden Lockup.

Examples below highlight the complexity of portable wooden lockups provenance.

It has been a frustrating exercise in trying to work out the nature and origins of the police lockups. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find any Public Works Department documents from the 19th century. The staff at the Australian Archives/Public Records Office informed us that they do not exist.

By the 1830s NSW, which had been settled by the British some 40 years before Melbourne, had developed mobile, light-weight, smallif crude portable accommodation for the road-building gangs (Ker 1988, Out of sight: out of mind). Similarly, cell sizes in more substantial goals in Sydney were probably based on those in England. It is quite possible that the concept of NSW portable loockups influenced the design of the early portable lockups in Victoria.

The claim repeated by many authors that, "They [Victorian portable wooden lockups]were made in England and transported as ballast in ships", is made without any documentation or foundation. There is no evidence that these small Portable police lockups were shipped out of Britain as flat packs. All the surviving Casterton style lockups in country Victoria (in use from 1850s into the early 20th century) were in fact prefabricated locally and not imported using Victorian sourced timber such as local eucalypt and Cyprus pine ("hardwood") species.

No contemporary accounts mention imported softwoods (Pine, Redwood or Douglas fir), only local hardwoods. They laid these out in workshop yards around Melbourne and Ballarat then shipped the panels by dray or rail to remote locations for assembly. It is well known that Victorian tradespersons possessed the required skills as evidenced by the many beautiful churches built in the early 1850's, one example is St Patrick's Church in Kilmore. Built around 1849 another example is the old Treasury Building in Melbourne.

Oregon (Douglas fir) is a native of Northwest America and seedlings were first introduced into Britain in 1872 and would not have been ready for harvest for many years after. The Midperiod [Casterton style] and Late-period floor, ceiling and doors have Oregon planks. While American ships did carry softwoods (Douglas Fir, Redwood) into Australia for large scale projects, there is no archival or heritage-register evidence that early police lockups ever used imported timber.

With the rapid opening up of gold fields there was an increasing need for on-the-spot repairs and maintenance to keep the mines going and an extensive foundry and engineering industry was well developed by 1856 in Ballarat as well as in Melbourne. These later played a major role in the establishment of iron and steel works at Lithgow in NSW. By 1861, Ballarat had 10 foundries.

Most likely the iron work was manufactured in Ballarat or Melbourne as the British Standard Whitworth thread on the bolts was only used in Britain and Australia.

In 1841 Peter Russell took over the 'Sydney Foundry' in Lithgow and engineering works which produced railings and architectural columns.

Apart from these early attempts at iron smelting, the iron and steel industry in Australia started in 1875 at a site near Lithgow in NSW.

Notwithstanding the above the following comments are recorded:

The following comment was made in The Trentham Recorder Vol 24, #24, page 3, about an 1865 single lockup at Trentham. "These were portable, transported as ballast in the sailing ships, ready for easy transport to the location where they were to be erected, with the boards numbered like an Ikea package".

The single lockup at Trentham is described as a 'standard Public Works Department prefabricated lockup'.

Concerning the double lockup at Trentham the Recorder Vol 24, #3, page 3, August 2023 says, "double cell was transported from England, erected at Blackwood then shifted by horse and dray to Trentham by Edward Drummond [a local] in 1930-1933".

An information pamphlet prepared by Trentham (see 8, 13) says, "It is believed that these [double] cells were transported from England as ballast in ships during the gold rush and assembled on site" and "This is a standard Public Works Department Police prefabricated portable two cell lockup of the early type".

An article describing lockups in general and a lockup at Bacchus Marsh, in particular, comments "Public Works Department provided portable structures and that these early cells were based on an English design". It also says that they were built by the maintenance and construction section of Victoria Police.

Before the cell was moved to Bacchus Marsh, Victorian Police had retained it as a spare and it had been temporarily sited at a coastal location. It arrived in Bacchus Marsh unassembled and

was rebuilt [by a local tradesperson] on site in 1889, at the Bacchus Marsh Police Station. The tradesmen had difficulty reassembling this cell as some of the rods were bent.

These small portable wooden lockups first appeared on the goldfields and in small country towns near the goldfields in the mid-1800s. Lack of original documentation makes it difficult to say for certain where they were made. E. Chambers built six wooden lockups in Melbourne and erected them in Ballarat in 1855, so most likely all lockups both wooden and iron were made in Melbourne and Ballarat.

To classify the periods of the Portable lockup, I refer to them as "Early period", "Mid period" and "Late period".

It is not clear whether they were built by the Police Department or Public Works Department. These Early period lockups were built with ten planks in each wall through which 18 mm rods or bolts were embedded 150 mm apart. The planks are splayed (wedge shaped) and have a weatherboard profile. The term weatherboard comes from an old naval term for shiplap boards. They were usually very wide, 210 mm, and made of Cyprus Pine or hardwood. This gives the early period lockup its distinctive appearance. Another noticeable feature of the early period lockup is the provision of a series of 100 mm diameter holes in the top planks of the front, back and side walls, for ventilation.

A few examples of the early period lockup exist today at Great Western, Stanley and Moonambel.

As the population of Melbourne grew and wealth from gold gave Melbourne international importance, the colony of Port Phillip was proclaimed the State of Victoria on July 1st, 1850. Government departments were created and the design of some public buildings was standardized.

By 1860 the population of the State of Victoria had increased to 500,000 people and the need for law enforcement moved away from the goldfields to the many small townships scattered throughout the State. This resulted in the need for police buildings to suit the amenity of a more civilized society. Sometime after 1860, the design of the early portable lockup was upgraded to the mid period, which is commonly referred to as the 'Casterton Style' lockup. The term 'Casterton' refers to the most detailed known drawing for three lockups destined for Casterton in the western district of Victoria in 1907. This drawing is stamped Lockup 1907 and most likely was attached to the contract document as the title block reads "PORTABLE LOCKUPS for Police Department Casterton dated 1907". Included in the drawing is a notation "PC 19.8.1886". This style of lockup pre-dates 1886.

This Mid period lockup is like the early period style as it has the same configuration of iron bars inserted through the wall, floor and ceiling planks. The wall planks however are of a different profile, there are fourteen planks in each of the four walls, and they have a splayed checked and chamfered weatherboard profile which are normally made from Baltic pine and are much narrower than the weatherboard profile. They have a coverage of 190 mm measured on the inside face. This is the same coverage as the planks in the Broadford lockup.

The most important addition to this style of lockup is the many attempts at providing adequate ventilation (see Ventilation of Portable Lockups).

A few examples of the mid period lockups are Glenrowan, Old Geelong and Lancefield. Most lockups still in existence in 2025 are of the Mid-period style.

It is interesting to note that the differences in design of portable lockups in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland mirror other state differences in matters which serve the same purpose, e.g. railway gauges.

Examples below highlight the complexity of portable lockup provenance:

Heritage Architect Helen Doyle comments, "A large number of lockups were commissioned by the Public Works Department from the late 1850s to the early 1960s" (sic) and "Portable timber lockups were provided by Public Works Department in the late 19th century".

An information panel at Chewton displays, "This is one of the oldest [c1860s] lockups in Victoria". These lockups could be dismantled and the four wall units, the floor, ceiling and roof loaded onto a police dray to be transported and quickly re-assembled where needed. (Authors comment: The walls cannot be assembled as a unit.)

Two lockups were relocated from suburban Melbourne to Edenhope, Victoria in 2004. The newspaper coverage of this event quoted a constable from the Police Property Services section of the Victorian Police as saying, "the cells were made in England in the 1860s and 1870s and disassembled to bring to Australia as ships ballast. They were rebuilt as portable holding cells on arrival."

An item in the Herald in Melbourne on October 22nd, 1935, page 2, under the heading of "Portable Prisons easy to dismantle from outside" says "Public Works Department has ordered construction of three. At this time, 400 portable lockups existed in the State, mostly in country districts".

A report on 'Conservation at Moonambel' notes that, "Public Works Department paid for some repairs to lockup in 1878-79", and when describing the lockup, "Some of these were imported but others were constructed locally on a similar pattern." DSE 1994 or Consultant.

The latest period of Portable lockups can best be described as those that were reclaimed using recycled items or parts salvaged from the stockpile held at Dodds Street, South Melbourne. Examples of these can be found at Broadford, Whittlesea and St James.

In the mid-1900s the Victorian Police Department operated a workshop in Dodds Street behind the Victoria Barracks in South Melbourne where they built and repaired lockups from new and salvaged parts taken from the stockpile of redundant lockups in a nearby yard.

From a retired Policeman "They used to do the maintenance on the Portable Cells at the rear of the old Depot. Around 1970 I did fatigues in that area and got to know the S/Const's who did the build and repairs from their carpenter's workshop close to the entrance off Dodds Street. From memory they were making some from new and using parts from those they had salvaged".

The Police lockup at Broadford fits this description. There are several reasons to support this. The lockups at St. James and Whittlesea also fit this description. They are some of the many of this style built from about 1850 to the early 1900s. They were designed to efficiently meet the growing need for safe incarceration of mostly minor offenders. They were assembled on site and could be dismantled and relocated to wherever they were needed. They lacked basic facilities and were intended for short stays, overnight.

We know that tenders for lockups in Clunes and Great Western Diggings were advertised in the Victorian Government Gazette in 1858. On September 3rd, 1892, Mounted Constable Hehir ordered a new portable lockup for Tatura from the Police Department in Melbourne as the existing one was practically eaten away by white ants. Within the very short time of three and a half months it was assembled on site by a local contractor. The erection process for lockups may have changed with time, in that, at one stage they were the responsibility of a construction and maintenance section of Police Department. But at another time they were the responsibility of the Victorian Public Works Department, and then later they were provided to police stations as required. They were moved by bullock wagon or horse and dray in a Flat Pack form and assembled by local contractors. Whoever built the lockups, they were practical, heavy and robust, and the fitting out of the wall planks was very fine work – reminiscent of the craftsmanship of a shipwright. In fact, an observant description of the Mansfield lockup concludes, "The horizontal planking on the sides is rebated to form interlocking shiplap joint which is an old naval term for weatherboard profile".

4.4 Tenders.

The first known tender for lockups was advertised in the Argus on April 9th 1856, by the Victorian Public Works Department for "Portable Iron houses matching Samples located at Richmond Depot". And again, on 22nd April for the erection of portable lockups at Benalla, Wangaratta, and Taradale in accordance with a sample building to be seen at the Police Barracks, Richmond.

As the first Corrugated iron was produced in Melbourne in 1859 and the first iron works wasn't established in Victoria until 1866 it is reasonable to assume that iron in sheet form was imported from Britain. Tenders for portable wooden lockups were called at the same time in 1856. The chief Commissioner of Police inserted a contract in the Government Gazette for erecting an iron lockup at Sandhurst.

The tender of Mr. Enoch Chambers was accepted on 28th October 1865. (Copy below)

"I hereby tender to make 1 Iron lockup 27 ft. long 10 ft. wide and 8 ft. high with wood partitions, boiler plate ¼ thick, wood casing all complete and painted for the sum of £400 and find labour to erect the same at Sandhurst, the Chief Commissioner paying the coach hire for the men to go from Melbourne to Sandhurst and back to Melbourne when the work is completed, the above to pay carriage for the material required for the same." [Authors note] For the sum of £400 it was Make and Erect.

- 1858 The Police contract book shows tenders for four portable lockups for various places.
- 1859 Numerous examples in the Police Contract Book for the construction of portable lockups 'for Stock' held at the Richmond depot.
- 1859 Tenders called for lockups for Yackandandah and Indigo.
- 1859 Tenders called for twenty-four lockups.
- 1859 Tenders called for transport of six lockups to the Dandenong goldfields. Later in the year a tender of £495 for the construction of 6 portable lockups was accepted from Goodwin & Co.
- 1861 The Chief Commissioner of Police reported that there were no Portable Houses in stock [they usually kept several in stock].
- 1869 Superintendent Hare of the Richmond Police Depot reported that there were five lockups in store at the Richmond Police Depot.
- 1871 The Victorian Police Commissioner refers to transport of one lockup to Harrow in the western district of Victoria.
- 1871 Victorian Police requested that tenders be called for six portable lockups.
- 1881 The Richmond Depot closed.
- 1885 The last contract for portable lockups in the Police Contract Book was for twenty-five portable lockups.
- 1888 A tender was accepted for construction of fifteen portable lockups.

With the closure of the Richmond Depot in 1881 were the lockups mentioned in 1885 and 1888, located at another Depot.

Mounted Constable Hehir at the Tatura Police Station requested [from the Police Department] a new portable lockup on September 13th 1892, as the old one was practically eaten away by white ants. Six tenders to erect one lockup were received and the contractor, Mr. James Martin's tender of £4/12/6, was accepted on 12th December 1893.

An item in the Argus of April 2nd, 1897, page 6, reports the following, "Footscray Council needs a Lockup". The response was that "A number of portable erections were ordered by the Department".

An item in the Herald in Melbourne on October 22nd, 1935, page 2, under the heading of "Portable Prisons easy to dismantle from outside" said "Public Works Department has ordered construction of three". At this point 400 portable lockups existed in the State mostly in country districts.

