
Horticultural Hall



B4515 Horticultural Hall

Location

31 - 33 Victoria Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B4515

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0520

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 15, 2005

The Horticultural Society erected a tin shed on this site in 1859. In 1872 the present hall was constructed and in 1878 the front block was completed. The architect for both sections was William H Ellerker who designed the Independent Church, South Melbourne (1874). The building is constructed in brick and comprises a double storey wing of offices to Victoria Street with a hall behind. The facade is in the transition style between conservative and boom classicism and follows a typical classical composition with the main entrance expressed by pediments and flanked by identical window bays. The trabeated system of stylized piers and pilasters are indicative of the transition style. The high quality of the architectural mouldings, including the ventricated piers, doric entablature and acanthus-leaf pilaster capitals is a notable feature of the facade. The interior is plain but most intact, the main

hall is austere decorated with doric pilasters around the walls and the roof lined with diagonal boards. The Victorian Horticultural Society building is one of a large number of assembly halls which once played an important social role in Melbourne as the venue for various clubs and societies. This particular example is the most intact of a handful of such halls that survive today. The site has been continuously occupied by the Society since 1859.

The building is notable among William Ellerker's works. The facade is entirely original and is a significant, but not scholarly, example of the transitional style between conservative and boom classicism. The building is an essential element in the McKenzie Street precinct, the Victoria Streetscape and this general area of the Central Business District.

Classified: 18/10/1979

Revised: 03/08/1998

Hermes Number 65826

Property Number

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/>