
HO115 - Rockbank Community Hall



Rockbank Community Hall

Location

(Lot 3, LP 7311) Leakes Road ROCKBANK, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO115

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall, Leakes Road, Rockbank, has significance as an important social centre for the local community, and as a mostly intact example of an interwar hall building.

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although the front flat roofed, brick toilet wing has been introduced and does not enhance the significance of the place, the hall still demonstrates original design qualities for an interwar building. These qualities include the long gable roof form clad in green painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel and the broad eaves. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, regular bays of timber framed

double hung windows at the sides, and the decorative gable infill (timber brackets and timber shingling).

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It expresses the movement for education and self improvement, and an informed participatory democracy which swept across Victoria in the latter nineteenth century and into the early decades of the twentieth century, as well as a need for facilities for entertainment and community life in rural towns. It also represents community life in an era before electronic communication and the motor car became widespread, and when municipalities responsibilities were limited to provision of physical infrastructure services.

The Mechanics' Institute / Hall has played an important role in the story of Rockbank social life, and in the development of its learning, culture, entertainment, celebration, commemoration, and community groups.

The building, with its distinctive inter-war architecture, also expresses a major era of growth in the Rockbank district and township following the break-up of the massive Clarke estate. It is one of only three remaining buildings (with the post office, and a private dwelling) of eight that represented the core of the town in the late 1930s. Its context of sugar gums and peppercorn tree plantings also contributes to this historic context.

The Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G.1). It is recognised and valued by the local community of cultural and recreational reasons.

Overall, the Rockbank Mechanics' Institute / Community Hall, Leakes Road, is of LOCAL significance.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007; |
| Construction dates | 1920, |
| Other Names | Leakes Road, Rockbank. (Lot 3, LP 7311), Rockbank Mechanics' Institute, |
| Hermes Number | 30265 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The Rockbank Community Hall, Leakes Road, Rockbank, is set close to the road. The horizontal timber weatherboard interwar hall building is characterised by a long gable roof form clad in green painted and lapped galvanised corrugated steel. At the rear is an additional gable that houses the kitchen/supper area. An introduced flat roofed brick toilet block at the front detracts noticeably from the significance of the building.

Internally the timber floors, lining boards, and ceiling all appear to be in good condition. The stage and decorative arch are still intact, as are the original air vents in the walls. The kitchen facilities are in good condition and the toilet block at the front is fairly new.

Broad overhangs are a feature of the early hall, as are the regular bays of timber framed double hung windows. Early features of the design include the decorative gable infill of timber brackets and timber shingling, which is in poor condition. The horizontal bank of timber framed windows in the gable end may have been introduced as were the four brick buttresses along the south side. The new skillion entry porch is very unsympathetic.

Its setting close to the road enhances its contribution to a small historic precinct in Rockbank. It is one of three old buildings, which includes an adjacent turn of the century era double-fronted weatherboard house, and the Rockbank General Store / Post Office, which although significantly altered, includes an early-mid twentieth century corrugated iron shed set on the road. It also has a context of old trees, including an avenue of sugar

gums, adjacent peppercorn trees and new landscaping at the front.

Integrity

Integrity - Mostly intact.

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

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/>