
Queenscliff Town Hall, (former Foresters' Hall), 48-52 Learmonth Street, Queenscliff



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Hesse St from Baillieu's Tower c. 1880 showing the original 1870s entrance portico circled. Source: National Library Australia, ref: an10608594-69

Location

48-52 Learmonth Street QUEENSCLIFF, QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

Municipality

QUEENSCLIFFE BOROUGH

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO127

HO11

Heritage Listing

Queenscliffe Borough

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 1, 1982

Statement of Significance as recorded under the Queenscliff Heritage Study 2009

The former Foresters' Hall site and building are of local historical significance as a major focus of community and municipal affairs in the Borough of Queenscliffe since 1870. The earlier hall of 1870 was a key local meeting place, the first outside the hotels and this role continued in the case of the 1888-90 hall which survives on the site today. Over time, the hall assumed the role of the Queenscliffe Town Hall, though it was not formally acquired by the Borough until the 1920s.

The building is also of historical interest for its association with the original builder, prominent local contractor, William Golightly.

Architecturally, while of an exceptionally utilitarian and unornamented design, the building is of significance as a representative example of a modest nineteenth century hall building.

Later development on the site for the Borough of Queenscliffe has been executed in a manner that is respectful of the historic hall.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Urban Conservation Study, Allom Lovell & Associates P/L, Architects, 1982; Queenscliffe - Queenscliffe Heritage Study, Lovell Chen, 2009;
Construction dates	1888,
Other Names	Foresters' Hall,
Hermes Number	120711
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The old hall at the rear was virtually encased by a much larger, face brick building but the porticoed entrance wing was retained. The new hall was somewhat dwarfed by its extension (IO) fitted out for 'theatre, concerts, balls, cinderella assemblies ...' and the like: it had a stage, gas fittings and a specially constructed floor. (II) The Borough Council leased the Forester's Hall in 1899, but did not complete the purchase until the 1920's. During the 1960's it replaced the entrance building with the existing unsympathetically designed structure.

Physical Description 2

Internally, the hall is austere decorated and, in all, is architecturally undistinguished. However, it was Queenscliff's only public hall for many years and, as a consequence, housed many of the town's institutions.

Physical Description 3

Extract from the 2009 study

Queenscliff Town Hall comprises a nineteenth century assembly hall to the rear of a modern entrance foyer, with modern single-storey office buildings in face brick to the south. The hall building is a double height, T-shaped, brick building with a series of round-headed arched double hung sash windows with stone cills. A small single storey twentieth century brick annexe building is attached to the north side of the hall towards the rear.

The new entry foyer is a contemporary interpretation of the original entry foyer, demolished and replaced by a timber framed building as part of the Council Offices in the c.1960s, and which in turn was demolished during the recent works. It is a simple rendered masonry building in a stripped back classical style, with a transverse gable roof with a central projecting portico addressing Learmonth Street. The footprint of the new entrance foyer exposes part of the original walls of the main hall building, including the Barrabool sandstone cills which are typical of Queenscliff. The north side single storey addition of the 1960s-70s is still extant and remains an intrusive element in this building complex.

The Council offices are situated within a contemporary brick building with gabled roofs and of a domestic scale with recessive glazed links and contemporary window and roof detailing. The building sits comfortable into the streetscape with a staggered setback related to the entry foyer.

Intactness

GOOD

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/>