

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WONTHAGGI TOWN HALL

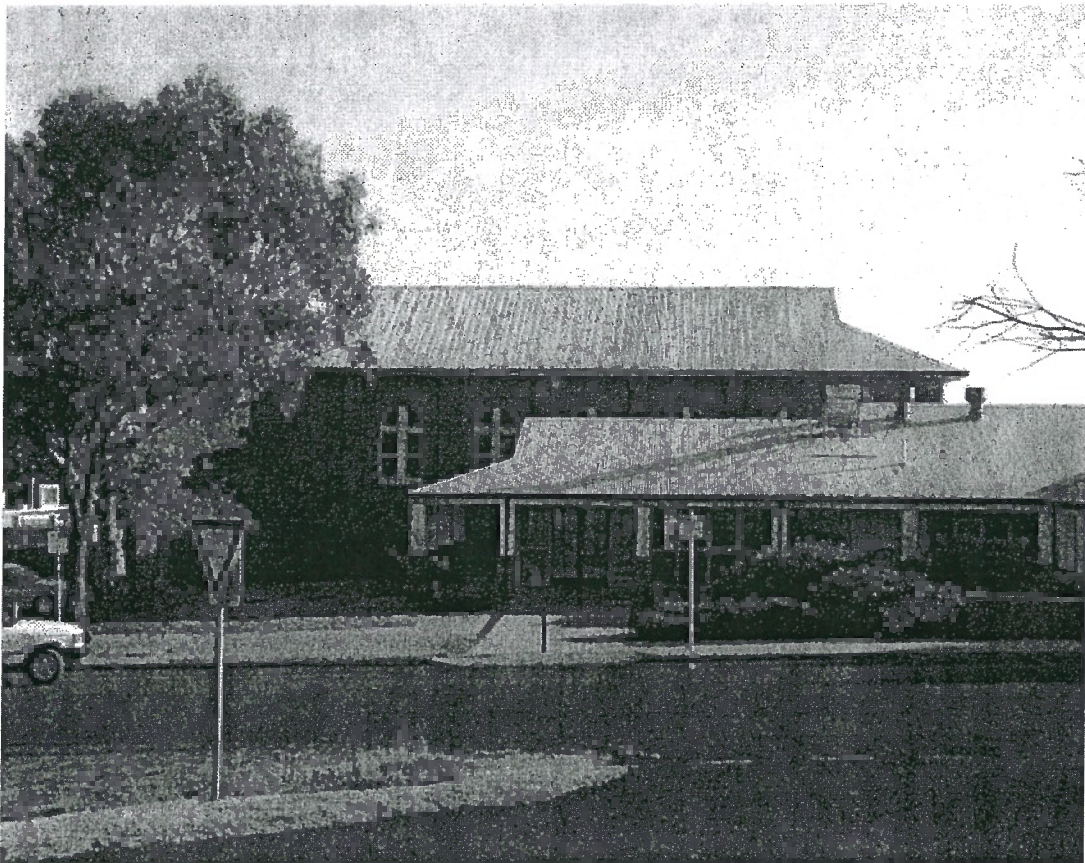
ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 76 McBride Avenue WONTHAGGI

STUDY NUMBER:

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO168

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI



Wonthaggi Town Hall

Image Date: 2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of the original hall building and excluding the recent addition.

WONTHAGGI TOWN HALL

Heritage Overlay No HO168

PropertyNo

File Number

Heritage Study No

Heritage Grading

HPD Number 221

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location 76 McBride Avenue WONTHAGGI

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

WONTHAGGI (T)

Planning Authority

Ward

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

To the extent of the original hall building and excluding the recent addition.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance

Statement of Significance

The Wonthaggi Town Hall is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance as one of the first civic buildings constructed as part of the original town plan. Once constructed, local Borough Council meetings were held in this building from the earliest days of the township. The Town Hall is of aesthetic significance as a largely intact example of a Federation style town hall building and one of the largest buildings in Wonthaggi. The Hall is still in principal use.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion A

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

Criterion D

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

Criterion G

ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Date Assessed

03/12/2004

Assessed By Fwoodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

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Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Government and Administration

Council Chambers

Title Details

Physical Description

The Wonthaggi Town Hall is a typical Federation style hall building with a galvanised corrugated steel clad gambrel roof, with orange/red face brickwork and large arched timber-framed windows. Internally it is plain with solid plastered walls, picture rail, acoustic ceiling panels (not significant) and a simple stage and backstage area. The floor is timber. Some new door openings have been constructed in the side elevation.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Usage Town Hall.

Associated People

Historical Notes

Wonthaggi was established as a mining town in 1909 to supply the Victorian Railways with black coal, and thus make Victoria independent of the privately owned New South Wales coalfields, the previous source of coal for the railways. The decision to proceed with mining coal from the Powlett Coalfield was prompted by the coal miners in New South Wales strike in 1909. When established, the coal was worked by the State Coal Mine from the Dudley and Kirrak Basins. The township of Wonthaggi is located on a ridge between the two basins. Initially the miners lived in a tent city; by 1910 the Government had laid out a model township. By 1921 Wonthaggi had a population of 5,000, making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland at the time. Wonthaggi's population peaked at around 12,000 in the mid-1920s when the mine was at its operational peak. The township was divided into commercial and residential areas. Its infrastructure provided for housing, water, churches, schools, and other social facilities.

The first meetings of the Wonthaggi and Borough Council were held in the town's first (temporary) courthouse, which was in a cottage situated along what is now known as Court Street. The original town subdivision included the allocation of a large allotment on the north-west corner of McBride Avenue and Baillieu Street, and a smaller adjacent allotment to the north along McBride Avenue as permanent reserves for 'Municipal Purposes'. The first Town Hall with associated offices was built in c.1911-13. Builders Frogley & Smith of Mt Albert were awarded a contract to the value of 1942 pounds by the Public Works Department to build a new brick town hall. Further structures (not significant) were added from the c.1980s. The Town Hall is utilised by the community for local community activities.

Substantial additions were made on the McBride Avenue side of the site in 1966, and along the Baillieu Street elevation in 1991.

Historic Themes

Building Towns: Following the State government's decision to build a township at Wonthaggi to mine coal from the Powlett Coalfield, decisions were taken to establish the required infrastructure. The amenities required included churches, schools and local government buildings such as the Town Hall and Library, all visible signs of a growing community.

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	Shelf Location
Andrew Ward	Typological Study of Local Government Offices/Town Halls in Victoria	1996	
Department of Land and Survey	arish Plan of Township of Wonthaggi, Parish of Wonthaggi, County of Mornington		
John M Coghlan	The Sate Coal Mine and Wonthaggi	1979	
Notice of award of tender to build new brick town hall (cited in Lewis Index.)	Building	1911	
T.J. Gannon (ed.)	Wonthaggi and District, Past and Present	1934	

Conservation Plans

WONTHAGGI TOWN HALL

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Other Names/s

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Group Number

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Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls? Yes

Included in Vic Heritage Register? No

Internal Alteration Controls? Yes

Prohibited uses may be permitted? No

Tree Controls? No

Name of incorporated plan No

Outbuildings/fences not exempt? No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No