

## FORMER BAIRNSDALE MECHANICS INSTITUTE



EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE  
LIBRARY (FORMER  
BAIRNSDALE MECHANICS  
INSTITUTE) SOHE 2008



h01284 1 east gippsland  
regional library service street  
bairnsdale main entrance she  
project 2003



east gippsland regional library  
service street bairnsdale  
interior she project 2003



east gippsland regional library  
service street bairnsdale new  
extension at rear she project  
2003



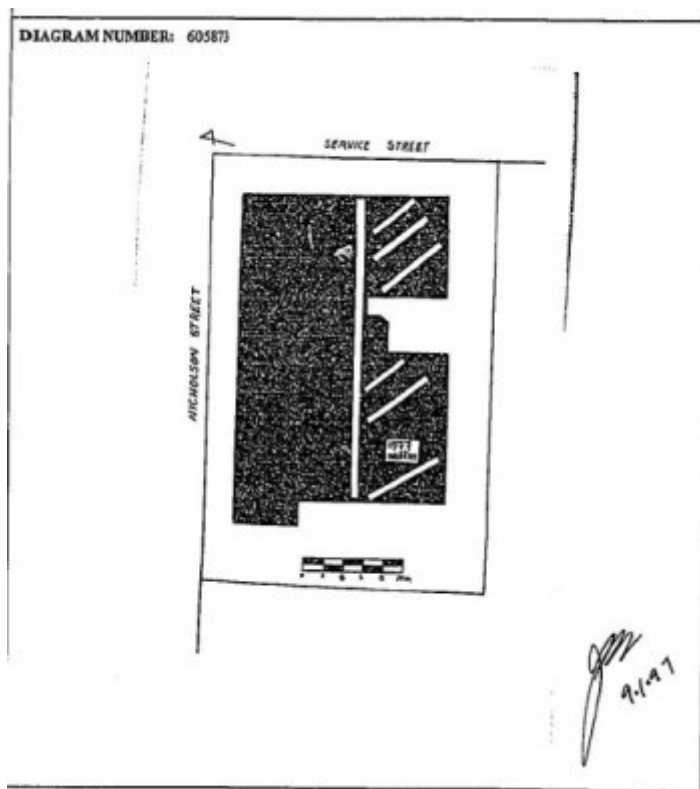
east gippsland regional library  
service street bairnsdale  
nicholson st side and rear she  
project 2003



east gippsland regional library  
service street bairnsdale  
nicholson st side she project  
2003



h01284 bairnsdale mechanics  
institute front view



H1284 plan

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**Location**

20 SERVICE STREET BAIRNSDALE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

**Municipality**

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

**Level of significance**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1284

**Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO170

**VHR Registration**

January 9, 1997

**Heritage Listing**

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 31, 1999

The former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute is an Italian Renaissance styled, red brick building constructed in 1888-89. Although Thomas Swan, a local architect won an architectural competition for the design of the Mechanics Institute, the final design was completed by Melbourne architect, Harry B Gibbs but it is not known to what extent Gibbs drew on Swan's work. The building was constructed by William J Yates, a local builder. In 1913 a rear wing was added and in 1977 a new south-east section was added. The building has been used for a variety of community purposes over the years and currently operates as the East Gippsland Shire (formerly Regional) Library.

The former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

The former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute is architecturally important as an outstanding example of an Italian Renaissance styled Mechanics Institute which is reflective of the building's importance in community life. The building is significant as an example of the work of the prolific architect, Harry B Gibbs, who later became part of the architectural firm Gibbs and Finlay. The building is architecturally one of the finest Mechanics Institutes in the State.

The former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute is of historical significance for its relationship with cultural and social life in the Gippsland region. Bairnsdale has been an important commercial centre in south-eastern Victoria since the last century and the former Mechanics Institute, as a prominent public building of quality, embodies the cultural aspirations of the township.

## 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:

### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

#### Interior Decoration

Interior painting/wall papering to walls and ceilings, provided the preparation work for painting/papering does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or decorative scheme.

Removal of existing carpets/ flexible floor coverings.

Installation of carpets and flexible floor covering.

Installation of curtain track, rod, blinds and other window dressings.

Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors and other wall mounted works of art.

#### Refurbishment of Bathrooms, Toilets, Kitchens

Refurbishment of bathroom/toilet including removal of existing sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors and floor coverings, and installation of new fixtures, and wall and floor coverings.

Removal of existing any benches or fixtures (stoves, dishwashers etc.) and floor coverings and installation of new benches and fixtures, including associated plumbing and wiring.

#### Other

Re-wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches are retained in-situ.

Installation of smoke detectors.

Installation of insulation.

All works to the 1977 additions provided that these works do not interfere with the fabric of the 1889 building or the 1913 rear wing.

Construction dates	1888,
Architect/Designer	Gibbs, Harry B,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	EAST GIPPSLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY, BAIRNSDALE LIBRARY,
Hermes Number	4733
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People: Tenant BAIRNSDALE REGIONAL LIBRARY;

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1284 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute, 20 Service Street, Bairnsdale, East Gippsland Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the building known as the former Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute as marked B-1 on Diagram 605873 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council Victoria.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 605873 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council Victoria being the land described as Section 6, Crown Allotment 4, Lot 10, Parish of Bairnsdale as gazetted 26 October 1860.

Dated 19 December 1996

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G1 9 January 1997 pp.48-49]

*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/>*