

# BALLARAT TRADES HALL



BALLARAT TRADES HALL SOHE 2008



1 ballarat trades hall camp street ballarat front elevation



ballarat trades hall camp street ballarat close up she project 2003



ballarat trades hall rear view



H0657 BALLARAT TRADES HALL LHA 2015 1.JPG



H0657 BALLARAT TRADES HALL LHA 2015 2.JPG



H0657 BALLARAT TRADES HALL LHA 2015 3.JPG

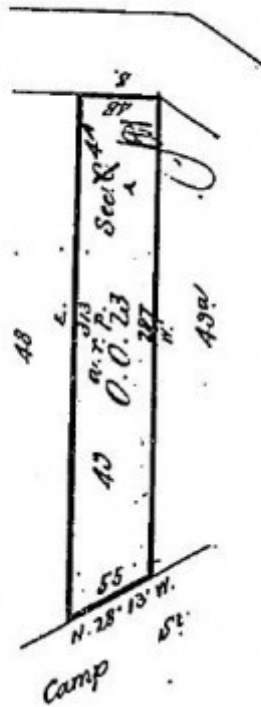


H0657 BALLARAT TRADES HALL LHA 2015 4.JPG



H0657 BALLARAT TRADES HALL LHA 2015 5.JPG

EXTENT OF DESIGNATION  
(SUMMARY)



h00657 plan h0657

**Location**

24 CAMP STREET BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

**Municipality**

BALLARAT CITY

**Level of significance**

Registered

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0657

**Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO20

**VHR Registration**

March 11, 1987

**Heritage Listing**

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 24, 1999

The Ballarat Trades Hall was constructed in 1887-88 as meeting place for Ballarat's trade unions and as offices for the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council. It is a three-storey brick building set on a sharply angled site. Its rendered facade is executed in a grandiose mannerist design using giant Corinthian orders and broken pediments. The hall is located on the ground floor with offices at the front and the central bluestone stair leads to more office space on the 1st floor and a meeting room on the second. With the exception of the facade, the building is simple, functional and unadorned.

The building was designed by prolific Ballarat architects, James and Piper, and built by local contractors, Leech and Outtrim, at a cost of £2,128. Only Ballarat tradesmen were allowed to work on its construction.

The Ballarat unions associated with the new building had a long history of industrial and political activity in colonial Victoria. As early as 6 May 1856, building workers achieved an eight-hour day, two weeks after the success of the Melbourne stonemasons. Other craft unions followed suit and many successes were achieved in the next decade. The depression of the 1870s and the establishment of a structured society in Ballarat jeopardised those earlier won conditions and resulted in the formation of the United Eight Hours Association in July 1874.

The association held their meetings at the Buck's-Head Hotel in Bridge Street. In 1883 a procession commemorating the eight hours day was inaugurated and the organising committee developed into the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council in the same year. The procession became one of Ballarat's major festivals and its profits funded the construction of the Trades Hall in 1887.

The Ballarat Trades Hall reflected the growing status of organised labour in this industrial labour in this industrial city and in the colony generally. In April 1891, it was the venue for the Seventh Inter-Colonial Trades Union Congress held during the eight hours anniversary celebrations. This congress, the first to be held outside of a capital city, was the largest and most influential of the pre-federation union congress and it firmly established the moves to form the Victorian Labor Party.

The Ballarat Trades Hall remains largely intact and is of significance because of its particular associations with the 8-hours movement and the formation of the Victorian Labor Party, as a physical manifestation of the drive in the last century to establish unionism as an integral part of Victorian society and for its contribution on the historic townscape of Ballarat.

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1887,             |
| Architect/Designer      | James & Piper,    |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Hermes Number           | 62                |
| Property Number         |                   |

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## Plaque Citation

Designed by the Ballarat architects James & Piper, built in 1887-8, and continuously used since then as a

meeting place and offices for Ballarat's trade unions, this grand Victorian Mannerist style building reflects the growing status of organised labour in Victoria.

## **Extent of Registration**

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Now therefore His Excellency the Governor of the State of Victoria, by and with the advice of the Executive Council thereof, doth hereby amend the Register of Historic Buildings in the manner and to the extent shown as follows, by adding - Historic Building No. 648, Royal South Street Memorial Theatre, Lydiard Street South, Ballarat (to the extent of the whole of the Memorial Theatre Building and the whole of the land in Certificate of Title, Vol. the whole of the land in Certificate of Title, Vol.4306 Fol. 123)

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 10 11 March 1987 558]

*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/>*