
CHINESE TEMPLE



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2008



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1 see yup temple raglan
street south melb front view
white facade

Location

76 RAGLAN STREET SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0219

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO236

VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 31, 1999

The See Yup Society Temple at Raglan Street, South Melbourne was erected in 1866 for the See Yup Society, as the principal centre of worship and death registry for the Cantonese in Victoria. See Yup means four towns of Canton. The temple, flanking pavilions and enclosed axially arranged forecourt were designed by architect George Wharton, tenders being called in April 1866. The buildings and associated fences are in the style of the classical revival enhanced by contrasting oriental detail and statuary.

The See Yup Society Temple, South Melbourne, was the most important centre of Chinese worship in Victoria in the nineteenth century and integral with the turbulent history of the Chinese people in Victoria in that era. The building group, unique in Victoria as an historical document and architecturally important as an outstanding work by architect George Wharton, is notable for the apparent axial and spatial qualities and the successful fusion of classical with traditional Chinoiserie details and statuary. The See Yup Temple has been partially restored by the See Yup Society in conjunction with the National Trust but is still in need of extensive rehabilitation work.

[Source: Register of the National Estate]

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1866, 1901,
Architect/Designer	Annear, Harold Desbrowe, Pearson, George, George Wharton,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	SEE YUP KUAN TI TEMPLE, SEE YUP SOCIETY TEMPLE, SEE YUP TEMPLE,

Hermes Number 1063

Property Number

History

The temple has undergone four main building phases. The main buildings were constructed in 1866 and designed by prominent architect George Wharton. The red brick building that contains the second memorial hall was constructed in 1901 to designs drawn by Harold Desbrowe Annear. The modern sandstone building next to the red brick building is the third memorial hall, constructed in 2004. In 2002, a Kuanyin Pavilion designed by Cheung Sui Fung, an RMIT graduate and senior member of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, was constructed in the courtyard outside one of the main buildings. (2022)

Extent of Registration

City of South Melbourne. No. 219. Chinese Temple, rear 76 Raglan Street, South Melbourne.
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3649]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>