
Heathcote Masonic Temple



204192_Heathcote_High Street_082_img01

Location

82 High Street, HEATHCOTE VIC 3523 - Property No 204192

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO760

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Masonic Temple, at 82 High Street, Heathcote, including all the fabric of the 1859 building, the red brick hall and the 1929 brick and render facade, is significant. The post WWII additions at the rear are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Masonic Temple, at 82 High Street, Heathcote is of historic, social and architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The Masonic Temple is historically significant for its association with James Crowle who was granted the contract for construction and he may have built the place with his brother, John Crowle. The Crowles were prominent members of the Heathcote community. Other works associated with James Crowle include roads, buildings at the Government Camp and the surveyor's office at Heathcote, the school at Redcastle, the Federal Hall and the hospital at Heathcote. James Crowle also served as a Councillor for Heathcote during the 1890s.

Criterion A

The Masonic Temple is historically and socially significant as a purpose-built and continuously occupied Masonic building. The foundation stone was laid on 31st December 1859 and the building opened in a ceremony held on the 2nd March 1860. Repairs were carried out in 1876, and in 1929 additions to the front of the Temple completed the building in its present form. The Masonic Temple is socially significant, and the survival of the lodge for over 140 years emphasises its important role in the Heathcote community, as a venue and meeting place. *Criterion G*

The Lodge is architecturally important as an essentially intact Masonic structure, expressly designed for lodge purposes. The restrained classical facade of the building is illustrative of the Classicism style favoured by the Masons and many of their halls reflect this austerity. The rear of this building indicates that an earlier stone building existed extending to about half the width of the existing street frontage. This is likely to be the 1859 building designed by Sandhurst Architect Arthur Hartley and built by James Crowle. The brick and rendered facade was constructed in 1929 to a design by prominent Melbourne architect Harry A Norris as a means of tying the buildings together. The facade presents a unified street elevation and emphasises the lodge's presence in the town. The interior has not been inspected. *Criterion D*

Precinct statement of significance

Eaglehawk Precinct comprises:

Eaglehawk High Street Commercial: Eaglehawk includes many of the built and landform elements typifying the local life of a nineteenth century mining community. Most of the buildings were created in the principal era of reef mining. They cover the range of such buildings which would have normally constituted town centres across the goldfields.

In the case of Eaglehawk the unusual road pattern and the manner in which the Town hall and Mechanics Institute sit within a Y- intersection and as well the slope of the land down towards this reserve when approached from Bendigo give a more forceful expression to the patterns seen in other gold towns. The centre of Eaglehawk with its solid commercial structures, its public buildings, its range of houses and its street patterns faithfully reflects the intimate and energetic life of a mining township.

Eaglehawk High Street Civic: A small precinct, it nevertheless provides the other end to the strong visual link, down High Street, which starts at the town hall. It contains the most architecturally ambitious group of buildings in Eaglehawk and encapsulates the religious, social and educational themes of the community. It also includes those buildings which, by their nature, differ visually from the rest of the precinct both in scale, materials and siting (given greater vacant land areas for each site).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Former Shires of Mclvor and Strathfieldsaye Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2008;
Construction dates	1859, 1929,
Architect/Designer	Hartley, Arthur, Norris, Harry A,
Hermes Number	32760

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The Masonic Hall at 82 High Street presents a restrained classical facade to the street. Classicism was favoured by the Masons and many of their halls reflect this austerity. The rear of this building indicates that an earlier stone building existed extending to about half the width of the existing street frontage. This is likely to be the 1859 building built by James Crowle. Crowle was also responsible for the construction of the surveyor's office at 178 High Street in 1853.

An adjacent red brick hall was constructed next door and as a means of tying in the two buildings and presenting a unified street elevation, the brick and rendered facade was constructed in 1929. This was to the design of Melbourne Architect Harry A Norris. Greek ornament is displayed in the wave frieze on the parapet and the scroll beneath each window. The windows have low sill levels in comparison with many other Masonic halls that tends to rely on small high level windows for light. Early sketches of the final design demonstrate that a side window has been filled in at some stage. Above the cornice mould in is a pair of urns.

