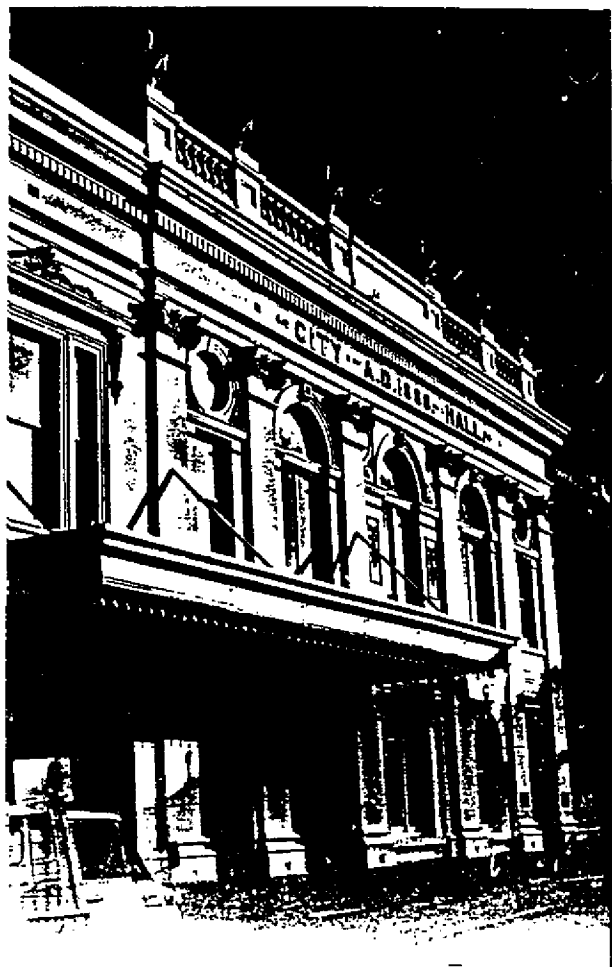
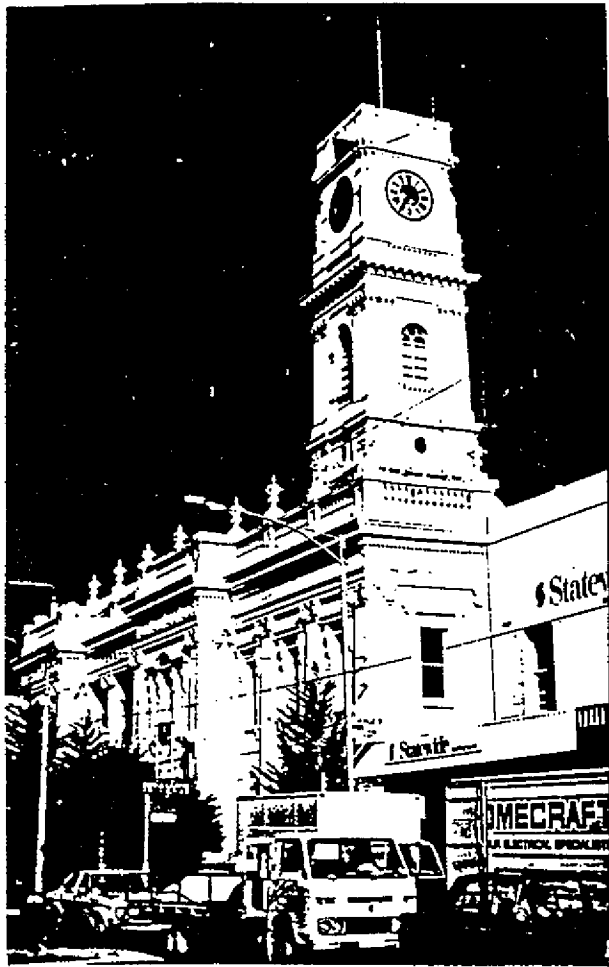


PRAHRAN TOWN HALL COMPLEX  
Chapel Street, corner Greville Street, Prahran



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be retained on the Register of Historic Buildings and the Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

Current Assessments Prahran Town Hall is included on the Register of the National Estate. The Town Hall offices, 'Small Hall', and Council Chamber (interior) are classified and the facade of the Town Hall library recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). The 'Small Hall' and Council Chamber are included on the Historic Buildings Register.

History and Description The Prahran Town Hall complex was erected in stages over the period 1860-1915 on a corner site in Chapel Street, Prahran. The development includes the original Town Hall and offices of 1861, the enhanced clock tower of 1863 and the Post Office, Police Station and Library of 1878, all consistently executed in a restrained Italianate style by architects Crouch and Wilson. Later 'boom style' classicism Town Hall additions of 1888 by Charles D'Ebro are in contrast.

Significance Prahran Town Hall complex, which includes the original court house relocated in 1869 as the first Council Chamber, is of local historical importance as the centre of the Prahran municipality since 1860. The clocktower is a prominent

and distinct landmark. The original complex, although of interest as an early and disciplined work of architects Crouch and Wilson and a restrained Italianate design, is eclipsed for architectural importance in Victoria by other notable contemporary municipal complexes at North Melbourne, Geelong and South Melbourne.

Intactness The Prahran Town Hall complex, systematically enhanced and adapted to changing administration and community requirements and partially reconstructed after the 1914 fire, survives in a recognisably intact form externally, although inappropriately painted. Major renovations are currently (1982) taking place.

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National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 556.

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