

Sebastopol Town Hall complex



Sebastopol Town Hall complex - 1960 Borough Hall



Sebastopol Town Hall complex - 1960 Borough Hall



Sebastopol Town Hall complex - Soldiers memorial



Sebastopol Town Hall complex - drinking fountain



Sebastopol Town Hall complex - Honour Roll



Sebastopol Town Hall complex



Sebastopol Town Hall complex

Location

181-185 ALBERT STREET SEBASTOPOL - PROPERTY NUMBER 2000222, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 5, 2024

What is significant?

The Sebastopol Town Hall complex at 183-5 Albert Street, developed primarily between the 1860s and 1960s, encompassing the following significant elements:

- Remains of the former Shire Hall (bluestone with slate roof at rear of complex), built in 1868.
- Borough Hall, built 1960.
- King George V memorial drinking fountain, dedicated 1936.
- Maternal Child Health Centre, 1960s.
- Former Borough Offices (bluestone section).
- Neville F Donald Park (former Mayor of Sebastopol), dedicated 1994.
- Soldiers Memorial, erected 1937.
- Honour Roll for WWI and WWII, erected 2006.
- Bicentennial Cairn, erected 1988.
- Mature English Elm.

How is it significant?

The Sebastopol Town Hall complex is of historic, social and architectural significance to the City of Ballarat.

Why is it significant?

The 1960 Borough Hall is of historical significance as a multi-purpose civic building constructed in 1960 to replace the earlier Town Hall and office (erected in 1868). The remnants of the 1868 Town Hall are of historical significance as the earliest representation of local governance for the township and the Borough. The collection of war memorials has significance for commemorating those members of the local community who served in the great wars. The 1936 King George V drinking fountain is significant for commemorating not only his reign, but celebrating his visit to Sebastopol in 1901. (Criterion A)

The addition of a Maternal and Child Health Centre c1960s is also of historical significance, as it reflects the importance of the baby health movement and the growing trend for health services to be integrated into municipal operations, particularly in rural areas. (Criterion A)

The Sebastopol Town Hall complex is of social significance as the focus of civic and community life in the former Borough of Sebastopol for over 150 years. It has provided a site for the Sebastopol community to gather, debate, celebrate and commemorate. Although the Borough was amalgamated into the City of Ballarat in the 1990s, the centre continues to play an important role in providing a range of services and activities to the local community. (Criterion G)

The 1960 Town Hall, Borough Offices, Library and Maternal and Child Health Centre are architecturally significant as an example of postwar architecture exhibiting typical design features of this period. These design features include a strong horizontal form with projecting entrance bay with a cantilevered concrete parapet. The Maternal and Child Health Centre has particularly interesting detailing, including a window wall of blue and white glazing and a panel of coloured tiles arranged in a decorative pattern. (Criterion E)

Theme

7. Governing Victorians 8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant	Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;
Other Names	War memorials, Former Borough of Sebastopol Offices, Former Shire Hall, King George V Memorial drinking fountain, Neville F Donald Park, Maternal Child Health Centre, Bicentennial cairn, early Borough office,
Hermes Number	183813
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Sebastopol Town Hall complex was developed primarily between the 1860s and 1960s. Most of the site is covered by interconnected buildings of a variety of ages. At the south end of the site is a small park and collection of memorials.

The 1960 Borough Hall stretches across two-thirds of the frontage of the site. There are two cast-concrete lamp standards in front of it, situated on the outer edge of the footpath. The 1960 Borough Hall is a single-storey parapeted cream brick building with brown-brick foundations and piers delineating the central section and two smaller flanking windowless bays. The long central section has a cantilevered concrete parapet sheltering three banks of aluminium windows and two entrances. The southern entrance retains its yellow terrazzo steps and three timber doors with horizontal glazing. The northern doorway (to the library) has a modern concrete ramp and simpler door with glazing to either side.

The Maternal and Child Health Centre was appended to the south end of the Borough Hall, and was designed to complement it. The first (windowless) bay is constructed of cream brick (a much yellower shade than the orangey bricks of the Borough Hall), while the southernmost bay is of the orangey-cream brick, suggesting that the two structures were linked at a later date. The southern-most bay is set back behind a commemorative drinking fountain and has a decorative window wall. The panels are textured glass in blue and white, divided into vertical and horizontal lights. Below the windows is a panel of tiny green tiles with red and white tiles sprinkled among them. The entrance to the building is in the later link and has a late 20th-century glazed porch and doors, and the concrete roof is supported on a post (as compared to the cantilevered verandah to the 1960s section).

At the rear of the 1960 Borough Hall are two earlier buildings that have been enveloped in it. One is a 19th-century building (possibly part of the first Town Hall), and another that may date to the turn of the century.

The 19th-century building has been covered with a disfiguring layer of roughcast render, and only one elevation is visible. Only the roof and eaves are intact. The roof is hipped and covered with slate. The eaves have particularly elegant timber brackets with large turned drops.

Two segmentally arched windows also survive on this elevation (as well as two modern openings).

To the north side of the 19th-century building, and set back to the rear of the site is a small, gable-fronted brick hall, also obscured by a heavy layer of modern render. Judging from the hard red bricks visible beneath the render, and the cast-iron air bricks, it appears to date to around the turn of the century. The chimney breasts have rather old-fashioned stepped sides, and the roof rafters are exposed. The rear and one side of this hall (now a Drop-in Centre) are visible, while the facade is mostly covered by a c1960 cream brick addition.

At the south end of the site in the Neville FD Donald Park is a collection of memorials. The King George V drinking fountain of c1936 is particularly fine, executed in light and dark grey granite with a variety of finishes. Also of note is the granite war memorial. It is rather squat in appearance, with a bronze cross at its centre, bronze wreaths on either side and lettering 'TO THE FALLEN'. Beside it are modern bronze plaques with lists of those who served in the two world wars.

Finally, there is a basalt cairn commemorating Australia's bicentennial.

At the rear of the land, on the Wilson Lane boundary is a mature bifurcated *Ulmus procera* English Elm.

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/>