
Newport Mechanics' Institute (Former)



Newport Mechanics' Institute
(former), Hobsons Bay
Heritage Study 2006

Location

13 Mason Street NEWPORT, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO178

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Newport Mechanics' Institute (former), designed by John W Parry and constructed in 1933-35, at 13 Mason Street, Newport.

How is it Significant?

The Newport Mechanics' Institute (former) is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as the first mechanics' institute erected in Newport and the library is the oldest continuously operating facility on the same site in the municipality. The date of construction, 50 years after it was first conceived, illustrates the two main phases of development in Newport's history. It is a very late example of its type and a representative example of a once sought after facility within communities. (AHC criterion A4)

Socially, it is significant as an important community meeting place over a long period and the centre of adult education in this area. It has strong associations with the leaders of the local community who acted as the trustees. (AHC criteria G1 and H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as an important civic building, which contributes to the historic character of the Newport Civic & Commercial precinct. It is notable for its fine panelled interior and its porch detailing. (AHC criteria D2 and E1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Construction dates	1934,
Architect/Designer	Parry, John W,
Hermes Number	15110
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Newport Mechanics' Institute Hall is a single storey, cement-rendered inter-war building with a hip tiled roof. The conservative Greek revival exterior, has a symmetrically arranged facade with three double hung sash windows on either side of the Moderne-influenced central entrance porch, which is expressed by a central pediment and has an original interior. The hall interior is notable for its panelling and good state of preservation.

There is a 1970s library attached at the rear, which is unrelated to the original Mechanics' Institute in terms of its design and materials.

Integrity

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

High

Physical Description 2

Context

A important civic element within the Newport Civic & Commercial Precinct.

Historical Australian Themes

Developing cultural institutions and ways of life, Forming associations

Physical Description 3

Associations

William Roberts, JP Carroll, Samuel R Peel, John W Parry

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/>