

# FORMER HUNTLY SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS



FORMER HUNTLY SHIRE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SOHE 2008



1 former huntly shire council  
chambers front view jun1997



After Photographs -  
Reference F3846 2016



After Photographs -  
Reference F3846 2016



After Photographs -  
Reference F3846 2016



Before Photographs -  
Reference F3846 2014



Before Photographs -  
Reference F3846 2014



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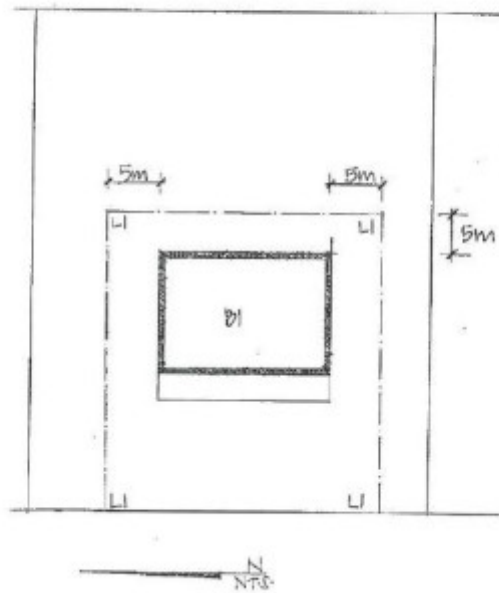


Diagram 607974

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**Location**

620-626 MIDLAND HIGHWAY HUNTLY, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

**Municipality**

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

**Level of significance**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1369

**Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO475

**VHR Registration**

November 20, 1997

**Heritage Listing**

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

### STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The former Huntly Shire Council Chambers was constructed in 1867 as council chambers for the former shire of Huntly. The building was designed by local engineer, John O'Dwyer and constructed by builders, Hyett and Martin. The Huntly Shire was formed in July 1866 and the construction of a building in which they could hold meetings was a priority. The Council used the building for 110 years before a new chambers was opened in 1977, when the former chambers were leased to a local historical society for use as a museum.

The one storeyed face brick building has a double hipped roof, partially concealed by parapets on three sides. The design of the building conveys a strong Lombardic influence with banded brick quoining and a large open loggia on the entrance faade formed by double banded brick columns supporting semicircular arches. The building retains much of its early furniture and fittings, including the councillors' meeting table and chairs, a series of honour boards and a photographic collection of all Huntly Shire Council councillors.

The former Huntly Shire Chambers is of architectural importance to the State of Victoria.

The building is of architectural importance as an unusual example of an engineer designed council chambers with many interesting design elements, including the banded brickwork, overall scale of the building and loggia. The arcade on the eastern faade is a good example of fine engineered brickwork with two levels of arches. The building is substantially intact both internally and externally.

## 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:

## EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

### General Conditions:

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.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

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

### Interior

Interior painting and wall-papering in rear rooms provided the preparation work does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or other decorative scheme.

Removal of existing carpets / flexible floor coverings eg vinyl in rear rooms (not the main chamber)

Installation of carpets and flexible floor coverings in rear rooms (not the main chamber)

Installation of curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings.

Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors, and other wall-mounted works of art.

Refurbishment of existing bathroom /toilet / ensuites including removal of existing sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, and wall and floor coverings, and installation of new fixtures, and wall and floor coverings.

Removal of existing kitchen benches and fixtures (stoves, dishwashers etc.) and floor coverings and installation of new kitchen benches and fixtures in the same area, including associated plumbing and wiring.

Installation of hydronic, or concealed radiant (Ceiling Foil Radiant Heating or under carpet heating) type heating, provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings, architraves and the location of the heating unit (boiler etc) is concealed from view.

Installation of bulk insulation to the roof space.

Re-wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, or GPO's are retained in-situ. Note : If wiring is original to the building, timber conduits should be left in situ rather than removed.

Installation of smoke detectors.

Installation of damp-proofing by either injection method, or "grouted pocket" method.

### Exterior

Existing signage may be altered/replaced provided that the new sign is no larger than the existing, is located in the same position and that no internally illuminated signage is used.

Removal of air-conditioners / pipework / wiring / antennae / aerials / and making good.

Construction dates 1867,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,  
Hermes Number 5178  
Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

The former Huntly Shire Council Chambers were constructed in 1867 as the Council Chambers for the former Shire of Huntly which is now part of the City of Greater Bendigo. The building was designed by Shire Engineer, John O'Dwyer.

During the 1840s squatters drove cattle through what became the Huntly Shire and in 1845 the Burnewang Run was established by John and Robert Bakewell. The first land sales in the mid 1850s encouraged closer settlement and this was followed shortly after by the discovery of gold in the area. In 1860 the Campaspe District Roads Board was established as the precursor to the Huntly Shire Council which was formed on 18 July 1866.

One of the first decisions made by the Council was for the erection of Shire Council Chambers in which to hold meetings and house officers. The cost of the building was not to exceed £350 and was to 'be of brick and built as an addition to the building in which meetings were then held'. There is some debate as to what this may mean, whether the Shire Council Chambers was an addition to an existing structure or whether this simply meant providing additional space to that already used by the Council. The building does not display marked signs of having a large addition.

The Council commissioned the Shire Engineer, John O'Dwyer, to prepare plans for the building and it was constructed by builders, Hyett and Martin.

The Council used the Shire Chambers for 110 years, briefly shifting their meetings to Goornong following amalgamation in the 1880s, but soon shifting back to Huntly. The 1970s was a time of development for Huntly and with expansion of the council a move to a larger premises became necessary. In 1977 the new Shire Chambers were opened and the Huntly Historical Society were given the lease of the former Shire Chambers which they retain in 1997. The building is used as a museum.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1369 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Former Huntly Shire Council Chambers, 620-634 Midland Highway, Huntly, Greater Bendigo City

### EXTENT:

1. All of the building known as the former Huntly Shire Council Chambers.
2. All of the land marked L1 on diagram held by the Executive Director being all of the land described by Certificates of Title Volume 9045, Folio 619; Volume 9045, Folio 618; Volume 9045, Folio 620; Volume 9672, Folio 723; Volume 238, Folio 446; Volume 368, Folio 506; Volume 1080, Folio 298.
3. The moveable objects comprising a president's chair; twelve councillor's chairs; a councillor's meeting table;

three honour boards; a collection of councillor's photographs and a JB Edwards timber clock all in the Council Chamber.

Dated 6 November 1997

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G46 20 November 1997 p.3201]

*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/>*