4.5 General Description of Portable Wooden Lockups.

Portable Wooden lockups are small structures approx. 3.05 m x 3.05 m, the internal measurements are 2.77 m wide and 2.75 m from floor to ceiling. The walls, ceiling and floor consist of thick wooden planks through which iron rods have been inserted, forming an almost impenetrable 'cage of iron' like at Trentham. The original design of the lockup remained unchanged. Very early lockups such as Moonambel, Stanley and Wycheproof, have ten wall planks with a 'weatherboard' profile. Later this changed to fourteen planks with a 'splayed checked and chamfered' profile as those at Penshurst, Lancefield and Trentham. This had little effect on the overall height of the ceiling as the splayed checked and chamfered profile board is much narrower than the weatherboard profile plank.

Ventilation was obtained by natural ventilation, with several variations, 'Ventilation of portable Police Lockups'. A few lockups have an inspection flap in the door, others do not. A few have a servery shelf in the door. The head of the door chain varies occasionally. All were designed to be dissembled and moved by railway and bullock wagon and reassembled, where needed.

The most noticeable difference is the change from using nineteen iron rods or bolts spaced at 150 mm (6inches) in floor, ceiling and all walls to form that impenetrable 'wall of iron' to using only four bolts in each to simply hold the planks in place. Interestingly, all lockups have clamping plates with nineteen holes; the planks behind the four-bolt arrangement are only drilled with four holes indicating new planks with recycled clamping plates. These are reclaimed lockups.

Portable wooden lockups were also used in New South Wales like at Gundaroo, Blackheath, Collector, Dubbo and Narooma, but they differed noticeably from those used in Victoria. One lockup at Corryong was provided to accommodate a very rapid but temporary increase in population during the building of the Snowy Mountain hydro-electric project.

There were many, hundreds, of this 'Casterton' style of lockup installed in small towns throughout Victoria, and they were in use until the late 1900s. At first, they may have been temporarily located at new goldfields such as Great Western and Chewton, or on routes between goldfields and Melbourne, but later they became a more permanent facility at small agricultural centers usually at one police officer locations (Single Member stations) like Tatura.

Some lockups which were still being used until recently even had a flushing toilet, hand basin and a heater installed! A few exist today having been restored and relocated in historical precincts such as Bacchus Marsh and a few others are out the back of small rural police stations, awaiting their fate. Some have been beautifully restored and are part of major tourist attractions at Glenrowan and Beechworth. One restored lockup is in the Broadford Historical Precinct in the Alison Tomkins Reserve. The Broadford lockup is like most other restored lockups of this style, which have 19 bolts passing through each of two side walls, the back wall, the floor and ceiling, and 16 through the front wall, a total of 111. Some including Broadford have only 4 bolts through each section, a total of 24, indicating that because of the demise of the 'bushranger' period, and the evolution of a more civilised society, the need for souldestroying maximum-security buildings was no longer required. When lockups were rebuilt or repaired the design was modified to lessen the number of bolts, thus reducing labour time and costs of iron.

For example: if 96 individual planks were required to build a lockup:

78 planks with 19 holes drilled = 1482 holes, and 28 planks with 6 holes drilled = 168 holes a total of 1650 holes requiring 106 bolts 3.0 meters long = 318 meters of 18 mm diameter iron rod.

Compared with;

78 planks with 4 holes drilled = 154 holes, requiring 14 bolts 3.0 meters long = 42 meters of 18 mm diameter iron rod.

4.6 Broadford and District Historical Society.

4.6.1 Police Portable Wooden Lockup.

The police station at Broadford opened in January 1859 and at that time came within the responsibility and supervision of the Kilmore Police District. In 1862 approximately 600 people were estimated to reside within the limits of Broadford, which at that time was a Single Member station occupied by Mounted Trooper Senior Constable Edward Hall. The policing area encompassed 120 square miles [311 square kilometers].

In 1870 the police station and lockup were moved to make way for the proposed north-eastern Railway which eventually went through the Police Paddock in 1872. A local newspaper reported in March 1887, "A new Police Station in Broadford with a verandah in front. Adjacent to it was a 'cell' also of timber construction." This lockup had 19 iron bars inserted through floor and ceiling planks. It also has a ventilation flue. This lockup was later replaced by the lockup that is now located within the Broadford Historical Precinct. The differences include a door which has neither inspection flap nor a serving shelf and windows only on the front and rear of the lockup. Also, the floor and ceiling interior planks of the earlier lockup were fitted with 19 iron bolts passing through 50 x 12 mm iron plates on either side of the cell.

The lockup located within the Broadford Historical Precinct is fitted with the early style 19-hole iron clamping plates, but the planks are only drilled with four holes and only four bolts are fitted. Similarly, the walls each have only four iron bolts.

The floor consists of 17 Oregon planks 150 mm x 70 mm, between two outside planks 200 mm x 70 mm, each 2965 mm long, a total of 19 planks. Each plank is drilled with four holes 19 mm diameter, with a flat iron plate 50 mm x 12 mm drilled with 19 holes, placed on the outsides, with four iron bolt 18 mm diameter x 3050 mm long. The outside planks (200 mm) are rebated to accommodate the Tee iron corner uprights and the door jambs to a depth of 30 mm.

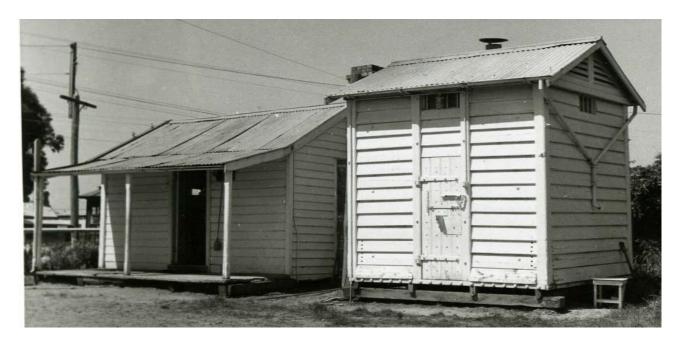
The ceiling is identical to the floor but has forty-eight 32 mm diameter holes drilled through to provide ventilation. Both floor and ceiling planks have holes drilled to accommodate the four wall retaining bolts. The four walls each consist of fourteen planks with a splayed checked and chamfered profile to deflect water, the planks measure 190 mm wide x 50 to 80 mm, shaped to deflect water, with 50 x 8 mm flat iron placed between each second plank and drilled to match the holes in the planks.

Tee uprights 75 x 35 x 35 mm form the corner posts on three corners and 35 x 35 x 35 mm on the rear left corner (see Drawing 6.1). The wall planks are numbered from the bottom up, number 1 to 14 in Roman numerals, carved into each plank. The walls are secured by passing 18 mm diameter x 3300 mm long bolts through the ceiling planks, wall planks and floor planks. These bolts are threaded at the top end and fitted with a nut. The bottom end of the bolt has a slot with a clevis plate acting as a head. There are flat iron plates under the nut at the top and the clevis plate at the bottom also between each second wall plank.

The back wall has a ventilation window 600 mm wide x 400 mm high at the top of the wall, with four 18 mm diameter bars. The front wall also has a 600 mm wide x 280 mm high bared window.

The four corners have Oregon capping/post to secure the wall planks, and the posts are held in position by two tie bolts for each wall. The building is supported on four wooden bearers 120 mm x 75 mm and is resting on concrete pads installed when the lockup was relocated to the Historical Precinct in 2010. The current lockup is not the one described when moved to make way for the North East railway line in 1870

4.6.2 Broadford Lockup Circa 1956



This photo shows the Police Station and the Lockup at the High Street location where the current Police Station is situated.



4.6.3 Broadford Lockup 2025

Broadford Lockup currently located at the Broadford and District Historical Society Precinct.

The current condition of this lockup is not good.

It is in need of restoration with the main area being the floor planks in the doorway area A general cleanup and painting will help to extend its life.

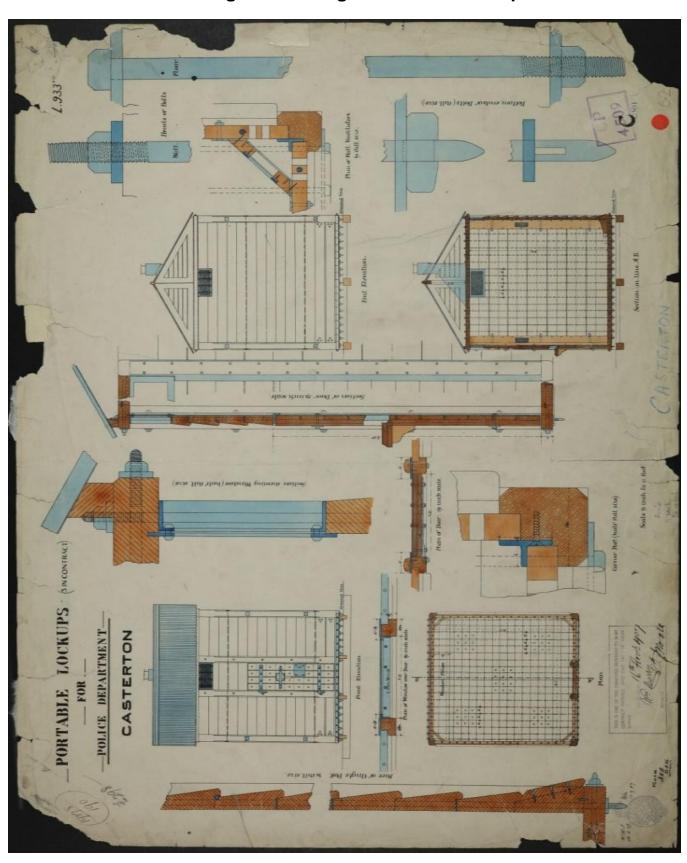
The Lockup at the Broadford Historical precinct is not the same lockup shown in (4.6.2). This lockup has distinctive features that can be attributed to one that was repaired or re-claimed at Dodds Street from salvaged parts; there are several reasons to support this. The left hand corner Tee iron is a smaller section than the Tee irons in the other three corners, one of the four floor bolts has been reversed, the ceiling bolts don't protrude through the rear ceiling plank

(apparently they have been cut off), the back ceiling plank is without drilled holes therefore not the original plank, the wall planks have the standard carved Roman numerals and have been re-stamped with Western Arabic numerals.

It is not likely that a new lockup would need two numbering systems. This suggests that the lockup was dismantled and repaired with salvaged components, or was built from components salvaged from a stockpile of lockups. The Lockup at St. James (see 8.11) also has a dual numbering system. This Broadford lockup has louvered gable ends large windows/vents in the front and rear walls and holes in the ceiling; it doesn't have an inspection or a servery flap, or a ventilation flue, and there are no signs of ventilation shafts having been fitted.

5 Casterton Lockup

5.1 Original Drawing of Portable Lockup



The original drawing of a lockup with modifications required for three new lockups for Casterton in the western district of Victoria is commonly referred to as the 'Casterton 1907' drawing. The following drawing relates to this document and shows more clearly the details of the ventilation shaft and grill which are fitted in each corner and showing pictures of the ventilation shaft fitted to the two portable lockups located at Casterton. A small number of lockups were fitted with this ventilation arrangement.

5.2 Ventilation of the Portable Police Lockup

Natural ventilation is uncontrolled air movement from windows, doors, or cracks in a building. This used to be the most common ventilation method allowing fresh outside air to replace indoor air in a building. There are three main types of natural ventilation:

Single-sided ventilation - Single sided ventilation requires two or more openings on one wall only.

Cross ventilation - Cross ventilation requires two or more openings on opposite walls.

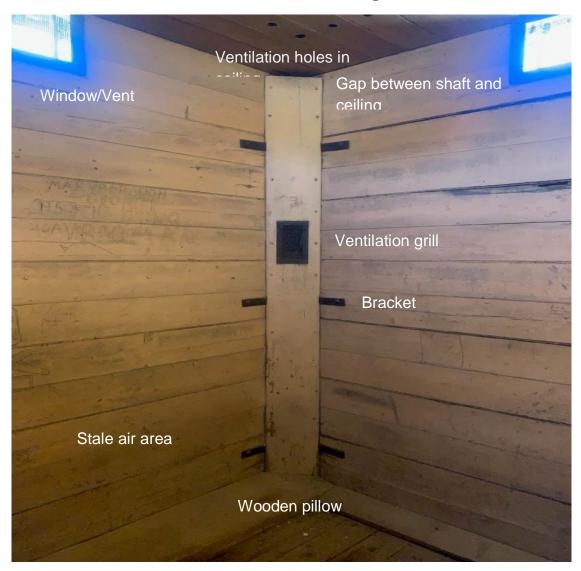
Stack ventilation or 'The Stack effect' refers to the process in which hot air leaves the building through vents in the upper levels and as it does, a vacuum is created below, and new air is pulled upwards from spaces in a lower level.

Lockups relied on Cross ventilation. Some early examples can be found in the Great Western, Trentham and Stanley lockups, where a number (normally nine) 4-inch (100mm) diameter holes were placed in the top planks of the front and back walls. This arrangement was later replaced by installing small rectangular vents above the door and on the back wall. These were later replaced with larger vents on the front and back walls and later, the larger vents were installed on all four walls.

Stack ventilation was used on some lockups where a series of holes were drilled through the ceiling and the pitched roof gable ends were fitted with louvers for air flowing through the roof cavity. This created a vacuum drawing warm air through the holes in the ceiling and pulling fresh air upwards through cracks in the building and from around the door. In other lockups a sheet metal cowl was installed covering the holes in the ceiling with a flue through the roof extending above the ridge line taking advantage of the updraft from the air flowing across the roof and pulling the air upwards from the building.

