

BUILDING TITLE ELECTRA HALL
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLARAT

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST FILE No

BUILDING TYPE HALL
 BUILDING NAME ELECTRA HALL
 STATE VICTORIA
 LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLARAT
 STREET CAMP No.
 SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT C.B.D.
 CITY BALLARAT POSTCODE 3350
 RURAL
 NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
 DIRECTORY
 NEGATIVE FILE FILM 6 / FRAME 31

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
 DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL
 PRESENT STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA
 ADDRESS 15 WILLIAM STREET, MELBOURNE

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE JAMES AND PIPER?
 BUILDER
 ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS REFERENCE
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION
 ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
 ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS PORCH WAS A LATER ADDITION.

BUILDING CITATION

The date and construction of this building is not known, but it was constructed prior to c.1874. It appears to have been built as a Masonic Hall to the design of Architects James and Piper.

The building is a fine Greek revival composition. The street elevation is divided into diminutive main floor and attic by horizontal mouldings. The elaborate porch, a later addition (date unknown) projects into the attic level. The porch entrance a pair of fluted Roman doric columns support a doric frieze and cornice with small pediment; all surmounted by a balustrade with another elaborate acroterion. The front double palisade iron fence is unusual.

This building is of an unusual and consistently detailed Greek revival composition. The building is substantially intact, apart from the sprayed render to the exterior. The interior has been altered. The Greek temple composition and the elaborate porch appear to be unique to the State of Victoria. The building provides a strong streetscape element to this precinct.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

06 MITCHELL LIBRARY, HOLTERRMANN COLLECTION
PHOTO C1874 F992XXXI BHPA NO V. 12

08. S.E.L. RECORDS.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1. VISITORS GUIDE BOOK TO BALLARAT AND ITS ENVIRONS JAMES CURTIS PRINTER, BALLARAT 1875 p12
- 2. SUTHERLAND (ED) VICTORIA AND ITS METROPOLIS: PAST AND PRESENT 2 VOLS. MELB. 1888 p 187. (VOLUME 2)
- 3. SMITH, J. (ED) THE CYCLOPEDIA OF VICTORIA MELB. 3 VOLS. 1901, 02, 03. p 253.

ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETScape/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED AREA A.I.I.

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978.
ARCHITECTS

ELECTRA HALL, CAMP STREET
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The date of construction of this building is not known. However an early photograph (c.1874) shows the hall itself built, without the porch added.¹

It appears that this building was constructed as a Masonic Hall. The *Visitors Guidebook to Ballarat*² of 1875 records that in Camp Street at the rear of the State Savings Bank, was the Masonic Hall. It was recorded in 1888 that James and Piper were the architects for the Masonic Hall, so it appears that they were responsible for the building.³ Sir Henry Cuthbert laid the Foundation Stone.⁴ This building was purchased by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria on 20 November 1942 for £1053.

The Greek detailing to this building is quite special. The pediment has bracketed raking cornices surmounted by 3 exceptionally fine palmette acroteria. The street elevation is divided into a diminutive main floor and attic by horizontal mouldings with two small arched windows flanking the entrance. The ground porch composition projects into the attic level and is supported on square pilasters and piers. At the porch entrance a pair of fluted Roman doric columns support a doric frieze and cornice with a small pediment, all surmounted by a balustrade with another elaborate acroterion.

The iron double palisade front fence is unusual. The principal fence posts are decorated by discs of an interesting star design, presumably a Masonic symbol. The remaining palisades are square bars on an angle with a flat fleur-de-lis cut through. The entrance gates are missing.

This building is of an unusual Greek revival design, and provides a strong streetscape element to this precinct. The building is substantially intact, apart from the sprayed render to the exterior. The interior has been altered.

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1. Mitchell Library, Holtermann Collection.
 2. Page 12.
 3. *Victoria and its Metropolis* Vol.2, p.187.
 4. *Cyclopedia of Victoria* Vol.2, p.253.