
LOCH MECHANICS' INSTITUTE HALL



Loch Mechanics' Institute Hall Loch Mechanics' Institute Hall image160
(2000)

Location

16 SMITH STREET, LOCH, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

What is significant?

The Loch Mechanics' Institute Hall, at 16 Smith Street, Loch, designed by A.C. Smart and opened in September 1891, is significant. It is a simple gabled weatherboard Victorian Hall with an original bank of double hung sash windows in the gable end. Internally, the walls are clad in pressed metal have a timber dado, the ceiling is lined with stained tongue and groove boarding, and the roof is supported by ornate timber posts with over-scaled carved brackets.

Non-original alterations and additions, including the front brick extension, are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Loch Mechanics' Institute Hall is of local historic, architectural and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, it is the second oldest Mechanics' Institute Hall in South Gippsland Shire, and is associated with the early development of Loch following the opening of the South Eastern Railway in 1890. (Criterion A)
It is significant as one of only six surviving nineteenth century public halls in South Gippsland Shire. (Criterion B)
While the exterior is undistinguished, it is significant for the original interior materials and details, which reflect the involvement of the architect, Mr. A.C. Smart. Of note are the ornate timber posts and over-scaled carved brackets that support the roof. (Criterion D)
The hall has social significance for strong and enduring associations with the Loch community through its continuous use as a public hall for over 125 years. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1891, 1891, 1891,
Architect/Designer	Smart, Alfred C.,
Other Names	Loch Public Hall,
Hermes Number	30874
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Loch Mechanics' Institute Hall is a simple gabled weatherboard Victorian Hall with a flat roofed postwar brick extension at the front. There is an original bank of double hung sash windows in the gable end. Internally, the walls are clad in pressed metal have a timber dado and the ceiling is lined with stained tongue and groove boarding, and the roof is supported by ornate timber posts with overscaled carved brackets. The walls are lined with a collection of historic photos and memorabilia related to Loch.

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/>