

# TEMPLESTOWE MEMORIAL HALL

Templestowe Mechanics' Institute Hall

Place No. 97

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**ADDRESS** 11 - 13 Anderson Street  
Templestowe

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**DESCRIPTION** The Templestowe Memorial Hall, constructed in 1922, is a red brick, double-fronted, gable-roofed hall. The side elevations have four bays. The arched porch with its projecting roof creates a 'memorial arch' on the front facade of the building. Windows are double hung sash with a single pane below and four panes above.

The 1882 hall, a simple gabled weatherboard building, has been incorporated at the rear. It is not known how much of the original fabric of that building survives.

There are some later brick additions at the rear. There are a number of mature trees including Oaks at the rear and side of the Hall, which contribute to its setting.

**Condition** Good **Integrity** Minor Modifications

**Threats** **Key elements** Building  
Tree(s)

**Designer**

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**HISTORY** The Templestowe Mechanics' Institute was founded and built on this site in 1882 (1). The Institute was one of two constructed within the former City of Doncaster and Templestowe; the other was at Warrandyte (refer to separate citation in this Study).

Mechanics' Institutes have had an important role in adult education since 1823 when the movement started in Australia; the first Victorian Institute was opened in Melbourne in 1839. George Birbeck had originated the concept of Mechanics' Institutes in 1823, as a library of practical books for artisans combined with a lecture hall where technical, scientific and 'morally circumspect' knowledge could be imparted to working people. During the late nineteenth century Institutes were created in most Victorian country towns (2).

The official opening of the Templestowe Memorial Hall, a red brick, gable-roofed hall by the Premier, the Hon. H. W. Lawson, MLA, took place on 22 June 1922. It was reported in the district press that by this date the hall was almost completed at a cost of about 2000 pounds (3). Tenders for the excavation of the site were called in January of that year (4). The new building included "a commodious hall and stage, library, dressing, cloak and supper room besides a cabinet for picture shows." The local MP, W.H. Everard, MLA, also attended the opening (5).

In his opening speech, the Premier expressed his surprise that in such a small district residents had "erected two memorials, a memorial hall and a memorial stone (6).

Both the memorial hall and the monument honoured the Templestowe men who enlisted in the 1914-1918 War. They were the result of a major fund-raising campaign, which included sports meetings, a garden fete, and a Grand Bazaar (which ran for three days) held at the time of the opening (7).

The old 1882 timber Mechanics Institute (one of three in the municipality) became the supper room for the 1920s building. Local builder, E.P. Sheahan, who was responsible for the construction of the new building, moved the old Institute, rotating it to form the supper room at the rear. Sheahan was responsible, also, for the refurbishment of the 1920s hall after the Second World War (8).

## SOURCES:

- (1) Graeme Keogh, 'The History of Doncaster and Templestowe', 1975, p.48
- (2) Pam Firth, 'Survey of Mechanics' Institutes in Victoria', 1991 (in progress)
- (3) 'The Reporter', 16 June 1922.
- (4) 'The Reporter', 13 Jan. 1922.
- (5) 'The Reporter', 30 June 1922.
- (6) 'The Reporter', 30 June 1922.
- (7) 'The Reporter', 17 March, 31 March, 14 April 1922.

(8) Sheahan family records.

**Creation Date** 1882

**Change Dates** 1922

**Associations**

**Local Themes**

6.06 - Community halls

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

What is Significant?

The Templestowe Memorial Hall of 1922, incorporating the former Templestowe Mechanics' Hall of 1882 at the rear, and adjacent mature trees at 11-13 Anderson Street, Templestowe.

How is it Significant?

The Templestowe Memorial Hall, Templestowe Mechanics' Hall and trees are of historic, social and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

Of historic significance because it demonstrates the process of growth of the Templestowe community and the important role Mechanics' Institutes played in the 19th century. It also has associations with the local builder, E.P. Sheahan. (RNE criteria A.4 and H.1)

Of aesthetic significance as a good and intact representative example of an inter-War public building. The setting is enhanced by the mature trees at the rear and side of the building. (RNE criterion E.1)

Of social significance as a past and present focus of community sentiment as a Mechanics' Institute and then as a memorial hall. (RNE criterion G.1)

**LEVEL**

Local significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Heritage Register Listings**

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO5		Listed

**Extent** The extent of HO5 should be reduced to exclude the RSL clubrooms at the rear facing Anderson Street.

**Heritage Schedule**

External Paint Controls:	No	On VHR:	No	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	No	Prohibited Uses:	No	
Tree Controls:	Yes	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	No	
Outbuildings or Fences:	No	Incorporated Plan:	No	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:				

**Conservation Management**

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or

- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.
4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

**NOTE:**

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

**Extra Research**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** Carlotta Kellaway, (1994), Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study. Additional Historical Research, Manningham City, Doncaster  
 Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster & Templestowe Heritage Study, City of Doncaster & Templestowe, Doncaster, 113  
 Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, Manningham City Council, Doncaster