
KORUMBURRA MASONIC LODGE



Korumburra Masonic Temple
(2020)



Korumburra Masonic Temple
(2000)

Location

25 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 7, 2022

What is significant?

The Korumburra Masonic Temple, at 25 Bridge Street, Korumburra, built by Neil Falconer in 1905 and altered and extended in 1932, is significant. It is a large brick building with concealed gabled roofs behind a symmetrical rendered facade. The facade features two projecting bays which have stepped profiles, each with paired fluted pilasters and bands with triangulated Art Deco detailing including Egyptian style wave and sun motifs to the parapets. The bay to the left has paired entry doors, while the bay to the right has a blind opening. The same rendered details are used on the main facade behind. Other contributory features include:

- Rendered sign panel 'Korumburra Masonic Lodge'
- Masonic symbols above the two central openings.
- Any remaining 1905 features

Non-original alterations and additions are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Korumburra Masonic Temple is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Korumburra Masonic Lodge was the first to be established in the Shire and played an important role in the early development of masonic lodges in Gippsland by sponsoring several of the lodges established in other towns. The size of the temple demonstrates the importance of Freemasonry in the cultural life of Victorian towns in the early twentieth century and as one of the major Masonic Lodges in South Gippsland Shire. The 1932 additions demonstrate the significant growth of Freemasonry after World War II. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the 1932 Art Deco facade shows the influence of Moderne, Egyptian Revival and Stripped Classical style and demonstrates the eclecticism that characterises architecture of the late 1920s and early 1930s.

Additionally, the decorations on the facade illustrate the Freemasons' interest in Egyptian culture and history. As a substantial and distinctive building situated on prominent location at a key intersection within Korumburra, it is an historic landmark within the town. (Criterion E)

The building has social value for its use as a Masonic Temple for over 110 years and its demonstration of the strength of Freemasonry within the South Gippsland community. (Criterion G)

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004; |
| Construction dates | 1905, 1932, 1905, 1932, 1905, 1932, |
| Other Names | -, thematic, Masonic Hall, |
| Hermes Number | 30659 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

The Korumburra Masonic Temple is a pair of attached half hipped brick halls constructed in 1905 facing Bridge Street. The 1932 facade is of rendered brick in art deco style with Egyptian form. Two wide pylons with paired fluted pilasters are located to reflect the peaks of the roofs behind and the parapets are decorated with typical triangulated art deco bands featuring wave and sun motifs. The entries are located in the pylons and some openings are either blind or bricked up at a later date.

The use of Egyptian themes in the 1932 facade demonstrates the interest of Freemasons in ancient Egyptian mysteries and ritual. Egyptian inspired decorative themes can be found at other Masonic Temples in Victoria such as the Freemasons Hall at Piper Street, Kyneton.

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/>