The original building is now used as a supper room. The rear of this building is post WWII and is not of interest.

Precinct Description

General Precinct Description :

Distributed around High Street, the main commercial area, the residential section of this precinct is mainly mid to late 19th century and Edwardian, being clad with both brick and weatherboard.

The residential streetscapes include parts of Panton and Victoria Streets but the most outstanding part of this section is the villa group in Church Street opposite the equally impressive Eaglehawk State School. This area possesses both civic and residential sites of a high significance, including the former Methodist Church and the Anglican Church at the Haggard Street corner of High Street.

The commercial strip is typical of the era, with two-storey parapeted forms, some with verandahs and added cast-iron detail (Victoria Hotel). It leads eventually to the official focus of the precinct, at the bottom of the incline, being the Eaglehawk Town Hall and other public and government structures. This group complements the nearby Canterbury Gardens as the civic show piece of the area.

Further up Sailors Gully Road is an old shopping strip also with high integrity to its development era which backs onto the sports ground with its notable Edwardian grandstand.

Eaglehawk Commercial Precinct

Roof Form: Parapeted.

Scale: One, some two-storey. Wall Materials: Stucco, some face brick (red, cream detail) Roof Materials: Concealed, some corrugated iron. Siting: Attached.

Development Period. Mid-late Victorian, some Edwardian. Contributory Streets: High, Pegleg, Sailors Gully.

Gaining its focus from the government buildings complex in Brassey Square, High Street's corner buildings are fortunately near intact to the precinct's development period. Typically two-storey and deriving from a conservative revival of Italian Renaissance architecture, these key sites include the Camp Hotel (1865), the two former banks (of New South Wales and Victoria) and the grand Victoria Hotel with its highly ornamental verandah. Other outstanding buildings include the former U.F.S. Dispensary (54-56) and the two-storey 47-49 High Street.

In Sailors Gully Road, old shops (10-12) and one defunct hotel (Prince of Wales) and another active hotel (Court House Hotel) sited opposite its 1869 namesake, separating this all but forgotten part of the Eaglehawk commercial area from the rest, is the notable botanical gardens gateway and former tram shelter.

The town hall, war memorial and post office link with the individually significant shop and residence at 2 Pegleg Road (q.v.).

Eaglehawk Civic Precinct

Roof Forms: Gabled, parapeted. Scale: Two-storey equivalent. Wall Materials: Stucco, brick. Roof Materials: Slate.

Siting: Detached.

Development Period: Mid-late Victorian.

Physical Conditions

Good

Integrity

High

Historical Australian Themes

8 Building community life

8.4 Forming community organisations

Physical Description 2

Precinct Description

Contributing Street Eaglehawk Commercial Precinct:

High Street

Contributing Streets Eaglehawk Civic Precinct:

High, Church.

Physical Description 3

Precinct Description

Eaglehawk Commercial Precinct:

John Rule's butchers' shop, 2 Peg Leg Road, 1894-

Eaglehawk Town Hall, Sailors Gully Road, 1901

Log lock-up (relocated), Sailors Gully Road, 1857

Bank of Victoria, 9 High Street, 1865-

Anderson's Camp Hotel, 35 High Street, 1865

Oddfellows Hall, 26 High Street, 1904

Bank of NSW, 37 High Street, 1866-

Oriental Bank, 54-6 High Street, 1861-

Eaglehawk Civic Precinct:

St. Peter's Anglican Church, High Street, 1862

East Methodist Church, former, 64 High Street, 1865

Eaglehawk Masonic society's Eaglehawk Masonic Hall Church Street 1873Victorian

Colonial Government's Eaglehawk Primary School No. 210

Church Street 1884-

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/>