

# BALLARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE COLLECTION



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INSTITUTE COLLECTION  
SOHE 2008



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23341 Ballarat Mechanics  
Institute collection 28Mar07  
ac batten room3



23341 Ballarat Mechanics  
Institute collection 28Mar07  
ac batten room2



23341 Ballarat Mechanics  
Institute collection 28Mar07  
ac basement1



23341 Ballarat Mechanics  
Institute collection 28Mar07  
ac art union apparatus1

## Location

113-121 STURT STREET BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H2096

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO114

## **VHR Registration**

August 9, 2007

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - August 13, 2007

What is significant?

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute Collection comprises books, journals and newspapers acquired by the Institute since its inception in 1859, as well as the Institute's own archive of records and objects. The collection includes 16,677 books and journals, 1592 volumes of newspapers (approximately 80,000 issues) and Institute records dating from c. 1857 including minutes, correspondence, annual reports, lithographs, artefacts and objects. The main part of the book and newspaper collection was acquired by the Institute during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. The collection is shelved and housed within the Mechanics Institute building (VHR H0987).

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute first met unofficially in 1854 and was inaugurated in 1859. Space was provided for a reading room in the Ballarat Fire Brigade building and in July 1859 a circulation library started with a collection of 400 volumes including 89 volumes donated by John Pascoe Fawkner. By 1860 another 500 books had been added to the collection, possibly after it moved to its home on the ground floor of the new Institute building. The first stage of the Institute's permanent home opened on 19 December 1860 with the remaining spaces completed later. The Institute acquired the old Mining Exchange Hall in 1935 and the library and reading room moved there the following year.

The collection includes newspapers, journals and periodicals from Ballarat, Victoria and overseas from 1845 onwards. The book collection, predominantly non-fiction, is largely nineteenth century in nature, although it does include a book published in 1586 and other early publications. It includes early Ballarat and Australian colonial publications, and books on a range of subjects including mining, engineering, natural science, exploration and history. Collections of notable individuals are held such as Fawkner and John Basson Humffray (1824-1891), Ballarat Reform League secretary and later member of the Legislative Council, and an unpublished history of the Institute by Nathan Spielvogel (1874-1956). The Library has also acquired material from a number of other Mechanics Institutes including Clunes and Creswick.

How is it significant?

The Ballarat Mechanics Institute Collection is of historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Ballaarat Mechanics Institute Collection is of historical significance as the largest and most intact collection of material relating to Mechanics Institutes in Victoria. The collection includes not only some rare and valuable items but also demonstrates the tastes and interests of the inhabitants of a major regional centre in Victoria. The Institute's own records document the development of the collection and offer an insight into the activities of a Mechanics Institute from its beginnings in the mid-nineteenth century.

The Ballaarat Mechanics Institute Collection is of historical significance for its strong association with the Mechanics Institute movement and the important role it played in the intellectual, cultural and social development of Victorians throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century.

The Ballaarat Mechanics Institute Collection has the potential to educate in relation to the cultural and educational role of the Institute.

## 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 works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

Construction dates 1859,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered object,  
Other Names BALLARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE COLLECTION,  
Hermes Number 23341  
Property Number

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## **Extent of Registration**

All items included in the Ballarat Mechanics Institute Collection of Books and Newspapers and Institute records and objects as described and catalogued in the CD database held by the Executive Director.

(CD databases for "Heritage Book Collection" and "Objects and Artefacts" are stored in File No.09/004450-02)

*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/>*