

FISH CREEK MEMORIAL HALL & FREE LIBRARY



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Fish Creek Memorial Hall



Fish Creek Memorial Hall



Fish Creek Memorial Hall interior



Honour Roll



Fish Creek Memorial Hall 1959 Supper Room addition



image29

Location

13 FALLS ROAD, FISH CREEK, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

What is significant?

The Fish Creek Memorial Hall & Free Library, designed by T.E. Molloy and constructed by Cunningham and Smith in 1930, at 13 Falls Road, Fish Creek is significant. It is a simple gabled brick hall with a cinema projection ('bio') box as a smaller projecting gable (with a 'blind' or covered over window) over the entry portico, which is supported on concrete Tuscan columns standing on rendered pedestals at either side. Below the portico are double timber entrance doors, with the door to the bio-box at left and a small window at right. The portico entrance is flanked by matching hipped side rooms with paired sets of multi-pane metal windows and a square brick and render chimney with a terracotta pot. There are similar high-set windows in the east side elevation, some of which retain original panes of blue-tinted glass. The hall has a steel roof frame, presumably carried on the bottom chords of the trusses, which are visible in the exposed eaves. The undercroft and base is in reinforced concrete. Internally, the decoration of the hall is relatively plain. There is a dado and plastered walls capped by ornamental cornices below a barrel-vaulted ceiling with heavy plaster moulds and boxes. The hall contains a collection of honour boards for the Fish Creek district including World War I 1914-19, World War II 1939-45, Vietnam 1962-1973, and the Fish Creek Branch of the Australian Natives Association (No.213) 1914-1919. The 1959 supper room addition and other alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Fish Creek Memorial Hall is of local historic, social, architectural and aesthetic significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

It is historically and socially significant as a building that is associated with the growth of the Fish Creek district after World War I, and for its continuous use by the community for over 80 years. It is also significant as a World War I memorial and demonstrates the desire for memorials to have lasting community benefit as well as commemorative meaning. (Criteria A & G)

It is significant as a typical example of an architect-designed hall of the interwar period, which is distinguished from earlier halls by the inclusion of a bio-box for the showing of motion pictures as an integral part of the design. It is also of note for its associations with local architect, T.E. Molloy, who designed several public and town halls in South Gippsland. Aesthetically, it is a landmark building that contributes to the historic character of Falls Road precinct in Fish Creek. (Criteria D, E & H)

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | South Gippsland - Amendment C92 Heritage Review, David Helms Heritage Planning, 2014; South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004; |
| Construction dates | 1930, 1930, 1930, |
| Architect/Designer | Molloy, TE, |
| Other Names | -, |
| Hermes Number | 30578 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

The Fish Creek Memorial Hall & Free Library, as constructed in 1930, is a simple gabled brick hall with a cinema projection ('bio') box as a smaller projecting gable (with a 'blind' or covered over window) over the entry portico, which is supported on concrete Tuscan columns standing on rendered pedestals at either side. Below the portico are double timber entrance doors, with the door to the bio-box at left and a small window at right. The portico entrance is flanked by matching hipped side rooms with paired sets of multi-pane metal windows and a square brick and render chimney with a terracotta pot. There are similar high-set windows in the east side elevation, some of which retain original panes of blue-tinted glass. The hall has a steel roof frame, presumably carried on the bottom chords of the trusses, which are visible in the exposed eaves. The undercroft and base is in reinforced concrete. Internally, the decoration of the hall is relatively plain. There is a dado and plastered walls capped by ornamental cornices below a barrel-vaulted ceiling with heavy plaster moulds and boxes. The hall contains a collection of honour boards for the Fish Creek district including World War I 1914-19, World War II 1939-45, Vietnam 1962-1973, and the Fish Creek Branch of the Australian Natives Association (No.213) 1914-1919.

The 1930 hall has a relatively high degree of intactness and integrity, both externally and internally. Externally, the windows in the west side elevation have been replaced, and the false gable end on the portico is a later addition, covering/replacing the original masonry parapet. Brick additions have been made on both the west and east sides behind the anterooms to accommodate new toilet facilities and disabled access ramps added at the rear. Internally, the colour scheme has been changed and some decorative and other features have been removed (e.g. tiled border to the dado, decoration around the stage, and the 'automated folding doors'). The stairs to the left of the stage have also been removed to provide access to the supper room addition.

The 1959 supper room addition continues the gabled roofline. It is distinguished by the windows, which lack the concrete lintels and sills of the 1930 hall. The large metal-framed windows in the east elevation are original, while those in the west elevation have been replaced.

The Fish Creek Memorial Hall is a landmark building within the historic Falls Road commercial precinct.

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/>