

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 22/05/19



## CHILTERN ATHENAEUM AND MUSEUM



CHILTERN ATHENAEUM AND MUSEUM SOHE 2008



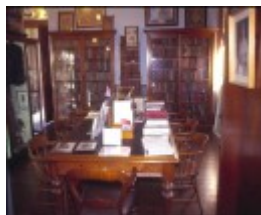
1 athenaeum library & town hall conness street chiltern front view



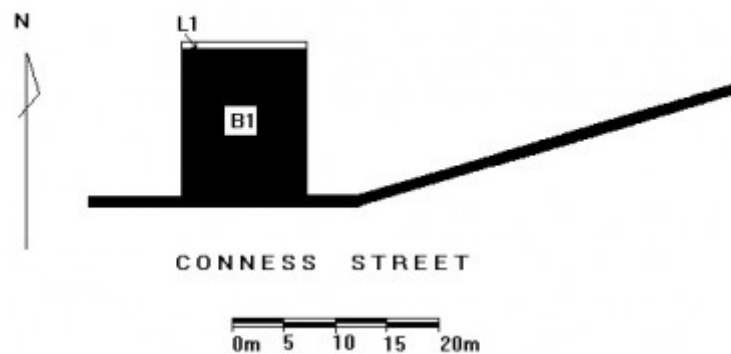
chiltern anthenaeum and museum conness st chiltern east elevation 2003



chiltern anthenaeum and museum conness st chiltern front from south west she project 2003



chiltern anthenaeum and museum conness st chiltern interior 2003



chiltern athenaeum & former town hall plan

### Location

57 CONNESS STREET CHILTERN, Indigo Shire

## **Municipality**

INDIGO SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1326

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO92

## **VHR Registration**

June 19, 1997

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - April 13, 2000

What is significant?

The Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall is a single storey brick structure in the Conservative Classical style. The combined library and municipal office building was designed by the Beechworth architect, John Coe and was built circa 1866 by Houston and Hunter of Rutherglen. The building comprises a simple rectangular hall with a centrally located entrance, the building has rendered pilasters and a small raised pediment over its arched entry way. Above the main door is a fine peacock-tail fanlight with radiating spokes. The Athenaeum and former Town Hall replaced an earlier timber structure which was used by the Chiltern Library Institute after its foundation in 1861. Whilst the building ceased its dual functionality in 1937, the Athenaeum continues.

How is it significant?

The Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall is of historical, social and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall is of historical importance for its role in Victoria's goldmining history. The Chiltern district was one of the most important gold producing areas in the colony and the Athenaeum and former Town Hall was the centre of local government activity in the region during this period. The building also had an important social and community role as a library and cultural centre and many important Victorians, including Dr Walter Richardson( influential spiritualist and father of Henry Handel Richardson, were associated with the building. Cultural institutions, such as athenaeums and mechanics institutes, were particularly prevalent during the 1860s and the increase in their construction corresponded with the consolidation of towns founded on Victorian goldfields. The Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall is historically significant for its ability to express the growth and solidification of a country township once the initial

rush to Victoria's gold fields had subsided; this building is especially significant given the role of Chiltern in Victoria's goldmining history.

The Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall is architecturally significant as a rare example of a combined library and municipal office. The building maintains a high degree of integrity, retaining many of its furnishings, fittings and fixtures, and its original split function can still be interpreted through its internal layout, although the timber partition has been removed. The building is a significant example of a provincial hall in the Conservative Classical style and remains relatively intact. The polished cedar tables, shelving and chairs are thought to be located in much the same positions as they were when the building was first constructed.

## Permit Exemptions

### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

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

#### Interior Decoration

Interior painting/wall papering to walls and ceilings, provided the preparation work for painting/papering does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or decorative scheme.

Removal of existing carpets/ flexible floor coverings.

Installation of carpets and flexible floor covering.

Installation of curtain track, rod, 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 any Bathrooms, Toilets, Kitchens

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

#### Other

Re-wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches are retained in-situ.

Installation of smoke detectors.

Installation of insulation.

Construction dates	1866,
Architect/Designer	Coe, John J,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,
Other Names	ATHENAEUM LIBRARY, TOWN HALL,
Hermes Number	1570
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

1 All the building known as the Chiltern Athenaeum and former Town Hall as marked B1 on Diagram 600458 held by the Executive Director.

2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 600458 held by the Executive Director being all Crown Allotment 2, Section J, Parish of Chiltern.

3. All the specified objects .

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*