

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple (former)	Significance Level	2004 ;
Address	124 Bell Street Coburg		
Place Type	Meeting House		



124 Bell St. Coburg



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**Recommended VHR - HI - PS -
Heritage Protection**

Integrity

Minor Modifications

History and Historical Context

The Antient York Lodge No. 80 was consecrated in 1879 at the Freemasons Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne. The first meetings were held in Kensington, then in 1883 were moved to Protestant Hall, Melbourne (meeting as the Grand Lodge of Victoria). In 1886 the meeting place changed again to Salisbury Buildings in Bourke Street. Over the next few years poor attendance eventually led to the decision to move to one of the suburbs. Preston was first selected then, at a meeting on 19 April 1888, Wor. Bro. F Manchester reported that the President of the Coburg Shire Council, F W Rolland, who was also a Brother in the Lodge, had offered the use of the Coburg Shire Hall.

The first meeting was held in the Shire Hall in 1888, however, a lack of accommodation necessitated another move later that year to the Wesleyan School Room in Bell Street, Coburg. The Antient York Lodge remained at this location until 1896 when they moved to the Church of England School Room until a permanent Temple was built in Bell Street in 1914.

The Bell Street site of the Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple was purchased at a cost of £180 in August 1911. The Building Committee and the Trustees were then instructed to prepare plans and specifications and proceed with the erection of a Masonic Temple at a cost of £450. The first meeting in the new Temple took place on 8 October 1914. The temple was the first permanent home of the Antient York Lodge.

After the building was free of debt, a new Supper Room was added in 1920 at a cost of £700. After significant growth in the Lodge over the next ten years a second storey was added with a new Lodge Room upstairs and an extended Supper Room and was considered to be "one of the best appointed Temples in the whole territory". The first meeting in the extended building was held on 9 January 1930.

The Antient York Lodge also sponsored the creation of four other lodges, which also met in the Bell Street temple: City of Coburg Lodge No. 318, Pascoe Vale Lodge No. 483, Centenary Lodge No. 505, and Melville Lodge No. 561. The Bell Street Temple was also used by many other lodges as a meeting place.

Coburg (and particularly the Coburg Council) has had a close association with the Antient York Lodge from the 1880s. Nineteen members of the Antient York Lodge served as Mayor of Coburg, four of these were Worshipful Masters of the Lodge. The first was Henry Jukes in 1883, the last Graham A James in 1966. Many of them occupied the position of Mayor more than once and other members served as Councillors. Still more members served Council as either Town Clerk or City Engineer.

The Antient York Lodge No. 80 celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1979. Due to declining membership the Antient York Lodge sold the building in 1987, holding its last meeting there in December of that year. It now meets in Preston. The Coburg temple is now used by the Lefkadian Brotherhood.

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SOURCES

Maurie Brady

Rate Records 1913/14 - 86

Sands & McDougall Directory, 1915 - 1974 (various)

Souvenir Booklet commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Lodge on 3rd July 1979

History prepared from research compiled by Laurie Burchell, 2004.

Description

Physical Description

The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple (Former) is a two storey (plus an attic storey) brick and render building with a gabled corrugated iron roof behind a high parapet. The temple was single storey when first erected in 1914 but was extended in 1920, and a second storey put on in 1929.

The symmetrically arranged façade employs stylised classical detailing including an unconventional order of columns, with balls set atop iconic capitals 'supporting' an arch which 'floats' above the balls; stylised rusticated piers with a symbolic relief 'capital'; stylised 'empty' entablature to the ground floor and an entablature of squares and rectangles to the upper floor. A relief pediment protrudes from the parapet. Steps lead up to the double four panel unpainted timber front doors. The ground floor windows in the façade are high-set, typical of Masonic Lodges, to ensure privacy. Windows are double hung sash, the ground floor windows with multi pane uppers. The exterior of building is adorned by a number of presumably Masonic symbols, the meaning of which require further assessment.

According to lodge member Maurie Brady, internally on going through the front door you pass between a meeting room on the left and toilets and stairs on the right to enter the hall. At the far end there is a kitchen. After ascending the stairs near the street entry you are in an assembly area immediately above the ground floor meeting room and toilets. From this area you can access the Lodge Meeting Room or Temple.

Physical Condition

Good

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple at 124 Bell Street, Coburg.

How is it significant?

The former Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple at 124 Bell Street, Coburg is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

Of historic significance, as the first Masonic temple to be constructed in Coburg and the first permanent home of the Antient York Lodge which formed in Melbourne in 1879. Also, as a meeting place for the Coburg and wider Masonic communities from 1911 to 1986, and for its strong connections with the Coburg Council, and particularly with the leaders of the Council who were shaping local policy whilst members and leaders of the Lodge. It demonstrates the important and influential role that masonic lodges played in the development of communities until the immediate post-war period

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and the strength of masonism in Coburg particularly.

Of aesthetic significance, as an intact representative example of an interwar Masonic Temple in the stripped classical style typical of these buildings, which is notable for unusual design detail such as the portico.

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC A

AHC A4: The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple demonstrates the important role of Masonic lodges in the development of communities during the late nineteenth and early to mid twentieth century.

AHC D

AHC D2: The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple has strong associations with the development of Masonic Associations in Coburg as the first lodge to be established in the city. It sponsored the creation of other lodges in later years.

AHC E: The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple is an intact representative example of an interwar masonic temple, with notable unusual detailing such as the portico.

AHC G: The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple has strong associations with the Coburg community as an important meeting place over a long period.

AHC H: The Antient York Lodge No. 80 Temple has associations with many past members of the Lodge who were active in the Coburg community including Councillors and other city officials.

Recommendations 2004

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

-

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.