
FORMER FREEMASONS HALL



FORMER FREEMASONS HALL SOHE 2008



h00538 1 former freemasons hall south melbourne exterior east she project 2003



former freemasons hall south melbourne coat of arms she project 2003



former freemasons hall south melbourne exterior north she project 2003



former freemasons hall south melbourne staircase she project 2003

Location

254 - 256 FERRARS STREET SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0538

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO122

VHR Registration

November 24, 1982

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 22, 1999

The Freemason's Hall was built in 1876 at a cost of £2000 for the Yarra Yarra Lodge by the contractor Leonard Heffner, from the designs of two local Emerald Hill architects, R Adamson & W McKean. The Yarra Yarra Lodge occupied their new premises from November 1876 until 1881 when, due to financial difficulties, they found it necessary to vacate the premises.

Subsequently it was used as a furniture warehouse and during the 1890's by the Try Boy Society. In 1910 the building was re-acquired by the Yarra Yarra Lodge which had joined forces with the Emerald Hill Lodge. They used the property until the mid 1920s. It is a prominent classically detailed corner building of two storeys, presenting finished facades to both Dorcas and Ferrars Streets.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1876,
Architect/Designer	Adamson & McKean,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Other Names The Melbourne Camera Club,
Hermes Number 1045
Property Number

History

Associated People: Tenant AS ABOVE;

An article published in The Age of 10 June 1876, page 4 reads as follows:

The members of the Yarra Yarra Lodge of Freemasons, No. 714, E.C., some few months ago purchased a piece of land at the corner of Dorcas and Ferrars streets, Emerald-hill, on which to erect a building for the better accommodation of the members of the craft residing in the district. Messrs. Adamson and McKean, architects, were entrusted with the work of preparing plans, etc. The front and side elevation is of a most appropriate character, being of the Corinthian order of architecture. The main entrance is from Dorcas-street, and of a most commanding style. Over the doorway will be placed the coat of arms of the District Grand Lodge of Victoria. The building will comprise a lodge room, supper room, committee rooms, ante-room and two offices in front. The lodge room will be 49 x 29, with cove ceiling palactriers (i.e. pilasters?), with richly foliated caps and panels inlaid with marble. The room will be lighted by two sunlight, and in consequence of the height, they will be lighted by electricity. The supper-room, 33 x 29, and capable of holding about 250 people, will be handsomely fitted up; it also will be lit by sunlights, and will seat about 100 guests. The other rooms and offices will be supplied with every convenience. The foundation stone will be laid on Thursday 15th inst. at half-past three, in ancient form, by the present W.M. Bro. Ashur Hart. The building is Mr L Haffner, and the cost of the building, when complete, will be L2500

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 538 Former Freemasons Hall, 254 Ferrars Street, South Melbourne
[Victoria Government Gazette No. 118 24 November 1982 p.3862]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>