

ATHENAEUM HALL

Place No. 215

ADDRESS 802-806 Doncaster Road
Doncaster

Last Update

DESCRIPTION Built in c1897, this single-storey gable-roofed brick hall. It has had major alterations.

Condition - **Integrity** Altered - major alterations

Threats **Key elements** Building

Designer

HISTORY In 1866 a branch of the Band of Hope formed in Doncaster, leading, eventually to the construction of the first public hall in the district. The site was purchased from the government by local residents in 1870, with an additional acre being donated by Alfred Hummel. The building was reportedly designed by Thomas Serpell [1] and was opened in 1871; it contained the first public library in the district. In 1897 the present hall was built in front of the original building. In 1914 the hall was remodelled, adding a stage, anteroom, lodge room, cloak and supper rooms and kitchen [2].

A World War I memorial was added to the Doncaster Road facade in 1921. Subsequent c1970s additions have obscured the eastern facade, and the demolition of the parapet roofed foyer in recent times (presumably for road widening) has severely damaged the building and required relocation of the memorial.

It can be compared to Warrandyte Mechanics Institute, Lilydale Mechanics Institute and the Bairnsdale Mechanics Institute.

SOURCES

[1] Minutes of the Athenaeum Building Committee referred to in National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file.

[2] Irvine Green, 'Doncaster: A short history'; Keogh, p.4850.

Creation Date c1897

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

6.06 - Community halls

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of local historical significance as the earliest public hall in the district; the significance of the building has been severely damaged by the additions and alterations.

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
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None Specified

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls: On VHR: VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls: Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls: Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences: Incorporated Plan: Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [24] Minutes of the Athenaeum Building Committee referred to in National Trust of Australia (Victoria) file.
[25] Irvine Green, Doncaster: a short history; Keogh, p.4850.