The final attempt to improve the ventilation was to fit a plank across each of the four corners of the building forming a flume. With a series of holes in the bottom wall planks in each of the four corners directing fresh air into the flume creating the stack or chimney effect, then through a grill mid-way up the flume, leaving a gap between the flume and the ceiling. There is some doubt that this gap assisted ventilation or was required for installation purposes only. The air flow into the building was improved by the fresh air entering through the holes in the bottom wall planks and into the flume and then through the mid-way vents, this arrangement ensured that fresh air was delivered into the building.

There are several lockups on display at Historical precincts that have had the corner ventilation shafts removed (the fixing bolt holes are visible). It is not known when or why the vent planks were removed. This arrangement lacked outdoor air exchange below the ventilation grill allowing the air to become stale, depriving a person sleeping on the floor of fresh air.

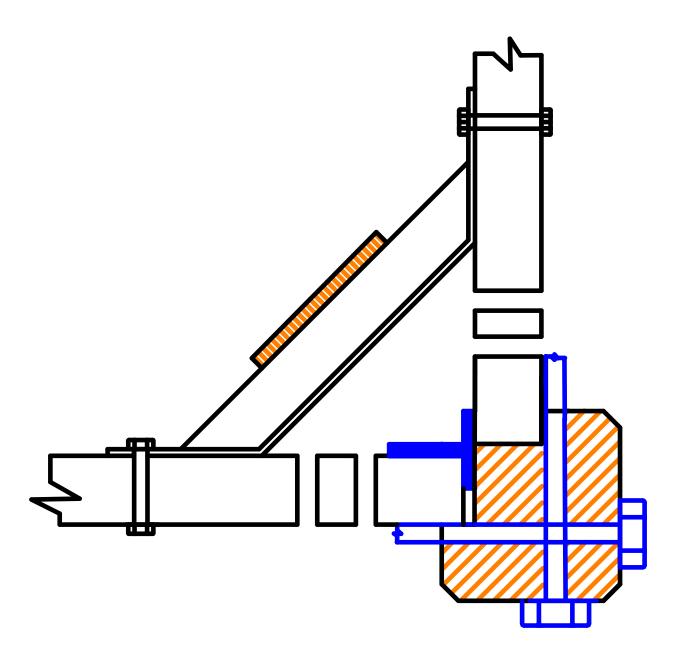


5.3 Ventilation Shaft Arrangements

Picture showing one of the four ventilation shafts inside the lockup at Casterton showing the fixing brackets, ventilation grill, large windows [two of the four shown], ventilation holes in the ceiling, the gap between shaft and ceiling, and the wooden pillow.

Not shown in this picture is the Casterton lockup gable roof. It has louvers in both ends and a sheet metal exhaust cowl above the holes in the ceiling with a flue extending above the roof ridge.

5.4 Drawing of Ventilation shaft



Few lockups were fitted with ventilation shafts and a number of these have since been removed. The two lockups, male and female, at Casterton are still intact

5.5 Photo showing ventilation Holes in Wall Plank



Picture showing ventilation inlet holes drilled into the outside wall of the lockup. These holes

enable fresh air to flow into the ventilation shaft inside. This is called natural ventilation, often referred to as Stack Ventilation.

A small number of lockups were fitted with this ventilation arrangement.



5.6 Ventilation Grill

Picture showing a ventilation grill in the ventilation shaft.



5.7 Image of Reference Mark

Picture showing the H reference mark on the ventilation shaft which is aligned with the corresponding H reference mark on the floor stamped during assembly.

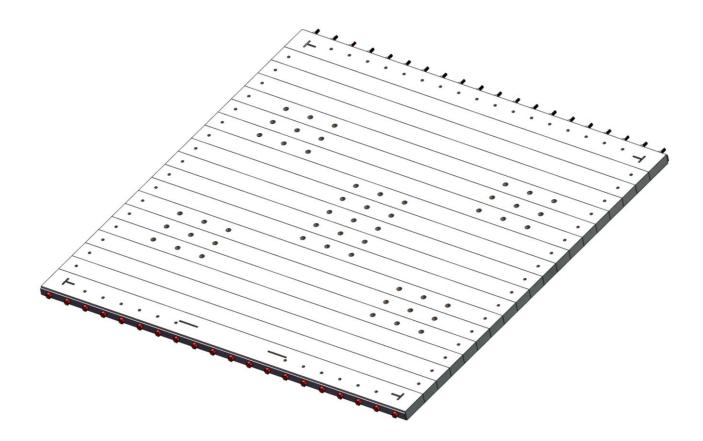
The fixing brackets are bolted to the wall. Lockups showing holes in this position are an indication that ventilation shafts were present and have since been removed.

6 Architectural Drawings of Broadford Lockup

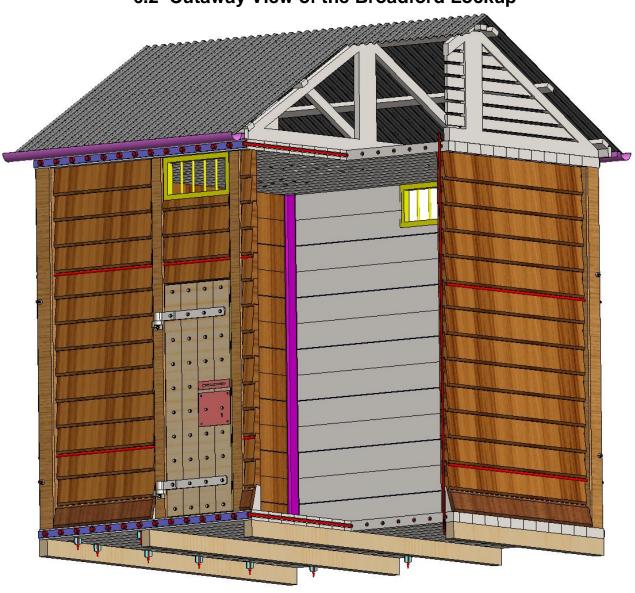
6.1 View of Broadford Lockup floor and ceiling

The views shown are the early and mid-period bolt pattern. The late-period which includes the Broadford lockup, has the four-bolt pattern.

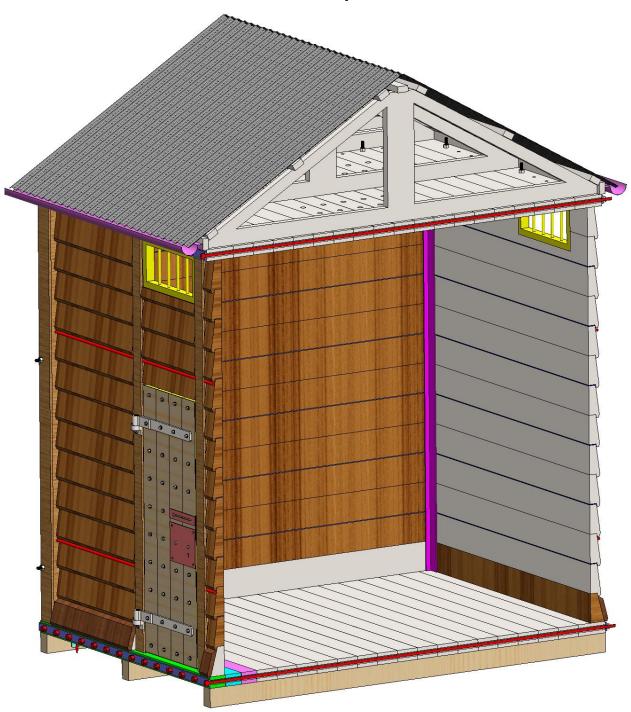
The floor and ceiling are identical and are represented here with one drawing, except for the 35 mm diameter ventilation holes which are in the ceiling only.



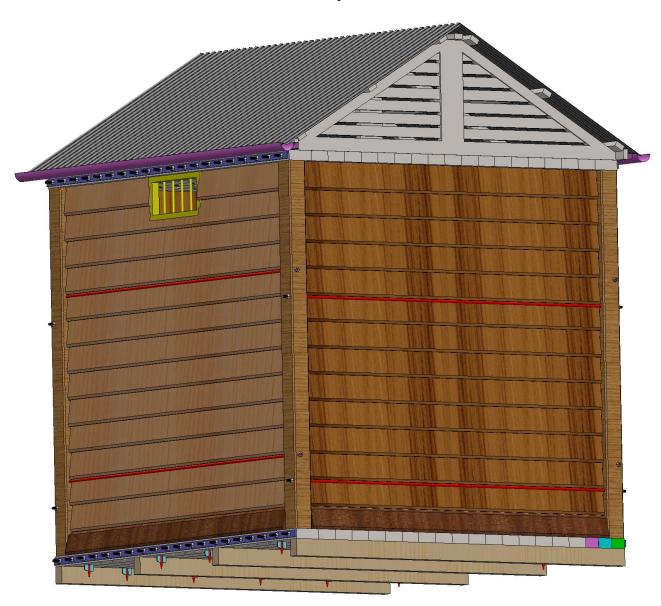




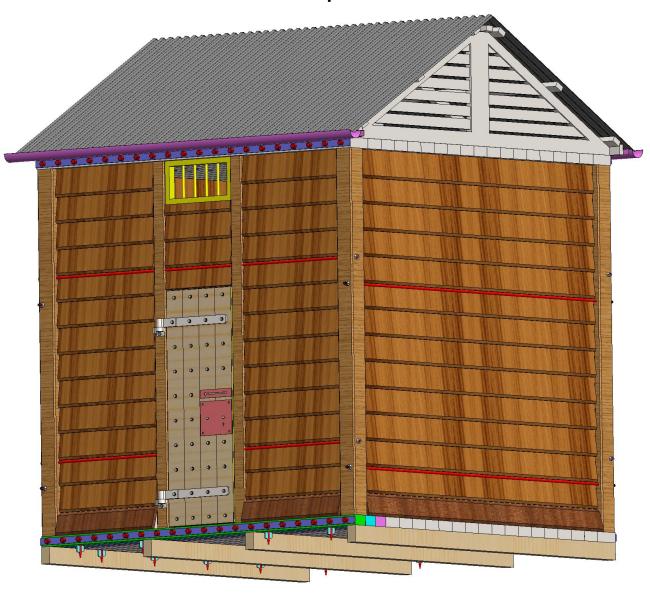
6.3 Broadford Lockup Cross Section



6.4 Broadford lockup Side and Rear Walls



6.5 Broadford Lockup Front and Side wall



0 0 0 0 0 0

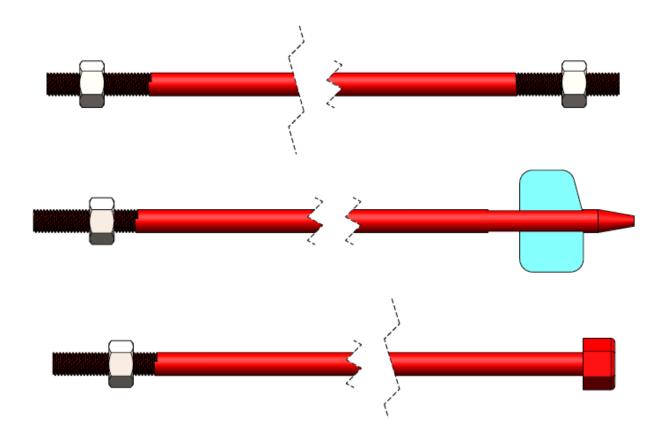
6.6 Broadford Lockup Door Arrangement

Lockup door has 4 vertical tongue and groove panels 154mmx35mm and

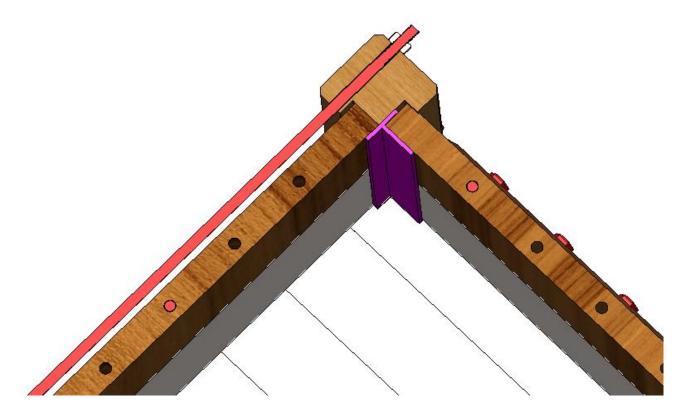
11 horizontal tongue and groove panels 157mm x 35mm.

The inside face is sheeted with 1.6mm galvanized iron bolted through with twenty-eight \emptyset 12 dome head bolts and returned on the edges by 70mm.

