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# COPERNICUS HALL



Copernicus Hall



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## Location

26-28 ORION STREET, SEBASTOPOL - PROPERTY NUMBER 2025086, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO216

## Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 10, 2024

### What is significant?

Copernicus Hall, at 26-28 Orion Street Sebastopol, to the extent of the 1976 fabric and the entrance gate. The building is a simple Besser block rectangular hall, with a parapeted facade of patterned white textured bricks featuring diaper patterns in brown blocks. The entrance gate is a decorative wrought iron gate with motifs.

### How is it significant?

Copernicus Hall is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance.

### Why is it significant?

Copernicus Hall is of historic significance for its association with the post-war settlement of migrants in Sebastopol and as a site for expressing the cultural traditions of the Polish community of Ballarat. (Criterion A)

Copernicus Hall is of social significance for providing a focus for Ballarat's Polish community and a site for social and cultural exchange. The hall was constructed by Franciszek Rymkiewicz with the assistance of local members of the Polish Association of Ballarat. (Criterion G)

The wrought iron gates are of aesthetic significance for their decorative quality and workmanship. (Criterion E)

## Theme

### 8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;

Construction dates 1974,

Other Names Kopernicus Hall,

Hermes Number 183814

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Copernicus Hall is a simple building constructed of grey Besser blocks, with a parapeted facade of narrow white textured blocks with diaper patterns in brown blocks. It is situated behind a high chain-link fence with a decorative wrought iron gate in front of the hall. The gate contains decorative motifs such as hearts, scrolls, a central sun and crescent moons at the corners, and cardinal directions (N, S, E, W), making reference to the astronomical studies of Nicholas Copernicus. Copernicus' birth and death dates are given (1473 - 1543), as well as an inscription in Polish translated as the 'N Copernicus Polish Hall'.

The name is given in English on the brick facade ('Copernicus Hall'), and a sheet metal coat of arms with the Polish imperial eagle sits above the entrance. The double ledged front doors are situated in a recessed entryway.

The side elevations reveal three distinct parts to the building. The front section has a gabled roof (hidden behind the parapet), with high-set windows. Behind it is a section with a very low pitched roof, which also has high-set windows. Finally, there is a flat-roofed addition on the north side, set well back from the facade, which has a simple carport attached to it. All three sections are constructed of the same grey Besser block.

There is a large grassy area on the north side of the building. Young trees around its borders have commemorative plaques on them.

*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/>*