

## House at 405 Melbourne Road



House at 405 Melbourne  
Road NEWPORT, Hobsons  
Bay Heritage Study 2006

### Location

405 Melbourne Road NEWPORT, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO197

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Newport Masonic Temple No. 5925, designed by Joseph Plotel and constructed by JH Whitham in 1924-25, at 405 Melbourne Road, Newport.

How is it Significant?

The Newport Masonic Temple No. 5925 is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

#### Why is it Significant?

Historically and socially, it is significant for its strong associations with the Masonic movement and demonstrates the importance of the Masonic associations to the development of Newport and the surrounding community during the Interwar period. (AHC criteria A4 and H1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as a major and relatively sophisticated Masonic Hall design in the neo-Grecian manner, which was designed by noted architect, Joseph Plottel. Situated on a prominent corner site it is a local landmark, which makes an important contribution to the historic character of the Newport Civic & Commercial precinct. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Architect/Designer Plottel, Joseph,

Hermes Number 15129

Property Number

## Physical Description 1

This large stuccoed Neo-Grecian style design is typical of Masonic hall architecture of the twentieth century and is particularly well preserved inside and out. The entry porch is flanked by giant-order Corinthian columns, the parapet has the ox-bow motif also used in the Edwardian-era, and the facade is overlaid with trabeation, with minor Corinthian columns supporting the projecting porch. The date, 1925, and name '5925 Masonic Hall' are on the parapet entablature.

The Temple is a dominant and contributory element within the Newport Civic and Commercial precinct although it presents a largely blank elevation to the side view, showing the gabled corrugated iron clad roof behind the parapet.

The interior is well preserved with two upper level halls and one large lower hall, with stage, reflecting the history of the place. These rooms have panelled ceilings and are plaster lined.

## Integrity

External Condition

Generally good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

External Integrity

High

## Physical Description 2

Context

A dominant and contributory part of Newport Civic & Commercial precinct, on a prominent corner site. It relates in scale and siting to the Victorian era Newport Hotel on the opposite corner.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Developing cultural institutions and ways of life, Forming associations

## **Physical Description 3**

### *Associations*

Robbie Burns Masonic Lodge trustees, Newport Masonic Lodge, JH Whitham.

*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/>*