

# FREEMASONS HALL, ZETLAND LODGE



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ZETLAND LODGE SOHE  
2008



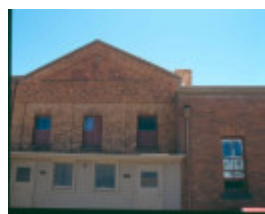
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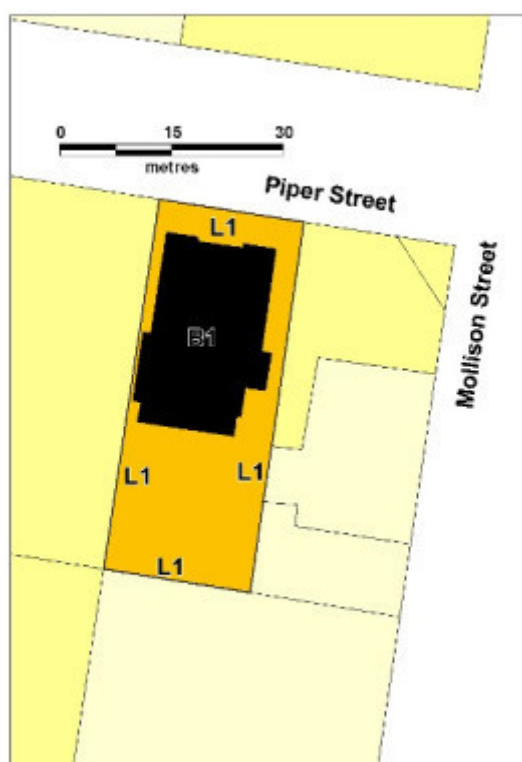
H01988 kyneton masonic hall  
jan2002 front



H01988 kyneton masonic hall  
jan2002 east



H01988 kyneton masonic hall  
jan2002 rear



H01988 kyneton masonic lodge plan

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## Location

3 PIPER STREET KYNETON, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1988

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO197

## VHR Registration

September 12, 2002

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 22, 2021

### What is significant?

The first Freemasons Lodge in Kyneton, the 'Zetland Lodge', was inaugurated as an group in 1859. From 1866 until 1890 the lodge rented the Manchester Unity (MUIOOF) Hall at 3 Piper Street (built in 1866) for its meetings. In 1904 the Freemasons purchased this hall and in 1905 built a series of new brick rooms to the street. Various decorations and furnishings were added in subsequent years.

The front facade formed by the 1905 additions is simple and formal, but less closed off than many other Masonic buildings. Two parapeted pavilions flank the entrance verandah. The central foyer is roofed with a parapeted gable, the ridge of which intersects the transverse ridge of the original 1866 hall. A rectangular panel in the entrance gable reads Freemasons Hall Zetland Lodge, with a circular panel with Masonic symbols above. The parapeted gables end of the original hall remains visible at the sides, and along with the 1905 front gable, evoke the Romanesque. The large brick supper room or hall at the rear, with concrete lintels, was added in 1927.

In keeping with the interest of Freemasons in ancient Egyptian mysteries and ritual, the interior of the Hall was decorated from the start with a strong Egyptian theme. The model for the interior was a temple form similar to that of the kiosk of the Temple of Isis at Philae, which is also the subject of one of the first of the canvases in the room. The engaged piers of the hall are painted as Egyptian style columns with papyrus flower capitals. Lintels are formed in plaster between the tops of the capitals, and the boxed beams of the ceiling are painted as part of the same scheme. Doors, blocked windows and fireplaces have architraves of Egyptian pylon form. Over a number of years a series of four canvases by local painter and art teacher Thomas Fisher Levick were fitted between the pilasters. One of the first, of the Temple of Isis, is framed in gilt beneath a semicircular arch. The

other three canvases employ varying degrees of trompe-l'oeil, continuing in perspective the Egyptian temple structure as a frame for various Egyptian scenes, documentary or imagined. One canvas was altered by Levick to accommodate an Honour Roll of members involved in the 1914-18 war. The timber dais, Master's chair and canopy also feature Egyptian style design elements.

#### **How is it significant?**

The Freemasons' Hall Zetland Lodge is of aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### **Why is it significant?**

The Freemasons' Hall Zetland Lodge is of aesthetic significance for the comprehensive, accomplished and intact Egyptian inspired interior of the Lodge meeting room. There is no known comparable Freemasons' hall interior in the State.

The Freemasons' Hall Zetland Lodge is of historical significance because it demonstrates the longstanding importance of Freemasonry in the life of country towns, and because it has been in continuous use since 1866 as a friendly society lodge.

The Freemasons Hall Zetland Lodge is of architectural significance because it incorporates an early and substantial masonry hall built for a benevolent society in a country town.

The Freemasons Hall Zetland Lodge is of aesthetic and historic significance for its connection with artist, designer and teacher Thomas Fisher Levick, and is his most comprehensive integrated artistic project known to exist in the state or elsewhere.

## **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](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

**General Conditions:** 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering

such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### External Exemptions

- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* Repainting of previously painted surfaces in the same or original colours.
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- \* Repair or replacement of fences and gates.
- \* Regular grounds maintenance.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of watering systems.
- \* Laying, removal or replacement of paving in the grounds.

#### Internal Exemptions

- \* Repainting of previously painted surfaces in the same or original colours in rooms other than the meeting hall.
- \* Refurbishment of kitchen area and associated plumbing.
- \* Refurbishment of bathroom and toilet areas and associated plumbing.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating other than in the meeting hall provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings, dadoes and architraves.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring in rooms other than the meeting hall, provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors and exit signs in rooms other than the meeting hall.

Construction dates        1866, 1905, 1927,

Heritage Act Categories   Registered place,

Hermes Number            12424

Property Number

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### Extent of Registration

1. All of the building known as the Kyneton Freemasons Hall, Zetland Lodge shown as B1 on diagram 1988 held by the Executive Director.
2. The land shown as L1 on diagram 1988 held by the Executive Director.
3. The following associated objects:
  - \* The two Firescreens in the Meeting Hall
  - \* The four murals on canvas in the Meeting Hall:
    - 1906 rear of J.W. Chair in centre of south wall - Temple of Isis
    - 1906 Egyptian market scene with 1919 War Memorial honour roll panel
    - 1906 east side of north wall Great Sphinx at Gizeh, Egypt
    - East side of north wall Pyramids scene
  - \* The Masters chair and the Levick carved canopy on the east wall of the Meeting Hall
  - \* J.W. Chair, south wall of the Meeting Hall

*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/>*