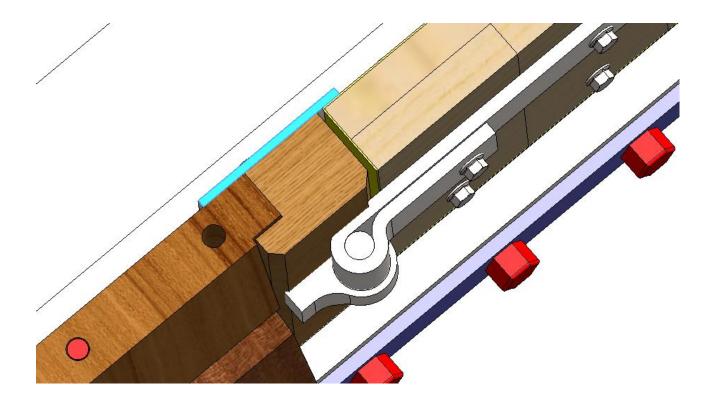
6.7 Floor, Ceiling, and Wall Clamp Bolts



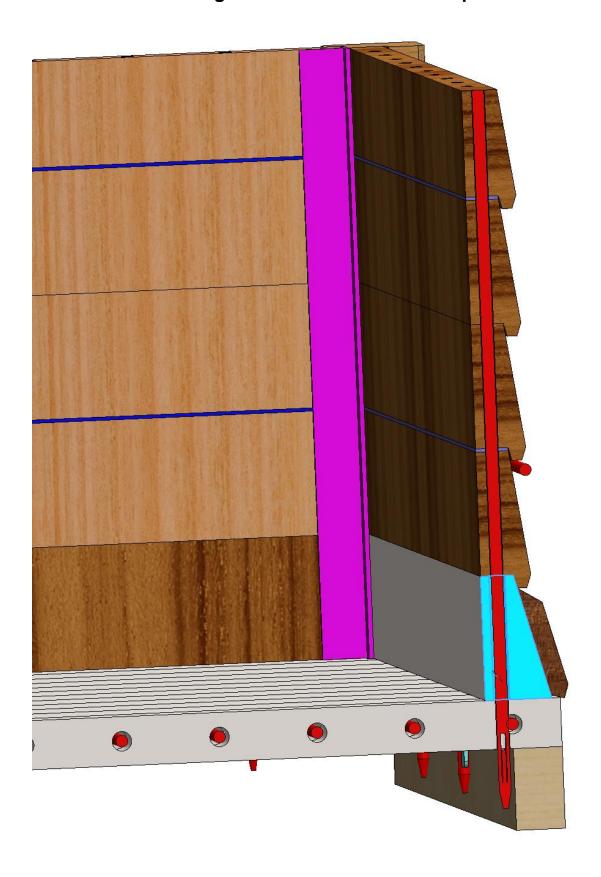
6.8 Section showing Corner Post

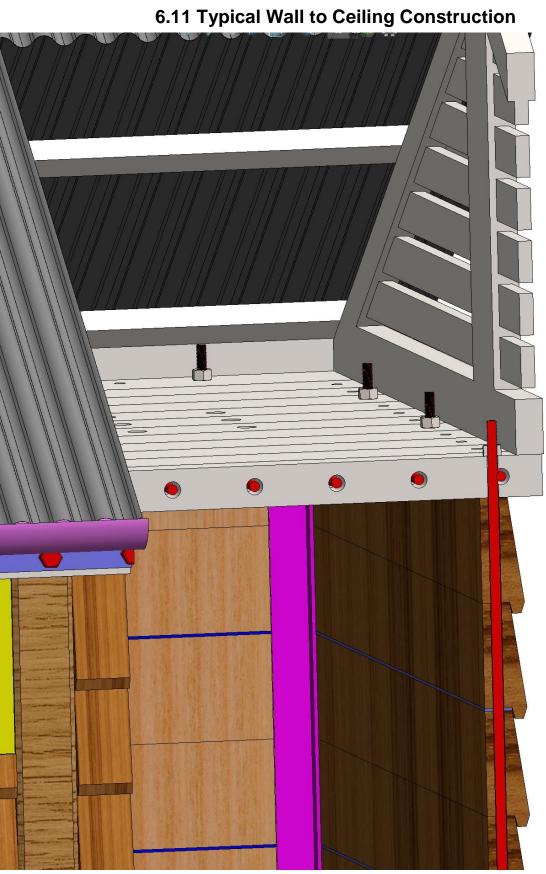


6.9 Section Showing Door Post



6.10 Drawing of Cross Section of Lockup Wall





7 Problems with the Broadford Lockup

This lockup has some detailing deficiencies, particular around the door and threshold area and the corners of the building, where rainwater drips onto and pools on the floor beams causing deterioration of timber components.



Door Jamb



Left Hand Corner



Right Hand Corner

Door jamb, right hand corner and left-hand corner of the lockup showing the damage caused by rainwater running off the vertical capping/post and pooling on the horizontal floor plank and then being drawn up by capillary action into the capping.

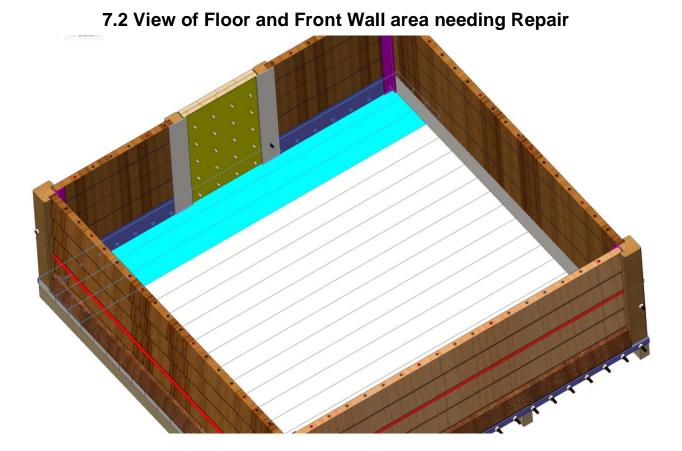
7.1 Suggested Solutions

Timber is an excellent building material for structure and internal finishing's/linings but has deficiencies as an external building envelope material and needs to be finished or externally treated and carefully detailed to mitigate the agents of deterioration, primarily UV exposure and rainwater.

The timbers that need to be repaired/replaced are the floor planks coloured blue and the No 1 wall plank on both the right-hand and left-hand front wall coloured dark blue. To remove and replace the floor planks and the No 1 wall plank will require both horizontal and vertical bolts to be partly withdrawn, but the Tee iron corners, and the flat iron door jambs must remain. Before any bolts are removed, the floor should be stabilised to prevent disturbing the remaining floor planks, most importantly the iron door jambs (which determines the position of the door hinge gudgeons both vertically and laterally), these should be reset to the correct height and secured.

Support the building away from the bearers and beyond the first and second floor planks and remove the bearers, remove the damaged floor planks coloured blue, remove the damaged sections of the corner and door posts sufficiently to expose the No 1 wall planks colored dark blue on the front wall, remove the damaged wall planks and insert new planks, fit a new cover board [it is important that the bottom plank cover board protrudes beyond floor planks and the iron clamping plates to ensure that the dripline falls beyond the floor], prepare three new floor planks (pink, blue and green) to replace the three blue planks. Rebate the blue plank to fit around the inside face of the Tee irons and door jambs and insert the pink plank to close the gap. Fit new bearers with a 120 mm x 8 mm steel plate attached with holes drilled for the wall bolts and holes drilled to secure the plate to the floor beams and attach the steel plate to the floor planks. The steel plate would then support the corner Tee irons and door jambs. It is important to locate the Tee irons correctly as they fix the walls in their correct position, also the iron door jambs, which locate the doorway, and set the height for the door hinge gudgeons. The third plank (green outside) plank can then be fitted. Return the floor and wall bolts. Fit a new cover board to the modified wall plank to resemble the original wall plank and continue with the repair to the door and corner posts.

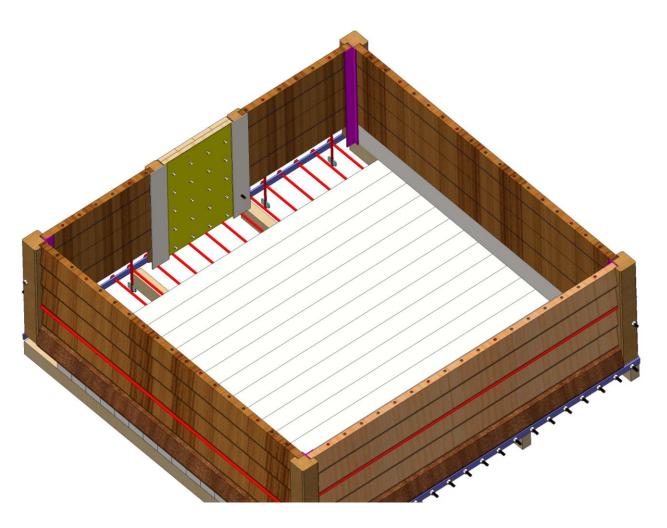
There is evidence that the Broadford lockup suffered some damage to the rear left-hand corner. The ceiling bolts do not protrude through to the rear plank indicating that some of the planks were replaced requiring the bolts to be cut. The left-hand rear Tee iron may have been replaced; it is a different section than the other three.



Damaged blue floor planks that need to be replaced.

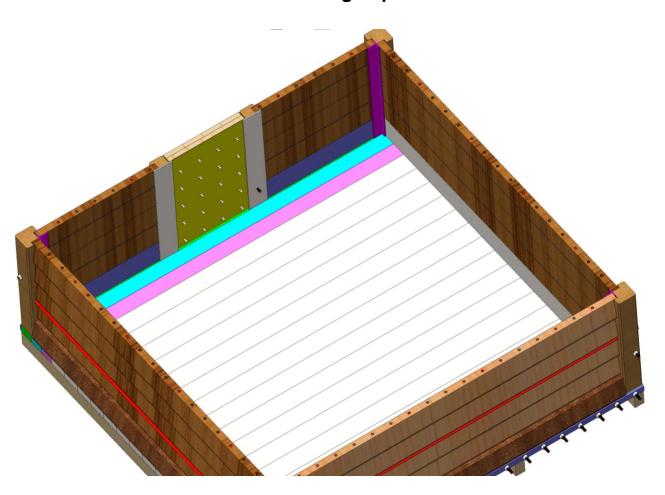
Damaged dark blue wall planks that need to be replaced.

7.3 View of Front Floor and Wall Planks Removed

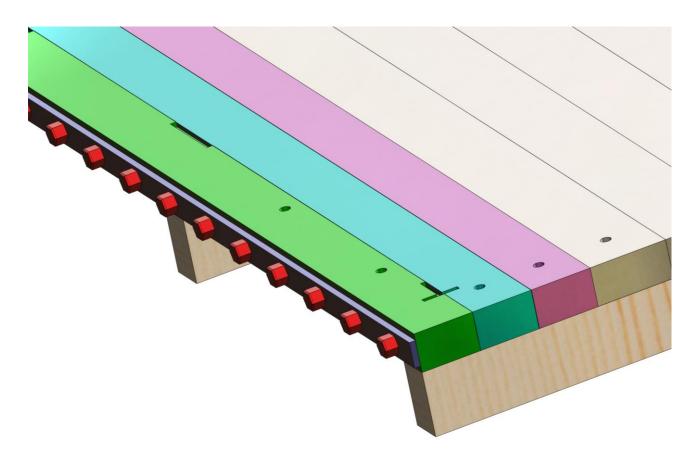


After removing damaged planks, the floor and wall bolts should be partly withdrawn to allow for the insertion of the new planks.

7.3 View of Showing Replaced Planks

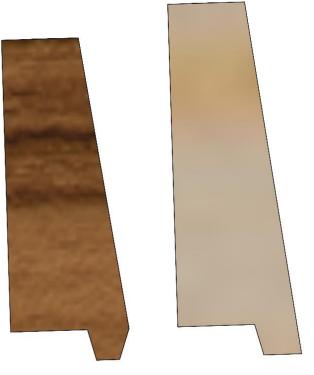






After removing damaged blue planks, fit the new blue plank around the corner Tee iron and door jamb, insert the pink plank to close the gap, replace bearer with steel plate attached, weld Tee iron with extension to the bearer plate, insert the green plank and reinstate floor and wall bolts.

7.5 Drawing of Wall plank Profiles



The early-period wall plank shown on the right has a splayed and checked profile and were initially rough, untreated planks made from local hardwood species-the inside face measures 275mm.

The mid-period and late-period wall plank shown on the left has a splayed checked and chamfered profile, with a planned finish the inside face measures 190mm.



The early-period bottom wall plank has a splayed profile with an inside face measuring 275mm.

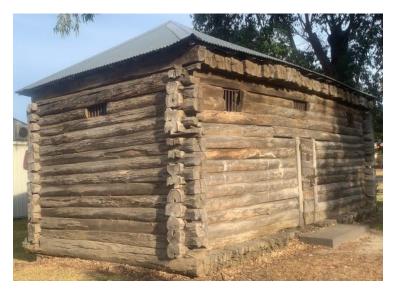
The mid-period and late-period bottom wall plank has a splayed profile-the inside face measuring 190m.

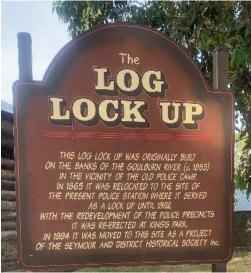
It is important that the bottom plank cover board protrudes beyond the floor planks and the iron clamping plate to ensure that the dripline deflects the water away from the floor.

The purpose of this detail is to shed water and prevent water from travelling back into the floor boards by capillary action

8 Police Lockups in Victoria

8.1 Seymour Log Lockup





Log lockups, sometimes referred to as Block houses, were a permanent structure used extensively in California during the gold rush of 1849. They were also used in Victoria [the old lockup at Sandhurst was a block house], although were deemed not suitable for the rapidly expanding and moving population of the Victorian gold rush era.

