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# FORMER MECHANICS INSTITUTE

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## Location

50 LITTLE MALOP STREET AND 75-81 RYRIE STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0533

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 201600

Property Number

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## History

The 1855 Mechanics Institute was originally a small structure. The site was expanded to include a hall; lecture room was located upstairs (50x30 feet); reading room (46x20 feet); library (30x20 feet); 3 classrooms (2 were located upstairs); secretary's office; and private apartments. The front of the institute faced Ryrie Street. The total cost of the expansion was £56,000 and was completed in March, 1868 (B.W. Wheatland was the manager and secretary). A fire in June of 1926 destroyed the hall and stage, causing approximately £20,000. A new hall was built, known as the Plaza Theatre. Much of the plaza was destroyed in the 1970s to be redeveloped as the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

*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/>*