

# ROYAL MELBOURNE REGIMENT DRILL HALL



ROYAL MELBOURNE  
REGIMENT DRILL HALL  
SOHE 2008



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Front  
Portico 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Front  
Detail 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Corner  
Detail 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Vent  
Detail 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Wrought  
Iron Screen Detail 11 Sept  
2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Officers'  
Mess Bench 11 Sept 2006  
mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Officers'  
Mess Cornice and Ceiling  
Detail 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Exterior  
Window Detail 11 Sept 2006  
mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Exterior  
Detail 01 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Exterior  
Detail 02 11 Sept 2006 mz



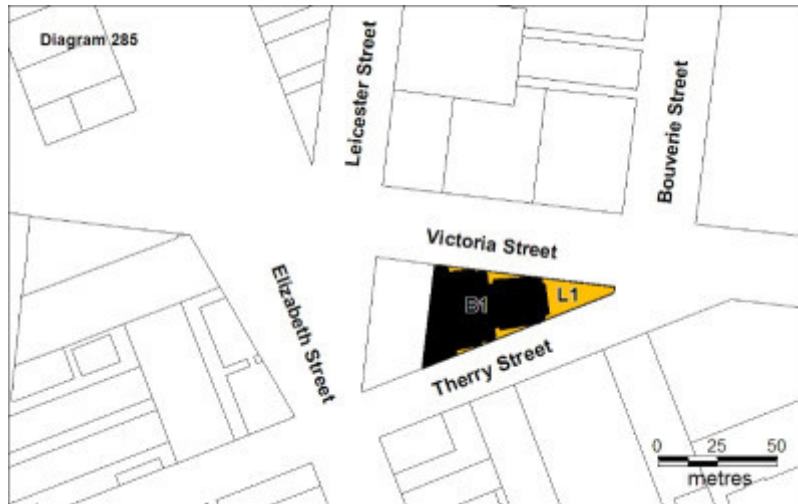
11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Drill Hal  
Ceiling 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Hall  
Interior 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne  
Regiment Drill Hall Band  
Gallery 11 Sept 2006 mz



11488 Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall Plan Dec 06 mz

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## Location

49-53 VICTORIA STREET MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0285

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO951

## VHR Registration

April 12, 2007

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 19, 2007

What is significant?

The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall was built for the Regiment in Victoria Street in 1937 to designs prepared by Commonwealth architect George H Hallendal as part of a general improvement in military facilities prior to the Second World War. Hallendal designed most of Victoria's drill halls during the post 1935 phase of military construction. Each of these drill halls were built specifically for the unit that was to occupy the building. The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall includes offices, mess rooms, lecture rooms, stores, a basement firing range and a caretakers flat. The building was used by the regiment before the Second World War, and for various other defence purposes during and after the war, such as providing medical outpatient services in 1945 for the 2nd Battalion.

The Royal Melbourne Regiment originally formed in 1854 as the Melbourne Volunteer Rifles, becoming the City of Melbourne Regiment in 1927, the Royal Melbourne Regiment in 1935 and then the Royal Victorian Regiment in 1948. The unit served in the Boer War, the First World War and the Second World War. As Melbourne's "own Regiment" the Royal Melbourne had particularly close ties with the City of Melbourne.

The building is a large structure, partly two storey, on a triangular city edge site. The exterior is predominantly of red brick, with banding of cream brick. The main east elevation is dominated by a portico of rendered aerofoil profiled piers within a rectangular frame. Details such as exterior ventilator grills, tall narrow steel framed windows and a stepped plan form add to the building's architectural character. The interior detailing features varnished timber panelling and trims, and decorative plaster mouldings. A recurring ornamental element, internally and externally, are wrought iron screens with a common decorative motif. The eastern, front portion of the building includes facilities for the higher ranks, including the officers' mess on the first floor which features a high coved and ribbed ceiling, an inglenook fireplace area, and a built-in bar. The ground floor features offices, the sergeants' mess and various utility spaces.