The Victorian Government required a portable lockup that could be transported by horse and dray and erected by unskilled labour. The log lockup did not fit these criteria.





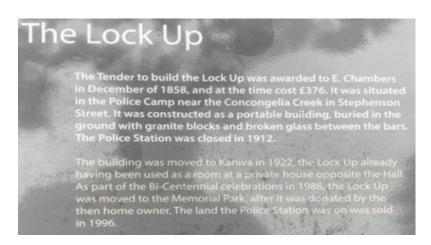
The gable ends of this lockup are missing.

The ceiling has nineteen bolts, the bottom section of the lockup has been removed, and the wall planks are splayed and checked weatherboard profile

8.3 Great Western Lockup ventilation holes



8.4 Great Western Information Plaque



8.5 Great Western Lockup Roof Cover



This photograph shows a roof covering the Great Western Lockup. Timber buildings have deficiencies and need to be carefully treated and detailed to militate against the agents of deterioration, primarily UV exposure and rainwater. Normal building practice for timber buildings was to provide wide eaves and, in most cases, surround the building with a verandah. This is unpractical with lockups, and the best solution is to cover the building with a standalone roof structure as shown below.

8.6 Stanley Lockup



The Stanley lockup is the only surviving intact Early period lockup, except that both gable ends are sealed by well fitted narrow planks. Unusually holes for cross ventilation are in the 10th and 8th planks on the front and rear walls respectively, and in the 8th and 9th panks on each side wall. There are no windows, inspection flap or lock, relying on a pad bolt to secure the door.



8.7 Trentham Double Lockup

The cross ventilation holes, 10 wall planks and the arrangement of the iron rods or bolts in the walls and floor are clearly visable in this rare Early period double lockup at the Trentham Police Complex. Although it has been severly ravaged by the weather, the protective shed built over it will protect it for years to come.

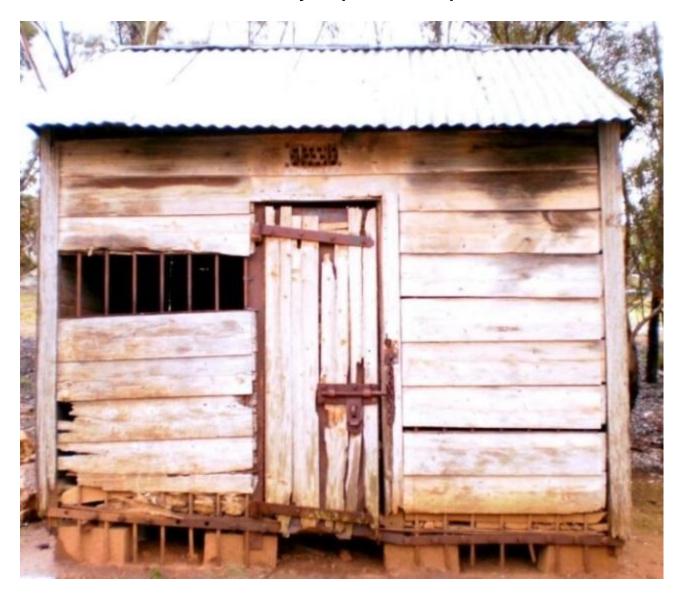


8.8 Chewton Lockup

This portable police lockup was installed in the goldfields of Chewton, Victoria in the 1860s. Its ventilation grills high on the walls are very small for a location which can get very hot in summer. The position of the inspection safety chain on the door can vary from one lockup to another.

The floor and ceiling of this lockup has 9 planks 300mm wide x 100 mm thick and one plank 150 x100mm, the backing plates for the floor and ceiling bolts are missing- perhaps attributed to the restoration works.

8.9 Wycheproof Lockup



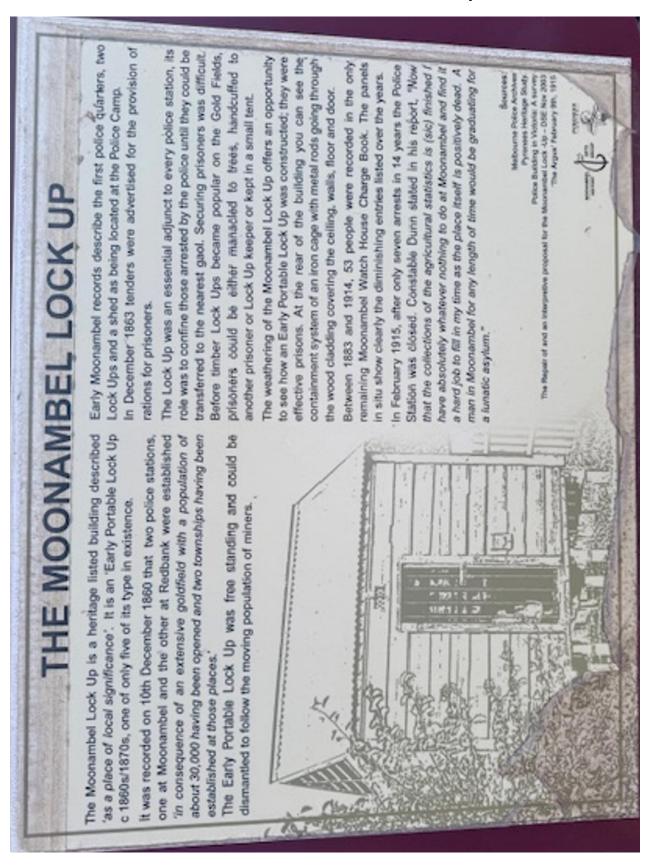
The Wycheproof lockup has the nineteen floor and ceiling bolts and a small vent in each of the four walls for ventilation and the walls have ten planks with a checked weatherboard profile.

8.10 Moonambel Lockup



The Moonambel Lockup has nineteen floor and ceiling bolts and a small vent in each of the four walls for ventilation; the walls have ten planks made from Cyprus pine with a checked weatherboard profile.

8.11 Moonambel Information Plaque.







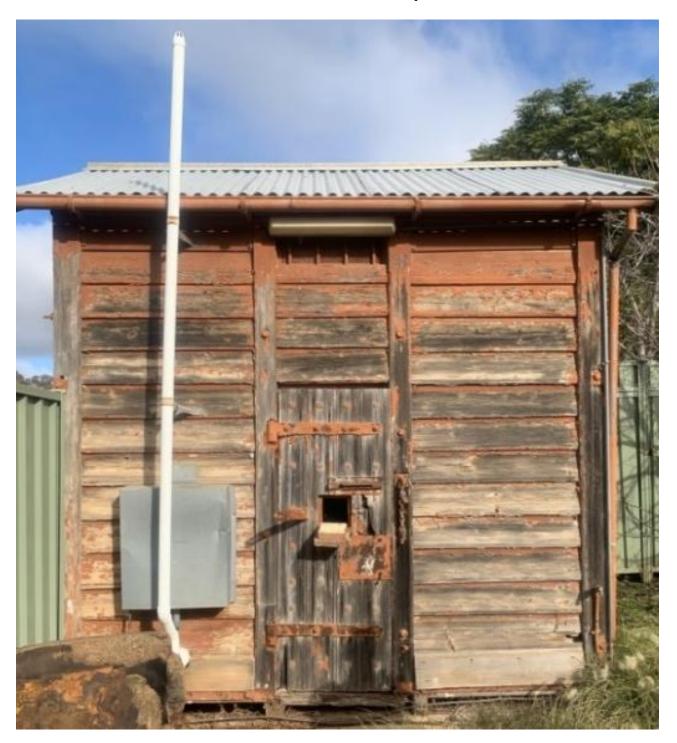
Moonambel chosen as an "early- period" lockup, showing appearance of a typical wall plank to help with the identification of the wood species.



Southern Cypress Pine sample shown to help to identify the timber used in the early period lockups.

Southern Cypress Pine is a native pine that grows naturally in most states of Australia, it is highly durable, resistant to decay, rot, and water damage and is naturally resistant to termites. It is known for its straight grain, fine texture, and numerous tight knots.

8.13 Dookie Lockup



This lockup was moved from nearby Cashel to Dookie in 1892. It has had an indoor toilet at some stage and many of the interior and exterior boards are currently rotten. The servery flap is small, rough and might not be the original. The knob on the safety chain is slightly different to other cells. Most of the paint has been stripped off by the weather and it is hoped that the plans of the Resident Constable to restore this cell. (and have it open for public inspection as a community asset) are achieved.

8.14 Rupanyup Lockup





8.15 St James Lockup

The lock-up at St James is very similar to the one at Broadford, superficially differing only in the small detail of the knob on the door safety chain. Like several others in this productive agricultural area, this lock-up was installed at a Single Member police station, probably before 1899 – there was no gold involved in its establishment.





There are two drawings of graffiti, one apparently scratched by Joe Douglas in 1899, and the second, an uncomplimentary doggerel written over Joe, accompanied by a detailed, lifelike sketch. This lockup has been relocated to the central parkin St.James and thankfully is being restored.

8.15.2 St. James Grafiti



8.15.3Stencil in St James Lockup



This is a very interesting lockup as it has several distinguishing features. Firstly, "No.3 LOCKUP WALLS" stencils are on boards in at least two interior walls. The wall planks have the standard carved Roman numerals and have been re-stamped with Western Arabic numerals like the Broadford lockup, indicating that this lockup was also repaired at the workshop at Dodds Street. The stencil on No 2 wall plank is upside down. As the profile of the wall plank makes it impossible to install them upside down, these planks must have been stenciled before they were installed at St. James or at the time they were being made for a No 3 lockup. The Guildford lockup stencil lockup No6 indicates that the wall planks were in fact stenciled prior to the lockup being built and not when they were salvaged from lockups from the workshop stockpile.





This lockup is now on display in the Great Aussie Beer Shed in Echuca and was originally built in Tatura in 1892. It replaced the original lockup which was practically eaten out by white ants.

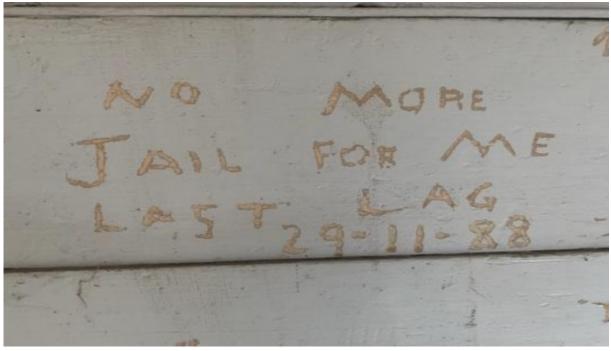


8.17 Trentham Lockup

This lockup is located at the Trentham Police Complex and is very similar to the lockup in Casterton, as it has a ventilation shaft in each corner, a large window/vent in each of the four walls, louvers in the gable roof ends and a ventilation flue in the roof.

8.18 Bacchus Marsh Lockup







8.19 Glenrowan Lockup

This lockup is part of the Ned Kelly story. It is in a popular tourist destination and is in excellent condition. It was relocated to Glenrowan from nearby Greta in the 1880's and differs from most lockups in minor details only. Its bottom-hinged inspection flap is larger than usual and was probably used as a servery shelf. It has been crudely cut into the door and might not be original. The gable ends are fitted with louvers, and it has a ventilation flue. There are ventilation shafts in each of the four corners, and it has a large window/vent on each of the four walls.





It is surprising to see this wooden lockup surviving among the extensive old stone and brick infrastructure in the historic mining town of Beechworth: a similar lockup in nearby Stanley is deteriorating in a paddock. The Beechworth lockup has an indoor toilet plumbed into it and has four ventilation grills which doubtless were not appreciated by tenants in icy, mountain winters. The top-hinged inspection flap looks a little flimsy and may have been added after manufacture.



8.21 Old Geelong Lockup

The Old Geelong Gaol is a mid period lockup, It was moved from Meredith in the Western District and restored. It is now on display at the National Crime and Justice Museum at Geelong





This mid-period double lockup, built in c1862 can be seen at Landsborough, and an even rarer triple cell lockup built in 1886, is within the walls of Fort Queenscliff Museum.8.19 Queenscliff Triple Lockup





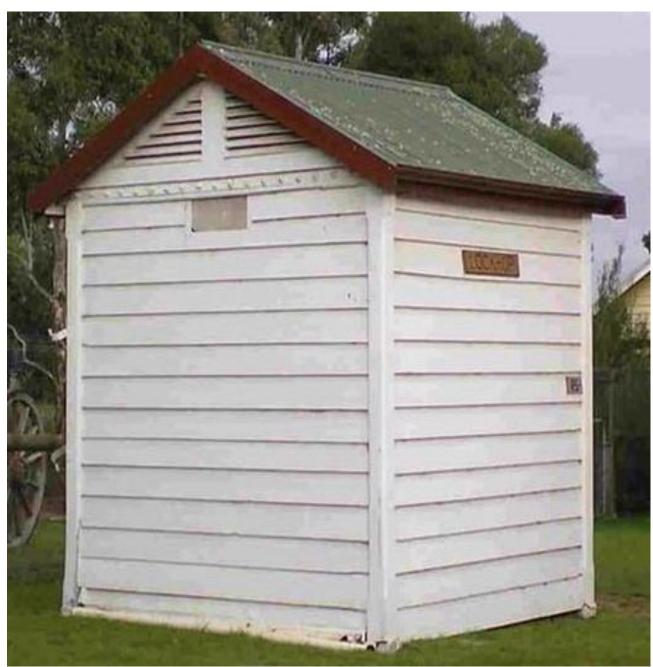
The Queenscliff triple lockup is within the walls of Fort Qurrnscliff. The lockup was built in 1886 and was used to punish the soldiers. At approximately 2.9m deep by 2.8m wide each cell is a little smaller than the comon single lockup. It has many bolts in the ceiling, floor and external walls. In 2024 one gable end was louvered to take advantage of the ventilation holes drilled in each ceiling. There are Ventilation shafts and grills in each corner. The large window above each door is barred and covered internally by a mesh plate. There are no windows in the common walls between cells.



