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# Former Library and Mechanics' Institute



Former Library and  
Mechanics Institute, 408  
Warrenheip Street,  
Buninyong -- 1983 Buninyong  
Conservation Study

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## Location

408 Warrenheip Street, BUNINYONG VIC 3357 - Property No 2034043

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO135

HO181

## Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 17, 2024

**What is significant?**

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

The Old Buninyong Library dates from circa 1859 when it was given as a gift to the citizens of the town by Robert Allen, a prominent local personality. The single storey timber structure comprises a main room (formerly a reading room) and a residence, the two areas divided by an office. The facade comprises a centrally located entrance flanked by large windows.

The Library is one of the oldest buildings in Buninyong and survives from an early period in the town's development. The facade is most unusual with its detail simulating rusticated stonework. The tripled pilasters, deep cornice and decorative frieze are particularly notable.

*National Estate citation courtesy of the Australian Heritage Commission.*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Ballarat - Buninyong Conservation Study, Colman Sutherland Conservation Consultants, 1983;
Construction dates	1859,
Hermes Number	123908
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The building comprises a former reading room and residence linked by a central office and is resolved by a half hipped roof. The rear residence is roofed by a skillian. The feature of the timber building is an elaborate facade, detailed to simulate the appearance of stonework. The facade is trabeated with banded pilasters.

A central doorway features a transom light above. The side and rear facades are finished with square edged weatherboards. Internally the building is lined with timber ceilings, dado and flooring, with hessian lining above dado level. Evidence remains of early wallpapers.

This building is individually significant for its unusual facade, and is highly important as one of the oldest buildings in Buninyong, associated with its early goldmining activity.

## Intactness

The former Library and Mechanics Institute is in a severely deteriorated condition, however the principal facade remains sound and substantially intact. The substructure to the rear facade has subsided below top plate level and this section requires immediate repair.

*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/>*