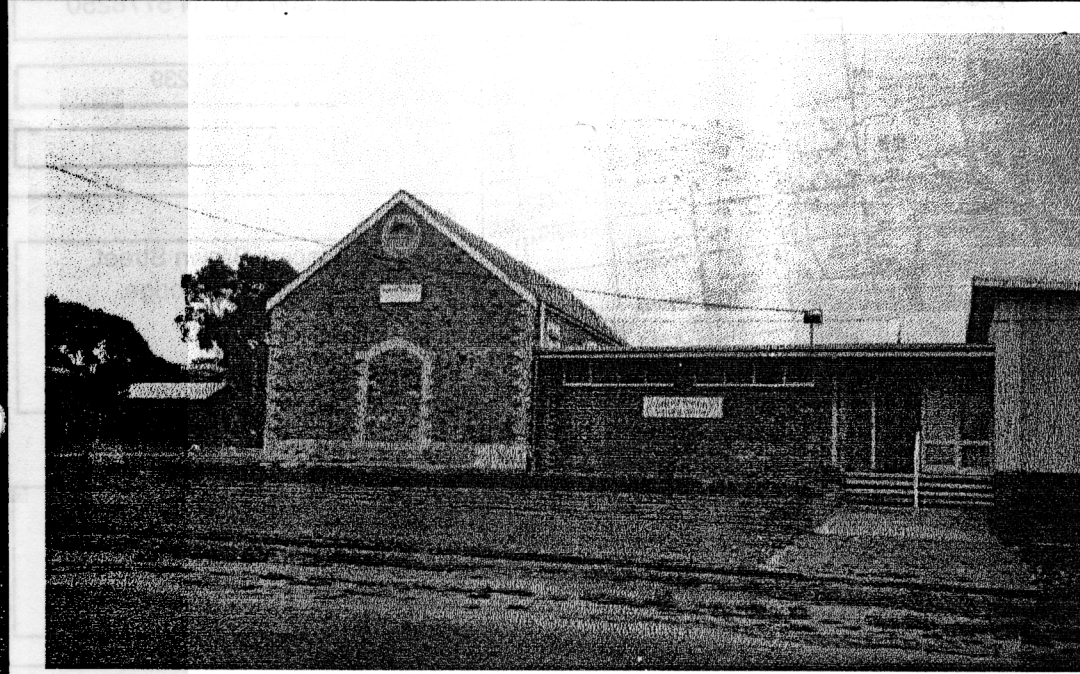


# BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site Name	Town / Suburb	Postcode	Record No.
Address 28	Brown St	Portarlington	3223	192
Site Name				Page No.
Masonic Hall, former Temperance Hall only				1 of 4

Key Dates:	Original	Major Changes	Existing Use/Type
	1874	1950s, 1980s	Masonic Hall



Precinct Name	Survey Date	Neg. No.	Video Track No.	Recorded By
	11 /11/1995	7/11		RL/KF

**Heritage Status:**

CATEGORY REGISTRATION NUMBER

**National Estate:**

Nominated

Registered

**Historic Buildings Register**

Nominated

Registered

**National Trust Register:**

**Planning Scheme:**

**Historical Archaeological Register :**

**Other:**

**BHS Degree of Significance**

A  B  C  D

**Condition of the fabric:**

Excellent  Good

Fair  Poor

Ruinous  Unexposed

**Integrity of the site:**

Excellent  Good

Fair  Poor

Partially excavated

Fully excavated

**Present Threats:**

Human; mining

Human; visitor erosion

Human; vandalism

Human; development

Human; conservation/maintenance

Human; stock

Natural Forces; erosion

Natural Forces; vegetation

Not threatened

**Significant Architectural Features:**

Original Materials

Original Chimneys

Wall Decoration

Verandah Structure

Verandah Decoration

Original Parapet

other prominent elevations

Original Roof

Original Openings

Original Decoration

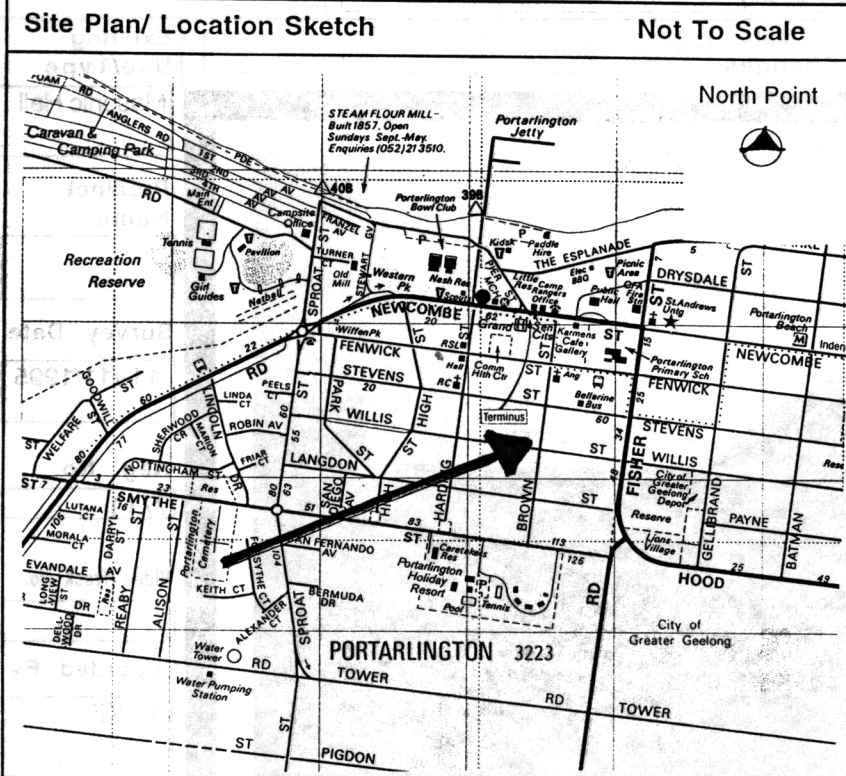
Original Finish

Early Garden

Early Fence

# BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site Address	No.	Street/Site name	Town / Suburb	Record No.
	28	Brown St	Portarlington 3223	192
				Page No. 2 of 4



**Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates**

E 294160 N 5778250

Map Melways map 239

Scale 1: 20,000

**Access**

Entrance is facing Brown Street.  
Contact local Masonic Lodge.

**Informants**

Mr. Roy Clare

**Ownership:**

Crown  Private

Resident owner  Occupier only

Local Govt Area  City of Greater Geelong

**Cadastral Location:**

County Grant

Parish Bellarine

Allotment Sec 28A C/A 9

Block

**Physical Description of Site:**

The site consists of the original gable roof building to the south, with more recent extensions on the north side. The tall brick structure has a stone sign in the east gable end which reads "Sons of Temperance Hall 1874".

The building is in Victorian Georgian style; plain, geometric, and unadorned. It has a rectangular floor plan, and a steep pitch slate clad gable roof running east-west.

The Brown St east elevation is of polychrome brown and cream brickwork, probably local bricks, with plain bargeboards on the gable end, a bricked-up entrance arch and a circular louvered vent. The corners, the archway and the circular opening are quoined with cream bricks. To approximately 600mm above the ground (below the floor line) appears to have had cement or stone facing, now removed, as a mock plinth.

The Willis Street south elevation has been rendered over with cement, and one of the four recessed window openings is now blocked in.

**Relevant Special Interest Groups:** Arlington Lodge no. 81

# BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site name	Town / Suburb	Record No.
Address 28	Brown St	Portarlington 3223	192
			Page No. 3 of 4

## Types of Sites:

<input type="checkbox"/> monument	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime	<input type="checkbox"/> tree(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> machinery
<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building
<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> fence	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous
<input type="checkbox"/> recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> gate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	

## Historical Themes:

Early Settlement		Communities	cmEducation
Maritime		Landscapes	
Tourism		The Wider World	
Workforce		Cultural Activity	caLibraries/galleries
Townships		Miscellaneous	

## History of Site/Object/Place:

Transplanted from Great Britain with the early settlers the Temperance Movement was more to do with total abstinence from alcohol than simply moderation.(1) The movement was popular and active as the social and cultural focus in a new community was being established in the 1860s and 70s. Youth groups such as Bands of Hope and men's Sons of Temperance were common in many towns including the Geelong and Bellarinedistricts. However the disillusionment of economic depression and hardship saw the beginning of the movement's demise, with the 1880s experiencing a general decline in its popularity and again by the 1920s most had gone.(2)

In Portarlington the Sons of Temperance were a strong force and in April 1874 tenders were called to build a Temperance Hall. In July the Sons of Temperance Hall was completed and was described as "quite an ornament to the township. Its dimensions are 44 feet by 22 feet, and it is built of local bricks, with concrete foundations, the walls being 14 inches in thickness. The roof is of slate and the ceiling dressed timber. A substantial edifice."(3)

The contractor was Mr. Long and the carpenters Messrs. Prescott and Sloman. It was formally opened with a tea meeting where the Venerable Archdeacon Slattery and Mr. Burnett addressed the gathering.(4)

Once built the hall was the centre of many activities, at various times housing church services, school classes and the Free Library. The hall was leased to the Education Department for the Portarlington Primary School under Head Teacher Mr. T. Brown.(5)

The Masonic Arlington Lodge no.81 was consecrated in 1899 and held its meetings in the hall. It was bought by the Lodge at a later date and has been used as their quarters ever since. Additions and renovations were carried out the 1950s and the 1980s.(6)

## References:

- Harrison, B (1971) *Drink and the Victorians The Temperance Question in England 1815-1872*, Faber&Faber
- Dr. Shurlee Swain, University of Melb. History Dept., pers. comm.
- Geelong Advertiser* 1.4.1874, 29.8.1874
- Mc. Leod, E. *Early History of Portarlington and East Bellarine Indented Head and Drysdale*, p.26
- ibid.,p.
- Mr. Roy Clare pers. comm

# BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site name	Town / Suburb	Record No.
28	Brown St	Portarlington 3223	192
Address			Page No.
			4 of 4

## Statement of Cultural Significance:

The Masonic Hall was opened as the Sons of Temperance Hall in 1874 when the Temperance Movement was a strong force in the new community being established in the 1860s and 1870s. The steeply pitched slate gable roof Victorian Georgian structure is constructed of polychrome brick in a geometric unadorned style. The Hall has been used by the Masonic Arlington Lodge No. 81 for meetings since 1899 and it has also held church services, school classes and a Free Library.

The Masonic Hall has historic and social value to the Portarlington community.

The Masonic Hall is the oldest brick (former) Temperance Hall in the Bellarine area. It has been in continuous use as a community hall for various functions for over 120 years.

It is of **LOCAL** cultural significance.

## Additional Information