8.24 Edenhope Lockup

Note the orientation of the roof. The gable is above the door and the roof is not aligned with the building which is contrary to all other lockups except Maffra. Perhaps the installing contractor used his discretion to take advantage of the prevailing winds to assist with ventilation, or the lockup is one of the rebuilds from salvaged parts (as indicated by the four bolts in the floor and ceiling).

8.25 Maffra Lockup



Note the orientation of the roof, the gable is above the door, which is contrary to all other lockups except Edenhope. Perhaps the installing contractor used his discretion to take advantage of the prevailing winds to assist with ventilation or the lockup is one of the rebuilds from salvaged parts as indicated by the four bolts in the floor and ceiling and that this was the best fit.

8.26 Koo wee Rup Lockup



This is a typical late-period lockup. It has a lockable bottom hinged inspection flap, which is open and resting on a supportave wooden bracket, suggesting it was also used as a servery door. Very few brackets survive, although evidence of there being is widespread.

8.27 Lancefield Lockup







Guilford Lockup, like Mafra and Edenhope has the gable end of the roof over the door, most likely not the original roof. With a stencil on a wall plank that is upside down similar to the stencil on the Tatura lockup. The 19 bolts in the floor indicates that this is a mid-period lockup-the stencil must have been applied prior to assembling the lockup.





8.29 Kaniva Lockup

The Kaniva lockup is one of the few lockups to retain the ventilation flue.

8.30 Penshurst Lockup



The Penshurst lockup is mid-period with ventilation shafts fitted as indicated by the bolts securing the shaft brackets and the ventilation holes in the bottom wall planks. The inspection flap is side hinged, the bracket below the door usually associated with bottom hinge servery flap seams un-necessary.



8.31 Eltham Lockup

This lockup has four floor and four ceiling bolts through nineteen-hole plates. It also has stenciling on one ceiling plank and one wall plank.

This lockup may also have been rebuilt at Dodds Street with parts salvaged from a no17 lockup in the storage yard.





Stenciling on one of the ceiling planks and one of the wall planks of the Eltham Lockup.





The Whittlesea lockup dosent match the attached plaque which suggests it was built in 1859, and implies it was relocated frpm Yan Yean to nearby Whittlesea in 1862. An inspection by Police noted it was at Wittlesea in 1876, and it was reported to be in fair condition in 1930. However, there is no mention in the Victorian Polise Contracts book 1858-79 of the provision, repair, nor relocation of a lockup at Yan Yean, nor Whittlesea. Further, it has several features (four windows, a inspection flap, Ventilation shafts, four floor bolts etc.) which suggest it was built decades after 1859.

8.33 Whittlesea Information Plaque

WHITTLESEA POLICE LOCKUP HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY In January 1854 The Commissioners Of Sewerage And Water Supply Applied To The Assistant Commissioner Of Police Asking That A Police Station Be Established At The Site Of The Construction Of The Yan Yean Reservoir Owing To The Large Population Working And Living in The Area. In July 1854 A Police Station Was Opened At The Site in 1855 A Court Of Petty Sessions Was Established in The Police Station And Four Years Later in 1859 The Chairman Of The Bench. George Sherwin Wrote To The Superintendent Of The Bourke Police District Applying For A Portable Lockup To Be Built. This Lockup Was Completed By The End Of That Year By 1862 The Work Was Completed At Yan Yean, And The Police Station, Court Of Petty Sessions And Associated Buildings Were Removed To Whittiesea In 1876 An Inspection Of The Police Noted "That One Portable Lockup Containing One Cell"Was On Sine In 1930 The Lockup Was Reported To Be in A *Fair Condition*. In 2002 The Lockup Was Decommissioned By The Victoria Police And Was Marked For Removal. The Whittiesea Courthouse Association Applied To The Victoria Police To Have The Lockup Moved Onto The Site Of The Courthouse. This Was Acceded To And It Was Moved During July 2003 To its Present Location. This Building Served The Horth End Of The Municipality Between 1859 And 2002, And Is The Link That Binds The Local austice System Of Yesterday. At Yan Yean, To That Which is Located in Whittiesea Township Today This Building Was Moved With The Assistance Of The Following Groups Lions Out Of Whittiesea Rolary Club Of Whittiesea RSL- Whittiesea Sub Branch Victoria Police Whittlesea Community Social Group Whittlesea Courthouse Association Whitteese Police And Various Commercial Businesses in The District And Local Volunteers

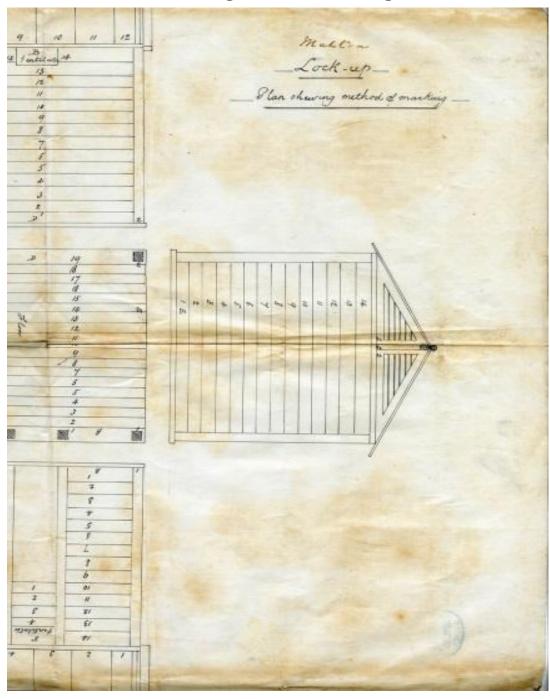




The lockup at Corryong is a Mid-period lockup, it was provided to accommodate a very rapid but temporary increase in population during the building of the Snowy Mountain hydro-electric project.

9 Common Features of Lockups





9.2 Inspection Flaps.







ISISFORD



BACCUS MARSH







NAGAMBIE



OLD GEELONG

Designs of the inspection lockable flaps on the door. One of the most noticeable features of the portable lockups is the many different designs. The size and the position of the opening in the door of Nagambie, Isisford, Hamilton and Old Geelong are similar, the covering flaps vary greatly. Nagambie and Isisford appear to be original flaps. Edenhope and Bacchus Marsh are most likely retrofits.

A wooden bracker below the Old Geelong flap supported the open flap providing a small platform large enough for a bowl or mug- it might then become a "servery flap". It is absent from the Hamilton door. This platform cannot be created when the flap is hinged at the top which may indicate the role of the flap was for security i.e. to see if the inmate was away from the door before it was opened.

10 Lockups in Other States.

We have not investigated lockups in other states other than to note from casual conversations with police officers, that both New South Wales and Queensland had small wooden cells which could be moved from one location to another if necessary. The construction and assembly methods of both New South Wales and Queensland lockups are different to those in Victoria in that the walls, floor and ceiling are each pre-assembled as a unit bolted together at the corners.

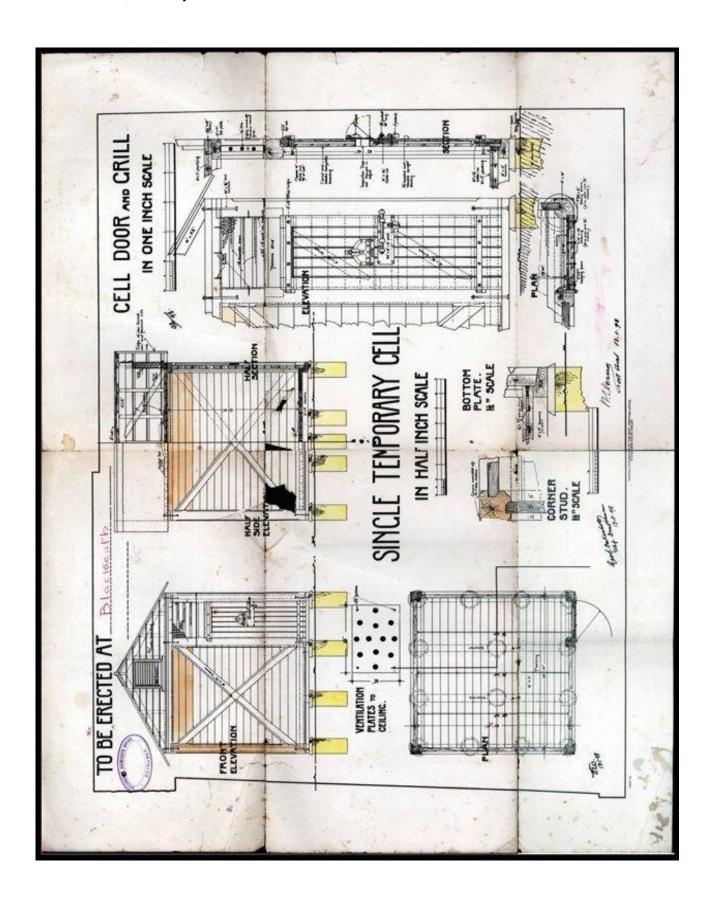


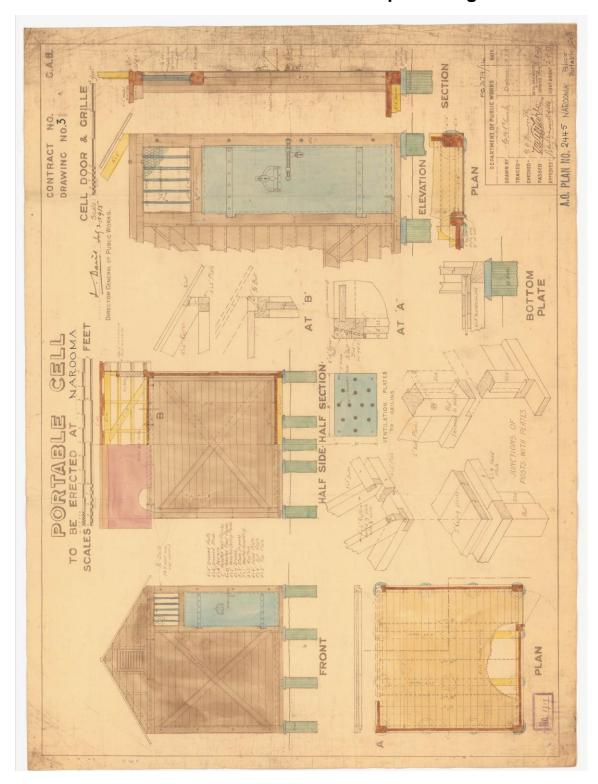


This lockup at the old Police Station and stables at Gundaroo, NSW is in excellent condition in a welcoming village cafe environment – a far cry from its original use.

10.2 Blackheath Lockup Drawing

This single temporary lockup was destined for installation at Blackheath, NSW. The plan is dated x.1.98, January 1898. No record of the cell was found after 1933.





10.3 Narooma Portable Lockup Drawing

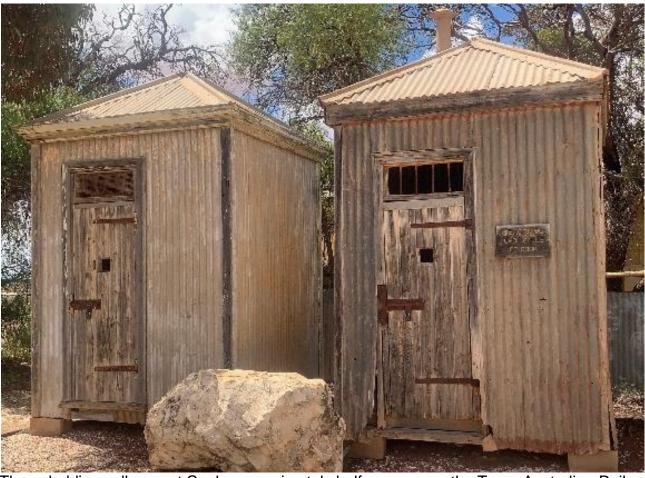
This drawing of the Narooma lockup was drawn in 1915 and shows more detail than the Blackheath drawing drawn about 1898.





10.5 Dubbo Lockup New South Wales





10.6 Cook Lockup, South Australia

These holding cells are at Cook, approximately half way across the Trans Australian Railway. Cook was a significent, very remote railway town, and these cells were probably associated with the long gone police station, in spite of a large window above the door, and an inspection hole, they would have been very hot during the summer.



