

# FITZROY TOWN HALL



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SOHE 2008



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h00147 1 fitzroy town hall  
napier street fitzroy street  
view she project 2004



h00147 fitzroy town hall  
napier street fitzroy clock  
tower she project 2004



h00147 fitzroy town hall  
napier street fitzroy side she  
project 2004



h00147 fitzroy town hall  
napier street fitzroy side view  
she project 2004

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## **Location**

201 NAPIER STREET FITZROY, YARRA CITY

## **Municipality**

YARRA CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

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

H0147

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO147

## **VHR Registration**

October 9, 1974

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - January 22, 2025

### **What is significant?**

The Fitzroy Town Hall was erected in two stages. The hall wing and a tower were designed by W. J. Ellis and built in 1873 by Nation Company. The second stage, designed by G. Johnson and built by J. Moore in 1887-90, included extensions to the hall, new municipal offices, library, court house and police station. A centrally-located tower replaced the original.

### **How is it significant?**

The Fitzroy Town Hall is of architectural and historical significance to Victoria

### **Why is it significant?**

The Fitzroy Town Hall is of architectural significance as a most intact and exemplary High Victorian building and for its association with two prominent Melbourne architects. It features grand Corinthian porticos and temple forms and an unusual clock tower. The building's freestanding form, fine interiors and multitude of prominent foundation stones are also distinctive. The building is significant for its associations with George Johnson, possibly the most prolific designer of municipal buildings in late 19th century Victoria. Johnson was responsible for Collingwood, Northcote and Hotham (North Melbourne) Town Halls, as well as many theatres and opera houses in Melbourne and other Australian cities, and the annexes to the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton. The Courthouse entrance is a feature of the exterior and is a fine example of one of Johnson's favourite motifs.

The Fitzroy Town Hall is of historical significance as a symbol of the growth of Melbourne during the long boom prior to the 1890s. The building is representative of the aspirations and burgeoning wealth of Melbourne during the gold rush years and a manifestation of local government rivalry, which led to the construction of a number of grand town halls throughout the city's suburbs.

## **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](#).

Construction dates 1873,  
Architect/Designer Ellis, William J,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names FITZROY COURT HOUSE,  
Hermes Number 471  
Property Number

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## History

Associated People: George Johnson;

## Extent of Registration

*City of Fitzroy*. No. 147. Fitzroy Town Hall, Napier Street, Fitzroy.  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

*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/>*