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## FORMER LIBRARY



FORMER LIBRARY SOHE  
2008



h00488 1 former library  
warrenheip road buninyong  
front view she project 2003



former library buninyong  
detail font facade nov1980



former library buninyong side  
elevation 2002



former library buninyong  
signage detail 2002



former library buninyong  
oblique front view 2002



former library warrenheip  
road buninyong rear view she  
project 2003

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### Location

408 WARRENHEIP STREET BUNINYONG, BALLARAT CITY

### Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0488

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO135

## VHR Registration

February 25, 1981

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 17, 1999

The former library at Buninyong was donated to the town by Robert Allan and erected for him prior to 1862 at a cost of £385 (including earthworks and two bridges). Allan, an engineer, had first taken up land at Buninyong in 1857 and was involved in gold mining in the area. He later was involved in local government and donated several public gifts to the town. He was accused of making these gifts in order to obtain cheap land around the town and because of this the library remained unused for many years. During this time the land adjoining the library was mined by the Grand Junction Company. Sometime before 1866 the library was revived by a Mr Oliver and was well used by the community. It was later sold to David Kerr who donated it to the Buninyong Cemetery Trust in 1927.

The timber-framed structure of the old library has a half-hipped roof with a skillion roof over the rear residential quarters and an elaborate timber parapeted facade to the front. The original timber shingles still remain at the rear under the existing corrugated iron roof. The back and sides of the building are lined with square-edged weatherboards and the facade with block-patterned boards under the applied ornament. Internally, the library ceilings and dadoes are of varnished tongue and grooved boarding. The upper part of the walls had been lined with hessian and paper. This has been partly replaced with plasterboard. The floors are timber with the exception of the residential quarters at the rear which now has a concrete floor. The exceptional feature of this building is its facade. An unusual exercise in architectural detailing using vernacular methods of construction, it may be best described as classically derived with mannerist details. Based loosely on the Tuscan order, the trabeated facade is symmetrically planned with banded pilasters marked with lozenges and two Serlian-derived windows, one of which has been later altered. The central doorway has a cornice and a square highlight over and the side doorway has the voussoirs picked out from the block patterned boards. Guttae are used on the abaci at the heads of the pilasters and the parapet is decorated with a circular fret, part of which is missing. It is believed that there originally were timber finials over the parapet. This building is most unusual in country Victoria for its elaborate timber facade and forms an important part of the history of one of Victoria's early gold-mining areas.

## 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	1862,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	FORMER BUNINYONG LIBRARY, FORMER LIBRARY BUNINYONG,
Hermes Number	183
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

Historic Building No. 488 The Former Library, 408 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 1925 February 1981 p.584]

*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/>*