
FORMER MECHANICS INSTITUTE

Location

50 LITTLE MALOP STREET AND 75-81 RYRIE STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0533

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 201600

Property Number

History

The 1855 Mechanics Institute was originally a small structure. The site was expanded to include a hall; lecture room was located upstairs (50x30 feet); reading room (46x20 feet); library (30x20 feet); 3 classrooms (2 were located upstairs); secretary's office; and private apartments. The front of the institute faced Ryrie Street. The total cost of the expansion was £56,000 and was completed in March, 1868 (B.W. Wheatland was the manager and secretary). A fire in June of 1926 destroyed the hall and stage, causing approximately £20,000. A new hall was built, known as the Plaza Theatre. Much of the plaza was destroyed in the 1970s to be redeveloped as the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.

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/>