
MECHANICS INSTITUTE



MECHANICS INSTITUTE
SOHE 2008



1 mechanics institute carlisle
street wunghnu front view
apr1981

Location

27-29 CARLISLE STREET WUNGHNU, MOIRA SHIRE

Municipality

MOIRA SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0518

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO22

VHR Registration

November 18, 1981

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 18, 1999

The first Wunghnu Mechanics Institute was opened on 5 June, 1887, a brick building with a two storey section at the front. This building was not to last long, for soon after the front section was burnt down and by mid 1889 the Mechanics Institute committee was making moves to reconstruct either a single or two storey new front to the Institute. The current building dates from that exercise and at the time of its completion it contained the original hall, the library, meeting rooms, reading room and an upstairs billiard room.

This new two storey section was designed by Numurkah architect, Mr Allan McDonald.

Stylistically the building is extremely simple version of the conservative Italian architecture employed during the nineteenth century. It presents a large and imposing if plainly detailed facade to the highway in the township of Wunghnu. The interior spaces including the hall are relatively simple. The importance of the building lies primarily in its relationship to the once small but thriving township of Wunghnu. It remains as a last vestige of the substantial Victorian buildings which existed within that town and in that respect must be considered of significance.

It is currently in a poor to reasonable condition. Attempts have been made in the recent past to undertake some superficial restoration and refurbishing work however there is need for work to stabilise brick walls, etc.

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	1887,
Architect/Designer	McDonald, Allan,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,

Other Names	MECHANICS INSTITUTE WUNGHNU,
Hermes Number	1239
Property Number	

History

Associated People:

Extent of Registration

Historic Building No. 518 Mechanics Institute, Carlisle Street, Wunghnu.
[Victoria Government Gazette No. 111 18 November 1981 p.3734]

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/>