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# SITE OF THE FORMER EMERALD HALL/MECHANICS INSTITUTE

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## Location

400A BELGRAVE-GEMBROOK ROAD EMERALD, CARDINIA SHIRE

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0320

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Despite the fact that this is not the 'original' location of the hall, during its 32 year history on this location it provided a central focus for township activities with Emerald, such as Mechanics Institute, Town Library, Museum and social venue. The location is still the site of the Emerald Hall, therefore continuing the general function on the site and therefore has high local significance.

### Interpretation of Site

The early Emerald Hall was built in 1905, removed to this site in 1923, functioned as a multipurpose venue for 22 years at this location, and then burnt down after bushfires. The area has a brick hall present since 1957, and bitumen carpark at rear (east). At the northern edge of the bitumen lies a row of exposed bricks. These bricks may indicate former foundations for a timber building, be it the former Emerald Hall or an associated outbuilding.

### Hermes Number

13994

Property  
Number

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## History

The Emerald Township Reserve of one square mile, was marked out in 1859 by M. Callanan. The study area lies within the Emerald Recreation Reserve (10 acres) reserved in 1894. The reserve lies at the middle of the eastern boundary of the reserve (township). In 1905, the Emerald Mechanics Institute was erected at the north-east corner of the Emerald Recreation Reserve. The hall was built with the help of Carl Nobelius who advanced the money for the building materials and labour. The money was later repaid by public subscription. The hall was built and furnished for 600 pounds. The hall was moved in 1923, to a site at the south-west corner of the reserve. Expenses for the removal of the hall, approximately 700 pounds, were met from the proceeds of a Queen Carnival. The Emerald Hall was also the Mechanics Institute, the town library and museum. Socials, dances, movies or "pictures" and charitable functions were held in the hall. In 1955, the hall and many other buildings, farming and residential land, were destroyed by fire. A new brick hall was opened on the site in 1957.

*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/>*