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# FIDELITY TENT NO.75 OF THE INDEPENDENT ORDER OF RECHABITES (FORMER)



Fidelity Tent No 75  
Rechabites Hall

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## Location

251-53 HIGH STREET, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

## Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO219

## Heritage Listing

Darebin City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### *What is significant?*

The Fidelity Tent No. 75 of the Independent Order of Rechabites commenced in 1868 and first met in the South Preston Wesleyan Chapel. This hall at 251-3 High Street, Preston was constructed c.1890 and remained the home of the Rechabites until the 1970s. It is now used by the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre.

The building to the extent of the surviving c.1890 fabric is significant. This includes the facade and that part of the building between the street frontage and the modern rear addition.

Non-original alterations to c.1890 section and the modern rear addition are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

The former IOOR Hall at 251-3 High Street, Preston is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Darebin City.

*Why is it significant?*

Historically, the former IOOR Hall is significant as a now rare surviving example of a Rechabite Hall. It provides evidence of the Temperance movement, which was a powerful force in Victorian society and also reflects the strength of the Methodist faith in the Preston area. The Rechabites included many people who were prominent figures in the local community. The current use of the Hall by the Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre is also of interest as evidence of the influence of Immigration upon the cultural diversity of Darebin in the post-war era. (AHC criteria A.4, B.2, D.2, H.1)

Aesthetically, the former IOOR Hall is significant as a fine and externally intact example of a Victorian building with notable Classical detailing to the facade. (AHC criterion F.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;
Construction dates	1890,
Other Names	Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre,
Hermes Number	27334
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Fidelity Tent No.75 of the Independent Order of Rechabites hall is a single storey Victorian building built along its High Street boundary. The significant part of the building includes the facade and the surviving early section of the building between the street frontage and the modern addition, which is set back from the street.

The east (High Street) elevation has cement rendered Corinthian pilasters that divide the elevation into three narrow bays. The central bay contains an arched entrance with a pair of panelled timber doors. The bricks flanking this entrance are splayed at their corners. Early '251' metal numbering is extant on the head of the door and above this, on a glazed fanlight window, the letters 'MRC' have been painted. In the bays flanking the central bay are plain timber double-hung sash windows with segmental arched heads. There is a similar window on the building's north elevation. The facade is embellished with various elements including cement render wreaths below the parapet and mouldings above the door and windows on the east elevation. The surviving section is in good condition and appears to have a relatively high degree of external integrity.

*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/>*