10.7 Isisford, Queensland

This is a double lockup, whilst each cell is isolated from the other, they share an enclosed verandah. Several double cell lockups were inspected in outback Queensland, and most had inspection flaps or inspection holes in the door. Almost all had minor concessions to the hot climate e.g. much larger windows with shades over, they were elevated on stumps, and of course had verandahs.

11 Old Sandhurst Lockup.

Extract from a letter:

To Police Department, Superintendent's Office,

Sandhurst, 16th May 1856.

Sir, I have the honour to call your attention to the unserviceable state of the roofs of the lockups in this McIvor District. The late rains having completely saturated everything within the building, and if not immediately repaired the exposure the prisoners will be subjected to will seriously affect their health, otherwise causing the greatest inconvenience; in addition to the roofs, the floors require boarding very much. The necessary boards can be supplied at the Camp. I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

The Chief Commissioner of Police, Melbourne.

ARTHUR KIRK, Superintendent.

13 feet 9 inches A feet 9 inches DOOR BOOR A feet 9 inches 13 feet 9 inches

11.1 Ground plan of the old Sandhurst lockup.

This building was about 36 feet long and about 14 to 16 feet wide built of massive logs, trees, sawn timber crosscut, averaging in diameter about 12 inches to 14 inches or 16 inches; they were laid on the top of each other and secured at the end by iron bolts.

The walls were the same, the floors were the same, the ceilings were the same, and consequently you had an abundance of ventilation and an abundance of light without any windows, and as a result were considered extremely healthy. You had more capacity, but the crevices and interstices of the logs (although they were so close that you could get nothing in), you got plenty of light and there was always a fresh current of air coming in.

12 Sandhurst Iron Lockup Legislative Assembly Report

In 1858 the Legislative assembly ordered a report from a select Committee on The Captain Mac Mahon case- it involved the letting of contracts for police purposes including iron lockups.

The following are extracts from that report.

12.1 Minutes of Evidence

Captain Mac Mahon brought out a large quantity of mining machinery, a number of workmen and a large sum of money, intending to mine for gold. He also had a number of letters of introduction. One from Lord Nass (the then Under-Secretary), and a special order to Mr. La

Trobe, if possible, to employ him. La Trobe's response was "We ought not to lose sight of so good a man".

[Captain Mac Mahon was appointed as the Inspector of the Town by the Hon. W.H.F. Mitchell - The Chief Commissioner of Police in 1853].

In January 1854 Captain Mac Mahon became Chief Commissioner of Police.

He was asked by Dr. Owens "You directed that lockup to be made upon some model plan that you had down there?" – "It is made on a model which is in the Public Works Office."

"Was that model of your suggestion and approval?" "Yes, and approved by the Public Works Department."

It was necessary that the work should be performed under the supervision of some person who would cause any alterations to be made, the kind of building being but an experiment.

12.1.1 Mr. George Miller examined.

"For casing of the two-celled house how much would it be?" - "That was included in the contract. I find that on the 14th of May 1856, we tendered for two lockups for £125 each that was addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Police". By Mr. Lalor – "the making?" – "Yes. Not for the erecting?" "For the making here, we delivered them in town". "Were those cased with boards?" - "Those were extra charges: there was no covering for the £125 each". "How much was the extra charge for the boards?" "That is £35 each?" "Then on the 1st of August, 1856, we tendered to make two double-cell lock-ups of 1/4-inch plate iron, covered, the sides and ends with 1-inch thick tongued and grooved boards, the roof being of corrugated iron, put together as arranged, and painted with three coats of lead paint, for the sum of £250 each" "Did that include the erection on the sites?" -No; that was accepted on November the 11th. "That is a difference of £90 from the original tender?" -is a difference in the houses, one was single and the other double. The first two we made were like a large water tank with a door. "Did you ever send in another tender for lockups?" "When was that?" - "On the 16th of August 1856. We offered to make for the Chief Commissioner of Police a three-cell lock-up, of 1/4-inch plate, covered on the sides and ends with 1inch thick-tongued and grooved boards 6 inches wide and roofed with galvanized corrugated iron, divided into cells with nine by three deall [deal is an old term for wood], and to erect the same at Castlemaine; you paying the expenses of cartage of materials and men to Castlemaine and return the men and tools to Melbourne; for the sum of £425 sterling." "That included an additional cell and the erection, and the division in it, the erection, and everything but the cartage". "You did not cover the first one for the £125?" -"No; £160 was the cost of that, the cladding the roof and all". "Did the £35 include the roofing?" -Yes. Then would it be roofed for £160?" -"Yes, that was all the charge we had for it". "For casing of the two-celled house how much would it be?" - "That was included in the contract. I find that on the 14th of May 1856, we tendered for two lockups for £125 each, which was addressed to the Chief Commissioner of Police".

By Mr.Lalor. – "For the making?" – "Yes". "Not for the erecting? – "For the making here; we delivered them in town".

Were those cased with boards?" -Those were extra charges: there was no covering for the £125 each".

"How much was the extra charge for the boards?" "£70 that is £35 each".

Chief Commissioner of Police "a three-cell lock-up, of 1/4-inch plate, covered on the sides and ends with 1inch-tongued and grooved boards 6 inches wide, and roofed with galvanized corrugated iron, divided into cells with 9 inch by 3 inch planks, and to erect the same at Castlemaine.

You are paying the expenses of cartage of materials and men to Castlemaine and return the men and tools to Melbourne; for the sum of £425 sterling".

"That included an additional cell and the erection". –"Yes; and the dividing it, the erection, and everything but the cartage".

You did not cover the first one for the £125? -No; £160 was the cost of that, including the roof and all.

"Did the £35 include the roofing?" - "Yes".

"Then would it be roofed for £160?" - "Yes, that was all the charge we had for it".

12.1.2 Mr. Enoch Chambers Examined

The chairman asked Mr. Enoch Chambers "You were the contractor for the Sandhurst lockup?" "Where did you first hear that was to be contracted for?" -I think it was at Captain Mac Mahon's office if I remember rightly-no it was at Miller and Macquistan's, they had got one, an iron one standing in their yard, that was the place I heard of it; I had been making six at Ballarat.

"You had been engaged at Ballarat before?" -I made six that was the first job I did.

How many lock-ups have you put up for the police?" –"Only two of that description. I have made wooden ones, three or four times since then, and the six that went up to Ballarat".

Enoch Chambers recollects "I made a wooden lockup with iron bars running through it somewhere near Ararat".

[The six lockups at Ballarat must have been Wooden lockups and built about 1855 or early 1856]

A contract for an iron lockup was inserted in the Government Gazette of 1856 for a number of alterations and improvements at Sandhurst.

The following is a copy of the tender of Enoch Chambers to the Chief Commissioner of Police. The contract was accepted on 28th October 1856 for erecting a lockup at Sandhurst.

"I hereby tender to make 1 Iron lockup 27 ft. long 10 ft. wide and 8 ft. high with wood partitions, boiler plate ¼ thick, wood casing all complete and painted for the sum of £400 and find labour to erect the same at Sandhurst, the Chief Commissioner paying the coach hire for the men to go from Melbourne to Sandhurst and back to Melbourne when the work is completed, the

above to pay carriage for the material required for the same." (For the sum of £400 it must have been make and erect.)

(Signed) Enoch Chambers

In February 1857 the Chief Commissioner of Police wrote to the Commissioner of Public Works bringing to his attention the complaints of the prisoners about the insufferable heat during the day, and the closeness and foulness of the air during the night. "Owing to the heat and foul air being so great in the cells when two or more prisoners are confined together, that I have been obliged to have the doors opened every two hours for ventilation by a Sergeant and two Constables during the night at very great inconvenience and risk". On the 3rd of February 1857 the Chief Commissioner wrote that he found it strange that if the heat and ventilation of the cells is so bad, that one of them should be used to store grog, thus rendering it necessary to crowd the others, he presumed that the cases of liquor had since been removed.

On the 16th of February 1857 the Resident Warden and the Stipendiary Magistrate visited the new lockup in which four prisoners were confined and in consequence of the heat and confinement of the cells, the prisoners were discharged and simply told to attend court in the morning, two attended and two did not.

On the 10th March the Chief Commissioner was informed by the Superintendent that 100 additional holes 1inch in diameter were bored through the walls and 70 in the floor, 600 in total and in addition felt has been put under the roof, and in his opinion, after consulting with practical men on the subject, that the cheapest and most effectual way would be to erect a new roof of shingles or slate over the present one allowing a space of two or three feet between the two. It would also require a weather-boarded wall erected about 4 feet from the wall of the present building most affected by the sun.

12.1.3 Mr. L. McLachlan, Esq. examined

"What was the kind of lock-up accommodation when you went there?" —"When I took the Bendigo district six years ago, 1853 there was one solitary building that was built of logs. I know in New Zealand during the insurrection there, we had one what is called a block-house I found a building of that description in Sandhurst; there was no proclaimed gaol then, that building contained two cells. It is now in existence and used as a portion of the Bendigo gaol as a hospital and sick room for the women. Then that building was about 36 feet long and about 14 to 16 feet wide built of massive logs, trees, sawn timbers crosscut, I suppose averaging in diameter about a foot to 14 inches or 16 inches; they were laid on the top of each other and secured at the end by iron bolts, the walls were the same, the floors were the same, the ceilings were the same, and consequently you had an abundance of ventilation, and an abundance of light without any windows and extremely healthy they were. "You had more capacity actually?" — "Yes; but the crevices and interstices of the logs, although they were so close that you could get nothing in, you got plenty of light, and there was always a fresh current of air coming in". "Are you aware whether any representations were made to the Chief Commissioner as to the desirability of erecting a new lockup?" —"Yes; upon what grounds?" "I

do not know, because I must tell you, in those primitive days, when I first took charge of the district, I had the entire control of the lock-up, as police magistrate; it was not then as it is now and has been for the last two years, it was then, I think-about two years or two years and a half ago-that I was given to understand that the police magistrate had no further control over the lock-up". "You do not know upon whose representation it was that the new lockup was put up"? -"Yes, I do, I understand the question now, and I will tell you at once. Between three and four years ago there was a gaol ordered to be built, there were two block-houses erected in Sandhurst in connection with the old lockup, which was also a block-house. They were built within a few feet of each other, and that was stockaded-a strong stockade was built round it, and it was proclaimed a gaol and I was made visiting justice of the gaol at that time and for twelve months' or eighteen months afterwards; the old lockup, or the lockup which was still used as such, was within the precincts of the gaol. I made strong remonstrance's to the sheriff as to the danger that was incurred in having the gaol gates thrown open at every hour of the night to admit drunkards picked up in the streets. I remonstrated against having the gates of the gaol thrown open, allowing of communication between the gaol and the lock-up, and I made several representations, and it had no effect, still the gaol and the lock-up were one" "From the representations that were made it was then that this other lock-up was erected. The deputy sheriff was living at Castlemaine, and I insisted that there should be, at once, a separation between the gaol and the lockup, that the gaoler's could not be responsible for prisoners escaping. It was then that the iron lock-up was erected". -"Yes; or about that time?". -"About that time"-"yes". "Are you aware when it was sent 'up from Melbourne?". "I saw it arrive in the drays".

12.14 Captain Pasley Examined

When asked by the Chairman (regarding the tender process used for the Sandhurst lockup). "About how many Police buildings do you suppose to have been put up in the same way"? "I could not say without a reference to the office records. I know that the design of the lockups was changed soon after that, and wooded ones were substituted, but how many of those were put up I do not know; I think very few". [This would be about 1856]. "Shortly after this the Chief Commissioner proposed a new kind of lock-up, which I did inspect, made of wood with iron bars passing right through the planks the whole of them; it was like a cage, in fact, enclosed in wood, and it appeared to me to be very-suitable and rather ingenious. I inspected it, and approved of it very highly, and a considerable number have been made".

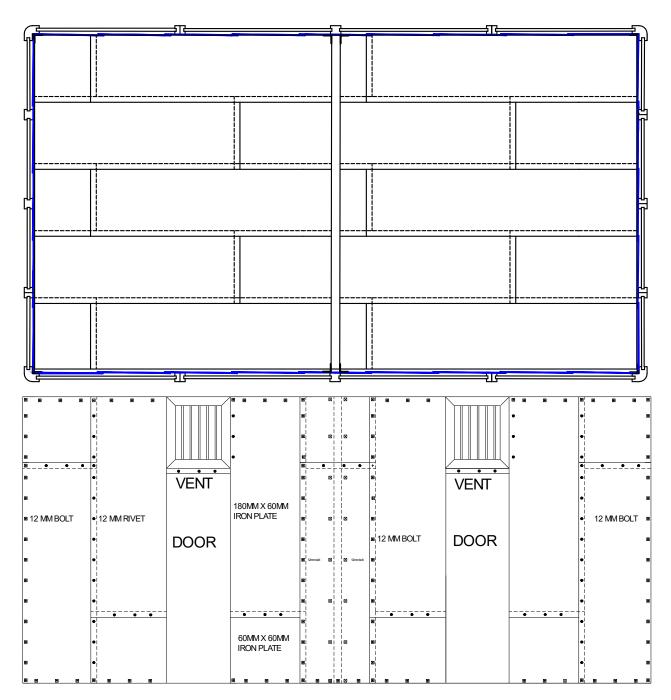
13 North East Victoria Lockup

This lockup in North-East Victoria is considered the only iron lockup still in existence. It was built around the same time as the Sandhurst lockup featured below. It matches the description given of the Sandhurst lockup; it only differs from the Sandhurst lockup is it has two cells we can assume that all iron lockups were similarly constructed.

