
Masonic Lodge (Former)



173-5 Albert Street
Sebastopol



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Sebastopol

Location

173 ALBERT STREET, SEBASTOPOL - PROPERTY NUMBER 2000218, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO205

Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 3, 2024

What is significant?

The former Masonic Lodge at 173-175 Albert Street, Sebastopol, to the extent of its 19th and early 20th century fabric.

How is it significant?

The former Masonic Lodge is of historical and architectural significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

The former Masonic Lodge is of historical significance as a long-term demonstration of the values and status of Freemasonry in the local community. Historically, the Guiding Star Masonic Lodge was one of the earliest institutions of mutual support in Sebastopol, purpose-built in 1868-69. It has associations with freemasonry, which played a long and important role in the cultural life of Victorian towns. This impressive building illustrated the strength of the freemason community in Sebastopol and the importance it played in the town. (Criterion A)

The early 20th-century addition at the rear illustrates the particular strength of the movement at that time. Many new lodges were constructed around Victoria in the first two decades of the century and in Sebastopol, for example, the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows purchased the South Star hall at 113 Albert Street in 1909 to serve as their lodge. (Criterion A)

Architecturally, it is significant as a largely intact typically Masonic structure built (and enlarged) purposely for lodge purposes. Its style, form and details express the conservative values and the symbols of Freemasonry, such as the restrained classical facade with Masonic symbol on the pediment. (Criterion D and E)

Theme

8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;

Construction dates 1868, 1910,

Other Names Orion Lodge, Guiding Star Lodge,

Hermes Number 184048

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The former Guiding Star Masonic Lodge at 173-175 Albert Street, Sebastopol, is gable-fronted brick building with a rendered facade. There is a lower entrance porch on the north side of the building, set back from the front, and a post-war brick extension on the south side in a similar position. The door inside entrance porch has Art Deco influenced hardware, indicating an interwar date.

The main facade has a triangular pediment to the gable, with a Masonic symbol at the middle. Below it, the corners are expressed as Tuscan order pilasters beneath a plain frieze. Between the pilasters, the facade is divided into three bays. At either end are blind windows (originally open) below broad lintels and a small keystone. The wider centre bay has a wider expressed lintel with a keystone at its centre, but with blank wall below it.

The side walls are unrendered red brick, and the roof is clad with recent corrugated metal. The rear half of the building is slightly wider and has a slightly higher roof and round sheet-metal ventilators on the roof, indicating an early 20th-century date to this section. It has a very tall, corbelled brick chimney which could have been built in the first decade or so of the 20th century. The rear corners are buttresses, which provides for a contrast with the classical expression of the 1868 front half.

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/>