The rear, western, portion of the building includes offices and the drill hall itself which features a stepped decorative Moderne detailed plaster ceiling, brick pilasters with fluted capitals and a prominent band gallery that overlooks the hall.

How is it Significant?

The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?

The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is architecturally significant as an outstanding and highly detailed example of Moderne architecture. Of note is the practical response to the triangular site, the clearly demarcated spaces and functions and the particularly high quality of the building's detailing and decoration. The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is of architectural significance as one of the major drill halls designed by Commonwealth Government architect George Hallendal.

The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is of historical significance as one of the most intact of the red brick drill halls designed by the Works Branch of the Commonwealth Department of the Interior in the 1935 - 1939 period. It demonstrates its original drill and military administrative functions, through the planning of its internal spaces and through the extant original fittings and finishes. It is of historical interest as a building constructed as part of the nation's military build up just prior to the Second World War. The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is of historical significance for its associations with the Royal Victorian Regiment.

Known as Melbourne's 'own Regiment', the Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall is of local social significance for its close ties to the City of Melbourne.

## 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](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### General Conditions: 1.

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. **General Conditions: 2.**

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. **General Conditions: 3.**

If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. **General Conditions: 4.**

Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions: 5.**

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

### Regular Site Maintenance :

Maintenance work that does not require any construction work or the replacement of any existing fabric is permit exempt. Maintenance work that does require construction work or the replacement of any existing fabric is possible but will require either the written approval of the Executive Director or a permit.

The replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric will not require a permit.

**Note:** Any new materials used for repair should not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility. Consideration should be given when undertaking repairs to retain and maximise protection to existing fabric and the conservation of existing details or elements.

#### **Minor Works :**

Minor works that do not require any building work, will not have any impact on any structural element of the place or which do not entail the replacement of any existing fabric are permit exempt. Other minor works, that in the opinion of the Executive Director, will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. Other works that will require building work, will have an impact on any structural element of the place or which entails the replacement of any existing fabric may be possible but may require a permit. It is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted to discuss the proposed works and to ascertain whether a heritage permit is required.

If the proposed works may have an effect on any significant fabric or structural element of the place it is possible that a permit will be required.

#### **Landscape:**

All gardening and minor landscape works are permit exempt except where they involve any major excavation, construction of new landscape elements or the removal of any established trees.

#### **Painting**

Painting will not require permit approval if the painting:

- a) does not involve the disturbance or removal of earlier paint layers other than that which has failed by chalking, flaking, peeling or blistering;
- b) involves over-coating with an appropriate surface as an isolating layer to provide a means of protection for significant earlier layers or to provide a stable basis for repainting;
- c) employs the same colour scheme and paint type as an earlier scheme if they are appropriate to the substrate and do not endanger the survival of earlier paint layers.

If the painting employs a different colour scheme and paint type from an earlier scheme a permit will not be required if :

- a) the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed colour scheme, paint type, details of surface preparation and paint removal will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the item;
- b) the person proposing to undertake the painting has received a notice advising that the Executive Director is satisfied.

Any proposal to undertake such work should be submitted to the Executive Director, detailing the proposed colour scheme, paint type, details of surface preparation and paint removal involved in the repainting, for approval.

#### **Miscellaneous Exemptions**

\* The later steel framed mezzanine addition inside the drill hall may be removed without a permit on the condition that the fabric of any other part of the building is not adversely affected by its removal.

\* The 'housing unit display suite' located in the officers mess may be removed without a permit on the condition that the fabric of any other part of the building is not adversely affected by its removal.

Construction dates	1937,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ROYAL MELBOURNE REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS, DRILL HALL,
Hermes Number	11488
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 285 in the category described as Heritage Place is described as:

Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall  
49-53 Victoria Street  
Melbourne  
Melbourne City Council

#### EXTENT:

1. All of the building known as The Royal Melbourne Regiment Drill Hall and shown as B1 on Diagram 285 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land shown as L1 on Diagram 285 held by the Executive Director being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 10553, Folio 511.

Dated 5 April 2007

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 15 12 April 2007 635]

*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/>*