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# First Dandenong Scout Group, Scout Hall and Military Hut



45596 Scout Hall 01

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## Location

61a Princes Highway DANDENONG, Greater Dandenong City

## Municipality

GREATER DANDENONG CITY

## Level of significance

-

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO11

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

First Dandenong Scout Group Armytage Own Scout Hall is significant to the State and the military hut is significant to Dandenong:

As perhaps the State's finest scout hall, with its distinctive crenellated street facade, as compared among other scout halls built in that era which were typically utilitarian and later often housed in former military huts (Criteria

B.2, F.1)

For the hall's close connection with Miss Ada Armytage who, with her sisters, provided strong financial support to the group because, in turn, of the sisters' contact with Lord Baden-Powell (Criteria H.1).

For the hall's long association with the 1st Dandenong Scout Group, Mr Ted Swords, the first scout master and Dandenong High School, among many other key community groups and figures (Criteria H. 1)

For the hut and the hall's combined role at the home front during WW2, a significant period in the area's history (Criteria A.4).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Dandenong - City of Greater Dandenong Heritage Study, 2000, Nadia Gasparetto, Architect (Revised from 1998 Study by Graeme Butler & Associates), Nadia Gasparetto, 2000;
Construction dates	1930,
Hermes Number	125804
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

This rendered Tudor Revival two storey building has a grand crenellated facade with bartizan towers, a crenellated entry porch with arched openings, and original stout timber doors. The hall has steel multi-paned windows at first level and timber windows at ground level. The foundation stone, set into the front wall, was laid 7 January 1935 by Ms Ada Armytage.

Behind this bold facade the form and finish is more utilitarian. The roof is gabled in form and on two levels; it is clad with corrugated steel. The side walls are clad with corrugated iron and fitted with steel framed windows; the rear wall is clad with boarding.

The building contains three rooms, an office, clubroom, a den, kitchenette, and an assembly hall.

To the side of the hall is one of the gabled ex-military huts, clad with corrugated iron.

## Intactness

The building is near intact with probable skillion additions to the rear wall.

## Historical Australian Themes

### 8. 4 Forming Associations

## Veterans Description for Public

The First Dandenong Scout Group (Armytage's Own) was formed in March, 1928 by Mr Ted Swords, the first scout master. Apparently a prior group existed for some time in 1917, before their scout master was sent off to serve in the A. I. F. The scout troop called themselves Armytage's Own, as a tribute to Miss Ada Armytage of Holm Park, Beaconsfield (her country house) and Como House, South Yarra.

During the Second World War, the scout hall and the park, which must have been partially cleared, was used by the American Armed Forces as a hospital base, associated with their encampment at Rowville. The hall was partitioned and servicemen were treated in the hall and five other huts erected around it. After the War the High School utilised the hospital huts as classrooms, gymnasium and for school social functions. All but one of the huts were later moved across the road to the school grounds. The wider community also made good use of the hall for meetings, dances, exhibitions and community events.

*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/>*