

## FORMER BARKLY THEATRE



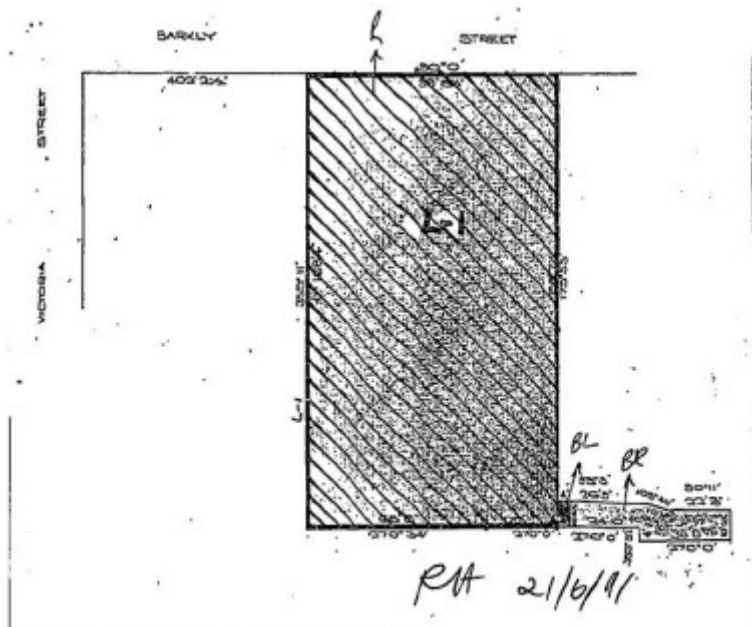
FORMER BARKLY  
THEATRE SOHE 2008



1 former barkley theatre  
barkly street footscray front  
view



former barkley theatre barkly  
street footscray front windows  
aug1990



h00878 plan h0878

### Location

277-287 BARKLY STREET FOOTSCRAY, MARIBYRNONG CITY

### Municipality

MARIBYRNONG CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0878

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO29

## VHR Registration

August 28, 1991

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 2, 1999

The Barkly Theatre, constructed in 1914 for the Barkly Picture Theatre Company Limited, is among the earliest purpose-built cinemas in Australia. It is the oldest surviving cinema exterior in Australia. It was designed by the notable architect WAM Blackett of the architectural firm Blackett and Forster. The building, with Edwardian baroque detailing, and the facade with its mansard towers is reminiscent of the Second Empire theatre and hotel designs of the late nineteenth century. The Barkly Theatre, designed to seat approximately 1200 people, was at the time of construction, one of only a few substantial buildings of this type constructed in the suburbs of Melbourne. The building is substantially intact as constructed in 1914, both externally and internally, with the following exceptions. The four shops on the street frontage are part of the original design, although the central entry was modified in the 1960s. The ground floor (now level) of the main auditorium is not original. The fly tower was damaged by storm on 29 December 1990 and has been partially demolished.

## 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	1914,
Architect/Designer	Blackett, WAM,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	501
Property Number	

---

## History

Associated People: BLACKETT AND FORSTER;

## Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 878.

Former Barkly Theatre, 277-287 Barkly Street, Footscray.

To the extent of:

1. the building formerly known as Barkly Theatre 277-287 Barkly Street, Footscray, and
2. the land marked L-1 on Plan No. 6033903, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, being part of the land described in the Register Certificate of Title Volume 8475 Folio 701.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G33 28 August 1991 p.2423]

*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/>*