
Army Drill Hall, 31-35 Sloane Street, STAWELL



SL 372 - Army Drill Hall, Sloane Street (corner St George Street), STAWELL



SL 372a - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 372b - Stawell Historical Society Collection.

Location

31-35 Sloane Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 27, 2004

The Drill Hall at 31-35 Sloane Street, Stawell, has significance as a legacy of the Commonwealth Government's policy for compulsory military training and the establishment of standard drill hall buildings throughout the country between 1911 and 1918. This building has significance as an example of the rudimentary designs prepared by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs (later the Department of Works and Railways) that was under the design control of Australia's First Commonwealth Architect, John Smith Murdoch. The building has further significance for its associations with the Paramount Picture Theatre that operated in the building by the McCracken family between c.1922 and c.1938.

The Drill Hall at 31-35 Sloane Street, Stawell, is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities typical for Commonwealth Government drill hall design between 1911 and 1918. These

qualities include the rudimentary gable roof form, together with the side skillion wing. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the galvanised corrugated iron and strapped sheet wall cladding, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, timber framed clerestory and other windows, central vehicular opening and flanking windows, and the timber ventilator in the gable end.

The Drill Hall at 31-35 Sloane Street, Stawell, is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the Commonwealth Government's policy of 1911 to expand the country's military forces through the introduction of compulsory military training and the subsequent construction of drill halls between 1911 and 1918 to accommodate this training. This building also has associations with the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs and Australia's First Commonwealth Government Architect, John Smith Murdoch, who was ultimately responsible for the designs of the drill halls, including the hall at Stawell, during that period. The building has further associations with the McCracken family (notably Bob and Hugh McCracken and the McCracken children: Keith, Lil, Colin, Mary and Bruce) and Harry Whitehead, Editor of the Stawell News newspaper, who established the Paramount Picture Theatre in the building between c.1922 and 1938.

The Drill Hall at 31-35 Sloane Street, Stawell, is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised by the Stawell community as the local of the Citizen Military Forces in the early and late 20th century, and for recreational purposes associated with the Paramount Theatre in the early 20th century.

Overall, the Drill Hall at 31-35 Sloane Street is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	113071
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Drill Hall site at 31-35 Sloane Street, Stawell, is largely taken up by the drill hall building, together with an introduced gabled wing and other small outbuildings.

The single storey, galvanised corrugated iron and strapped sheet clad, rudimentary early 20th century drill hall is primary characterised by a long simple gabled roof form, together with a side skillion wing. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Introduced ventilation stacks along the ridge line appear to have replaced earlier ventilation measures.

Other early features of the design include the timber framed clerestory windows and other windows, central vehicular opening and flanking window openings in the gable end, and the timber ventilator in the gable end.

Comparative

Patrick Miller in a 'Thematic History of Defence in Victoria' states that the Drill Hall at Stawell is similar in design to the drill halls in: Collings Street, Ararat; Turner Street, Bacchus Marsh; Bridge Street, Benalla; Mollison Street, Bendigo; Landcox Street, Brighton; Swan Street, Burnley; Camberwell Grove, Camberwell; Park Street, Carlton North; Lonsdale Street, Dandenong; Queens Parade, Fitzroy North; Barkly Street, Footscray; Queen Street, Golden Square; Milton Street, Hamilton; Baillie Street, Horsham; Charles Street, Korumburra; Raglan Street, Preston; Mcwhae Avenue, Ripponlea; Raymond Street, Sale; Sabraon Street, Shepparton; Argyle Street, St. Kilda; Robinson Street, Surrey Hills; Rowan Street, Wangaratta; Princes Highway, Warragul; Pertobe Road, Warrnambool; and Somerville Road, Yarraville.

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/>