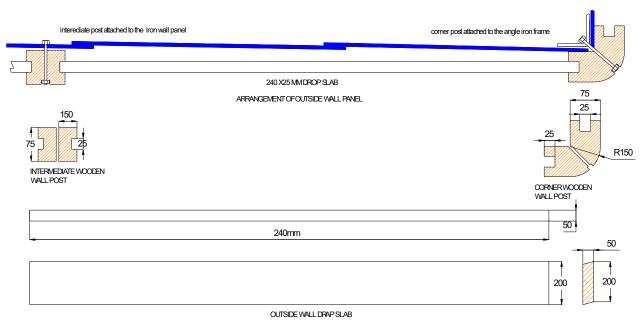
The lockup at Anakie is referred to as an iron lockup. Iron in that case refers to corrugated iron and 1.6 mm sheet metal. The Anakie lockup has nothing in common with the lockup in North-East Victoria.

Iron lockups were built with sheets of 3/8 inch (9.5mm) iron plate 6" x 24" (180 mm x 600mm) riveted together to form panels comprising 3 panels measuring 2400 x1740 mm, and 4 panels measuring 2400 x 2320 mm, then these panels were bolted together to form the walls, floor and ceiling. Tenders were called for Portable Wooden Lockups in 1856. Also, for iron lockups as they were considered an improvement to the wooden lockup, instead they were found to be entirely unsuitable for the extremes of temperature in Victoria, causing complaints from the prisoners about the insufferable heat during the day and closeness and foulness of the air during the night.

13.1 Plan view of the iron lockup



This is a view of the front wall of a two-cell iron lockup, showing iron plates 180mm x 600mm riveted together at the factory to form panels of four and then bolted together on- site to form a complete wall. The walls are joined at the corners bolted to a 75x75 mm angle iron frame; the floor and the ceiling are bolted in a similar way. The doors are opened inwards.



13.2 Arrangement of outside wall

This is a view of the outside wooden wall paneling showing the corner post, intermediate post and the drop slab which is designed to dispel water. The blue panels represent the iron sheets which are the internal walls of the iron lockup. The external wall posts are attached to the iron walls, and support the roof.

Photograph with permission of National Crime and Justice Museum, (Old Geelong Gaol).





14 Anakie Lockup

The Anakie lockup is an example of a prefabricated iron building built in the 1860's, with a curved iron roof. "Iron in this case refers to corrugated iron on the outside and 1.6 mm sheet metal lining the inside, not the 3/8-inch (9.5mm) iron plate of the North- East Victorian or the Sandhurst lockups".

Because of the shortage of labour brought about by the gold rush, prefabricated iron buildings were imported, [mainly houses] some prefabricated iron buildings were locally made, notably by Peter Johns, Flinders Lane Melbourne. The period of iron buildings lasted almost twenty years; a few examples exist today.

In about 1859 the Melbourne firm Carter's Steam Corrugated Works produced corrugated iron, In 1860 a method had been developed in England for producing curved corrugated iron In about 1860 another Melbourne firm, Alex Rippingille, was manufacturing corrugated iron both plain and curved.

The Anakie lockup with its curved corrugated iron roof must have been built after 1860.

"There are only two of these small lockups left in Victoria." A reference to the lockup at Anakie and the lockup in North-East Victoria. [In fact the Anakie lockup is the only one of its kind and it is not a true iron lockup, it has been modified, the roof was raised appraximately900mm]. The lockup at Anakie has prefabricated vertical panels 6ft x2ft (1800 x 600 mm) with four tongue & groove planks on a wooden frame and covered with 1.6 mm sheet metal on the inside supported between 62mm x 62mm Tee- iron uprights 620mm apart, the outside covered with corrugated iron, with a curved roof.

The lockup in North- East Victoria; although similar in size, is a very different design to the Anakie lockup, the inside walls are built of 3/8-inch (9.5mm) iron sheets 6ft x 2ft (1800 x 600 mm) reverted together, with drop slab outer walls, most of the drop slabs are now missing. This lockup has a gable roof and was built earlier than the lockup at Anakie with its curved corrugated iron roof.

The lockup at North East Victoria resembles Enoch Chambers' description of the Sandhurst lockup "Boiler plate 1/4 thick, wood casing"

Join in cladingThe sheets are attached with flathead nails 1800 A B C

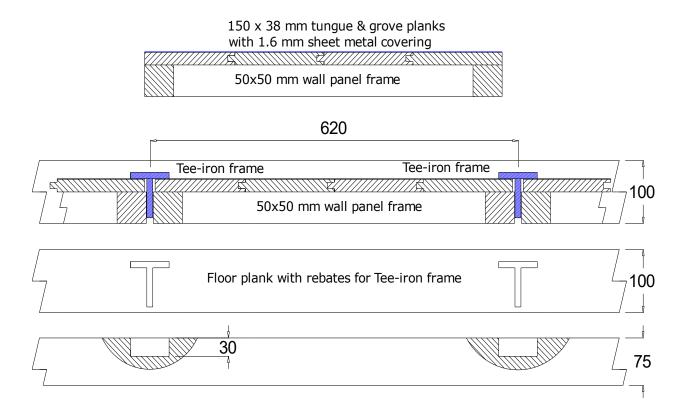
14.1 Anakie lockup wall panel arrangement.

A Wooden wall panel frame

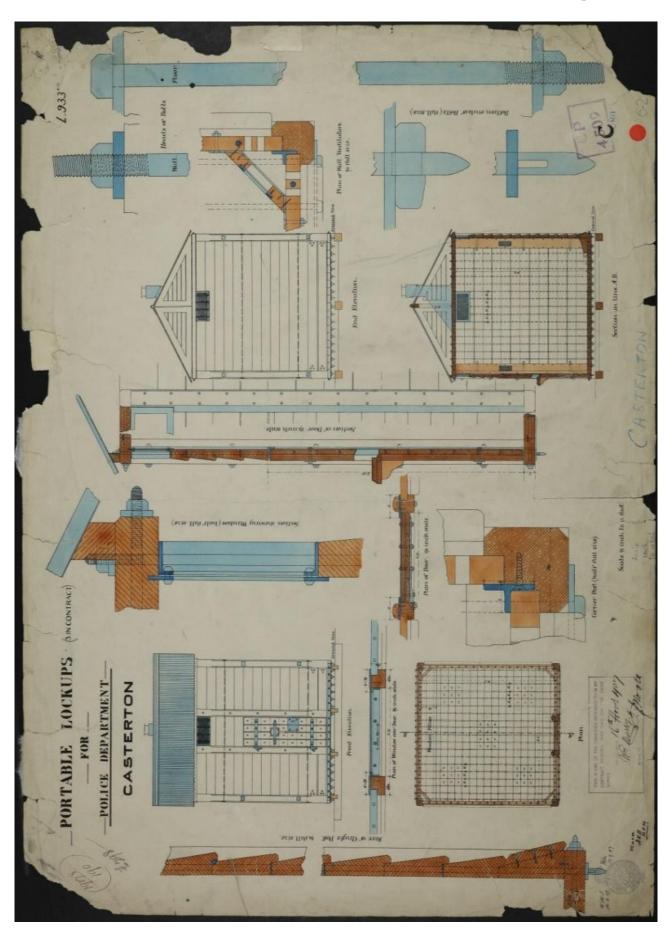
B 150 x 38 mm tongue & grove wooden panels

C Inside surface of wall panel covered with 1.6 mm sheet metal.

14.2 Anakie Lockup wall Panel detail.



15 Review of the Casterton 1907 Drawing.



15.1 Analysis of Casterton 1907 Drawing.

This document commonly referred to as the 'Casterton 1907 drawing', is one document relating to the portable police lockups.

The 'document' appears to be a collage of selected details taken from several individual drawings (at least 5 drawings on 3 sheet sizes A2, A3, A4) and inserted into the one A2 sheet, which we will call 'Casterton 1907.8' (after the text written in the bottom right margin).

The original drawing pre-dates 1907 with an initial and the date 23/8/86 in the bottom left corner. All text relating to each detail are in the same text style, the height of the text 1.5mm on an A4 sheet is consistent with having been drawn on the A3 document (normal text height 3mm).

Several of these details have scale notations expressed in different ways (e.g. ½ inch to the ft., half full size, ½ inch scale). The drawings do not reflect this. For example, the drawing of the 'corner post' shown hatched with the notation of (half full size) is drawn smaller to the 'section showing window' where shown hatched with the notation (half full size). When in reality the corner post is twice the size of the timber above the window.

The 'Title block' in the top left of the page appears to be added onto an existing A3 document.

'PORTABLE LOCKUPS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT' is drawn with the aid of a Stencil, with a subtitle underneath "CASTERTON" in bold text entered separately (not centralized), and a side note in brackets "(3 in contract)" - that appears to be typed. The term "Lockups" indicates that the builder and/or the supplier had a contract to supply three of their portable lockups to the Police Department, two of these to be erected at Casterton- It would be interesting to know where the other one is located.

There are three initialed and dated notations in the left bottom corner perhaps acknowledgment of having received and inspected the document. The earliest is 23/8/86 and an official stamp which states: "This is one of the drawings referred to in my contract entered this day for above works". It is signed and dated the 16^{th of} November 1907 by W. Barry and witnessed by J. Moore. The name J. Moore appears as a witness on several Public Works Department documents on display at the Public Records Office of Victoria (this text also on A3 size paper) and another stamp near the bottom right hand P over 4509 (perhaps a police officer's service number), this stamp on A4 paper.

The word 'Casterton', handwritten on the bottom of the page and again on the right-hand margin of the page the word Casterton 1907.8 which may be a file number or page number (written on A4 paper).

There are several items not shown on the drawing. (e.g. the 19-hole iron bars, the hinges, the lock plate, the corner Tee irons and the flat bars between the wall planks). There are few dimensions on the drawing.

15.1.1 Summary of Drawing Review.

If we accept the above observations, then it is reasonable to assume the following:

The drawing 'Casterton 1907.8' was the front page of a contract document relating to the supply of three portable lockups-two were destined for Casterton and signed by William Barry and J. Moore on 16th November 1907. The destination of the other one is unknown.

That there were at least 5 detailed drawings associated with this contract, the whereabouts unknown. The organization and the position held by William Barry are unknown. The name of the Witness, J Moore, appears on other Public Works Department of Victoria documents held at the Public Records of Victoria in Melbourne.

Acknowledgements

Many people contributed directly and indirectly to this publication.

Rod MacKenzie, Bob Tomkins, Fay Murphy, Marg Inness, John Brissett, Ann Smith and Peter Wright of the BDHS all provided information, assistance and ongoing support for this article and for the current restoration of the Broadford lockup.

Members of the following Historical Societies were enthusiastically forthcoming with information and discussion about their lockups:

Historical Societies (H.S.)

Barham Koondrook H.S.

Blue Mountains Historical Society

Boort Historical Society and Museum.

Casterton and District Historical Society.

Donald Historical Society.

Eltham and District Historical Society.

Foster Historical Society

Harrow Historical Society.

Jamieson Historical Society.

Katamatite Historical Society.

Keilor Historical Society.

Tatura and District Historical Society Museum (Judy)

Great Western Historical Society (Dorothy)

Mansfield Historical Society

Moonambel- Avoca and District Historical Society

Nagambie Historical Society.

Richmond and Burnley Historical Society.

Romsey and Lancefield Historical Society.

Rapanyup and District Historical Society.

Stawell (Great Western) Historical Society.

Tatura and District Historical Society Museum.

Trentham Historical Society.

Whittlesea Historical Society.

Museums and other organisations.

Aramac Tramway Museum (Qld).

Bacchus Marsh Blacksmith's Cottage and Forge Museum.

Burke Museum in Beechworth .

Cork Street Cafe (old police station and stables) Gundaroo, NSW.

Dookie Historical Society.

Edenhope Information Centre and Courthouse.

Eulo Police Cells (Qld.) in community Park.

Fort Queenscliff Museum.

Glenrowan Historical Society.

Hamilton Pastoral Museum.

Kate's Cottage Museum in Glenrowan.

Man from Snowy River Museum Corryong.

Moyhu Lions Club (Greta Lockup).

National Crime and Justice Museum (Old Geelong Gaol).

Old Gippstown Heritage Park Moe.

Public Records Office Victoria. (PROV)

Stanley Athenaeum.

St. James Silo Art Committee.

St James Hotel.

Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement.

Tambo Public Library (Qld.) Former Courthouse.

Tatura Lockup (in the great Australian Beer Shed Echuca).

Trove.nla.gov.au.

Victorian Government Gazette.

Police

New South Wales Justice and Police Museum.

New South Wales Police Stations, Blackheath, Collector, Gundaroo.

Queensland Police Stations, Augathella, Isisford, Mittaburra.

Victorian Police Archives.

Victorian Police Museum. Victorian Police Stations – Dookie, Glenrowan and Nagambie.

Significant lockups can be seen at Anakie and Landsborough, and we thank the owners at Harrow, Casterton and Merino for allowing inspections of lockups at their private residences.

And finally my deepest thanks go to my wife Sheila, whose has been my sounding board throughout. Her unwaving support has greatly enriched this book.

Deliberately Blank





Portable Police Lockups Allan Stute and Bob Tomkins

