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# Traralgon Army Drill Hall

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## Location

40-50 Queens Parade, Traralgon VIC 3844

## Municipality

LATROBE CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

What is significant?

The building at 40 Queens Parade, Traralgon, was constructed in 1939 and used by the Australian Army as a Drill Hall during World War II. After the war, it was used as a factory by La Mode industries and Kayser employing local women until the Army took it over again in 1952 after which it was again used for drill purposes, by the 4th and 19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Royal Australian Army Corp.

How is it significant?

The Drill Hall at is of local 40 Queens Parade, Traralgon is of local historic and architectural significance to Latrobe City.

Why is it significant?

Historically, it is significant as an illustration of the facilities constructed during World War II and has continued to have a long association with the Australian Army. It is also significant for its use as a factory employing local women after the war. (RNE criteria A.4, D.2, H.1)

The building is architecturally significant as an intact example of an army drill hall. The significance of the place as a representative example is enhanced by its relatively high degree of external integrity. (RNE criterion D.2)

Heritage Study/Consultant Latrobe - Traralgon Heritage Study (1992), Context Pty Ltd, 1992;

Hermes Number 127443

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The hall comprises a long central section with barrel vaulted roof with a lower hip roof wing at each corner. The building is block mounted and timber framed with fibro sheet cladding on walls and corrugated iron on the roof.

The building seems to retain all external features with minor alterations in the form of entry ways on the western walls of the hall.

Details include a centrally placed door with lights above and a deep timber architrave. String courses, both vertical and horizontal are rounded in profile and form a functional purpose as strapping, as well as a decorative use in emphasising the symmetry of the building design. There are twenty double-hung sash windows in the wings and at the ends of the hall. There is also a panel of highlights in the upper middle section of each side wall. A flag pole is attached to the centre of the facade.

This building is the oldest and most intact example in Traralgon of a building used for military purposes. The only other known building is a army barracks building which was later used at a classroom on the Grey School site. The weatherboard building which resembles this on the Grey Street site is extensively altered.

The drill hall was also used for at least eight years as a factory for La Mode Pty. Ltd. which later moved to Henry Street, but no sign of this building remains. Consequently, the Drill Hall is the only building associated with this industry in the town.

## Physical Conditions

Good

## Intactness

Minor Modifications

## Veterans Description for Public

The Traralgon Drill Hall, located at 40 Queens Parade, was constructed in 1939 and used by the Australian Army during the Second World War. After the war, it was used as a factory by La Mode industries manufacturing garment and Kayser employing local women, until the Army took it over again in 1952 after which it was again used for drill purposes, by the 4th and 19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Royal Australian Army Corp.

During the subsequent war years, the building was used occasionally for dances and Military balls. The hall comprises a long central section with barrel vaulted roof with a lower hip roof wing at each corner. The building is block mounted and timber framed with fibro sheet cladding on walls and corrugated iron on the roof. This building is the oldest and most intact example in Traralgon of a building used for military purposes. The only other known building is an army barracks building which was later used at a classroom on the Grey School site. The weatherboard building which resembles this on the Grey Street site is extensively altered.

*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/>*