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# Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute & Free Library

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## Location

59 Webb Street,NARRE WARREN, Casey City

## Municipality

CASEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO116

## Heritage Listing

Casey City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 17, 2022

**What is significant?**

**How is it significant?**

**Why is it significant?**

Heritage Study/Consultant Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004;

Construction dates 1891, 1899,

Other Names Narre Warren Railway Township Mechanics' Institute & Free Library,

Hermes Number 62906

Property Number

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## Usage/Former Usage

Hall and Library

## Physical Description 1

The Narre Warren Mechanics' Institute and Free Library comprises the original 1891 weatherboard gabled hall with a skillion section containing dressing rooms behind the stage. This section remains with six-paned double-hung sash windows in the exposed wall. The interior is remarkably intact, featuring beaded pine boards throughout, positioned vertically in the dado and horizontally in the upper walls. The ceiling is lined with dark-stained timber boards, with moulded metal rose vents and exposed rafters. The ceiling is original but the floor is hardwood and dates from 1938, replacing what was previously considered to be the best dance floor in the district.

The 1899 addition of two front rooms (one used as a kitchen) and an entrance hall now forms the front of the hall. This facade is composed of gable roof with intersecting central gable over the entry. The position of the double doors, some distance from the paired windows to the side, gives the facade an unusual appearance. The ground slopes upward to the entrance, and a shield shaped sign hangs above the door, the entry lacking any shelter. The gable ends at the sides are clad in metal imitation stucco sheeting.

The 1903 addition of a billiard room (later used as a meeting room) is presumed to be the skillion addition to the south side of the building.

A notable feature of the landscape is the double row of oaks planted to the rear of the hall. Four oaks on one side and five on the other are symmetrically placed and run in parallel with the original roof line. They complement the significant oaks along Princes Highway.

## Physical Conditions

Good

## Historical Australian Themes

Educating

*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/>*