

WONGA PARK HALL AND RESERVE

Wonga Park Mechanics' Institute

Place No. 241

ADDRESS - Launderers Avenue
Wonga Park

Last Update

DESCRIPTION Wonga Park Hall is a timber framed building, reclad in brown brick. The main front has a triple gable with lattice details which remains from the 1926 extensions to the earlier hall. The windows and roof have been replaced, and the porch removed.

The hall is set with the Reserve, the centre of community life in Wonga Park, and a place retaining remnants of the original local vegetation. Large pines near the hall are a characteristic, cultural planting.

It is one of three former Mechanics' Institutes in the district: Doncaster Athenaeum Hall (1872), Templestowe (1883, later Templestowe Memorial Hall 1922) and Warrandyte Mechanics' Institute (1927), as well as other local halls that served as community meeting places (East Doncaster Hall (1932), former Shire Offices (1892), South Warrandyte Hall (rebuilt 1939) .[2]

Condition Good **Integrity** Altered - major alterations

Threats None apparent **Key elements**

Designer

HISTORY The Wonga Park Hall and Mechanics' Institute was built in 1908, funded through local events and erected by a working bee. A grant from the State Government helped establish a library in the hall, and the Minister for Public Works, the Hon. E. Cameron was there to open it. The library was run by Mr Couper, owner and operator of the fruit cannery on 8-10 Launderers Avenue opposite.[1]

The hall was greatly expanded in size in 1926, changing the orientation of the building, and converting the original hall into a rear section containing the stage. The hall now faced north. Further changes made in 1977-78 resulted in the cladding of the building in brick and a further extension incorporating supper room and kitchen (now used by the playgroup). Only the gable ends remained visible above the brickwork. By 1985, further alterations were proposed, and these appear to have finally removed any external evidence of the first hall structure.[2]

Creation Date 1908, 1926, 1978 **Change Dates**

Associations **Local Themes**

Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement 6.06 - Community halls

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE The Wonga Park Hall and Mechanics' Institute is of local significance, reflecting the development of Wonga Park from the Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement through to the present time, and containing evidence of probably all but the earliest period within its existing fabric. As one of two principal meeting places over many years, the hall has served as an important community meeting place, and is probably of social value to recent and long-time local residents. Its setting within the Wonga Park Reserve, a space long-dedicated to community recreation, is part of its significance. (Criterion A4, D2, G1)

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:
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Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

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- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [1] Border Country, p. 38; Discover Wonga Park, Place No. 8.
[2] Wonga Park Hall: Conservation Analysis and Plan prepared for the City of Manningham by R. Peterson and T. Millar, April 1996.