

## Victorian Heritage Register



### RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION ON A NOMINATION TO THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER

**NAME:** FORMER HIBERNIAN HALL

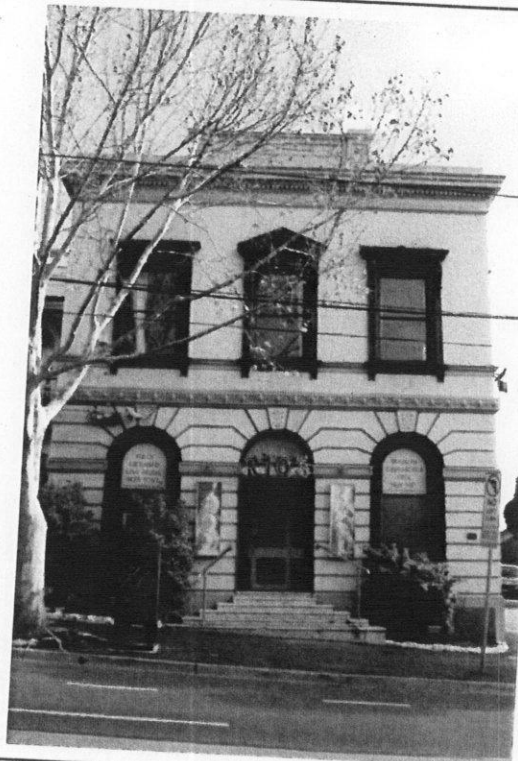
**VHR NO:** Not applicable

**LOCATION:** 316 CHURCH STREET RICHMOND, Yarra City

**CATEGORY:** Not applicable

**FILE NO:** 606950

**OFFICER/S REPORTING:** Libby Blamey



### RECOMMENDATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- That the Place or object NOT be included in the Heritage Register [Section 32(1)(b)]
- That the Place or object be referred to the relevant planning authority for inclusion in a      planning scheme [Section 32(2)]

HERMES ID: 4466  
HERITAGE REGISTER NUMBER:  
NAME: FORMER HIBERNIAN HALL

18-Nov-2009 2:22:41PM

**Victorian Heritage Register**



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Manager Heritage Assessments	Date	Executive Director	Date
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### REASON:

The Former Hibernian Hall, Richmond, built as a Temperance Hall, has local historical and architectural significance, but does not demonstrate sufficient cultural heritage significance to be added to the Victorian Heritage Register.

There are currently four temperance halls recognised as being of State significance listed on the Victorian Heritage Register. The Hexham Temperance Hall (H2145), constructed in 1876, is of historical and architectural significance for its restrained Classical design, reflecting the moral values exhorted by the temperance movement. The Bendigo Temperance Hall (H1335), was constructed in stages from the late 1850s, and is an early example of a purpose built temperance hall. The elaborately decorated Prahran Rechabite Hall (H0575) is a rare surviving hall built for the Independent Order of Rechabites.

The imposing Storey Hall (H1498) located Swanston Street, Melbourne, is of historical significance as it was erected by the Hibernian-Australasian Catholic Benefit Society as a response to marginalisation of Irish-Catholics in Melbourne.

The former Hibernian Hall, Richmond, was not used by the Hibernian Society until the 1930s. In addition to halls, drinking fountains associated with the temperance movement are represented on the Victorian Heritage Register. The 1860 Stitt Jenkins Drinking Fountain in Johnstone Park, Geelong (H1114), the Belcher Drinking Fountain, Geelong (H1116), Women's Christian Temperance Union drinking fountain, Melbourne (H0194) and the Wilkinson Memorial Drinking Fountain (H1733) are all historically significant for their demonstration of the temperance movement's efforts to provide an alternative to alcohol. In 1998, the South Melbourne Temperance Hall, constructed in 1888, was recommended for local protection as an example of substantially intact, nineteenth century public hall and for its associations with the temperance movement. It was not considered to have sufficient cultural heritage to warrant inclusion in the Register. Likewise, the Former Hibernian Hall, Richmond is important at a local level for its demonstration of the temperance movement within Richmond.

It is recommended that the Former Hibernian Hall, Richmond not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register. It is currently protected by the Yarra City planning scheme within the Church Street Precinct on the heritage overlay (HO315) and this is considered the appropriate level of protection.

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The former Hibernian Hall, in Church Street Richmond, was constructed in 1873 as a Temperance Hall for the newly formed Richmond Temperance Society.

There had been a number of societies based on the principle of abstinence from alcohol which had formed in Richmond by the early 1870s. However, lacking a suitable venue to hold

meetings, their efforts had not met with much success. At a public meeting February 1872, the Richmond Temperance Society was formed and soon set about purchasing land to build a hall. Befitting the Society's aims to 'offer counter attractions to the many of an objectionable character' in the area, the building on the corner of Church St and Darlington Parade was to include a library, reading room and a large meeting hall for local residents. The memorial stone was laid by the Governor, Viscount Canterbury, on 15 February 1873 and the opening of the hall approved by the Central Board of Health that April. By the 1930s, the hall was used as a meeting hall for the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society.

Designed by architect JAB Koch, the former Hibernian Hall, Richmond is a large Classical revival building, with a two-storey section fronting Church Street and a hall behind. The front facade has rusticated stucco work, with an arched central doorway flanked by single arched windows and a detailed string course above. Arched windows run the length of the rendered rear hall and details on the upper level of the front section include a rectangular parapet, originally adorned by scrolls, and a dentilled cornice.

The Former Hibernian Hall, Richmond is of local architectural significance as a substantial nineteenth century suburban public hall.

The Former Hibernian Hall, Richmond is of local historical significance for its association with the temperance movement of Richmond for more than fifty years from the 1870s.

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