

St. Arnaud RSL



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Location

Raglan Street (corner McMahon Street), ST ARNAUD, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 2004

The Liberty Hall building, north-west corner of Raglan and McMahon Streets, St. Arnaud, makes a significant architectural and visual contribution and is a landmark in the local area. Constructed in 1927 as the Princess Theatre, the building was used as a corset factory during World War Two and was purchased by the St. Arnaud Sub-branch of the R.S.L. in 1953 as Memorial Clubrooms. Externally, the building is largely intact.

The Liberty Hall building is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar rudimentary Free Classical style. These qualities include the five bayed composition, two storey height, and the large central pedimented parapet flanked by unpainted brick piers with rendered corbelled tops and crowning orbs, and adorned with a timber flag pole and flanking narrow ventilators. Other intact qualities include the flanking solid and austere parapets, unpainted brick pilasters with corbelled tops (forming stylised capitals), rendered incised rectangular panels and rendered pedestals, red brick first floor wall construction

punctuated by timber framed multi paned windows and small louvered (ventilation) windows, projecting cantilevered verandah with a shallow coffered soffit, plain brown brick ground floor wall construction accentuated by projecting pilasters, central double doorway with vertically boarded doors and steel framed windows.

The Liberty Hall building is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with early moving picture shows in the area, the Liberty Corset factory, a large employer of women during the second world war years and as a memorial and clubrooms of the local sub-branch of the RSL.

The Liberty Hall building is socially significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and highly valued by the St. Arnaud community for recreational and commemorative reasons.

Overall, the Liberty Hall building is of **LOCAL** significance.

RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Other Names	Princess Theatre,
Hermes Number	127254
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Liberty Hall building, north-west corner of Raglan and McMahon Streets, makes a significant architectural and visual contribution and forms a landmark in the local area.

The two storey, unpainted brick and render, interwar rudimentary Free Classical styled building is composed of five bays and has a large central pedimented parapet flanked by unpainted brick piers with rendered corbelled tops and crowning orbs. The pedimented parapet is adorned with a central timber flag pole and flanking narrow ventilators. The remainder of the parapet is solid, simple and austere. Below the parapet are unpainted brick pilasters with corbelled tops (forming stylised capitals), rendered incised rectangular panels and rendered pedestals. Each bay has red brick wall construction with timber framed multi paned windows and small louvered (ventilation) windows, except the narrow end bays which have only the louvered windows.

A dominant feature of the design is the projecting cantilevered verandah with its shallow coffered soffit. An introduced tubular steel balustrade forms a walkway over the central portion of the verandah, which is connected to a doorway that punctuates the central first floor window. The ground floor is denoted by the plain brown brick wall construction accentuated by the projecting pilasters, central double doorway with vertically boarded doors and steel framed windows.

The hall is substantially intact and retains its moulded plaster ceiling which was repainted in 1999 to pick out the foliage and flower patterns.

Veterans Description for Public

The St. Arnaud RSL is located in the old Liberty Hall building on the north-west corner of Raglan and McMahon Streets. Formerly the Princess Theatre, during the Second World War the building was used as the Liberty Corset factory. In this capacity it was large local employer of women during the war years. After the war the building was known as Liberty Hall when purchased for the use of the Returned Servicemen's League (RSL) members of the St. Arnaud Sub-branch as a memorial and club rooms. The money for the purchase was supplied

by the residents of St. Arnaud and district who "desired to mark their heartfelt appreciation of the gallant service rendered by those members in the wars of 1914 -18 and 1939-45." The plaque unveiling and official opening were performed on August 18, 1953 by the president of the St. Arnaud RSL Ladies Auxiliary Miss W. Engelmann and the RSL Vice President Mr A R Eva.

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/>