

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 14/10/19



FORMER MINING EXCHANGE



FORMER MINING EXCHANGE SOHE
2008



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1 former mining exchange ballarat front
view oct1980



former mining exchange ballarat detail
from front entrance oct1980

Location

8-14 LYDIARD STREET NORTH BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0391

Heritage Overlay Numbers

VHR Registration

November 10, 1976

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 5, 2004

What is significant?

The Mining Exchange building was constructed in Lydiard Street, Ballarat in 1887-9. Foundation stones for this building, the Fine Art Gallery and the Old Colonists Association building, all in this section of Lydiard Street, were laid on 21 June 1887, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Day. It was designed by the local architect C. D. Figgis, and replaced an earlier stock exchange established at the corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets. As early as 1857, the buying and selling of shares took place as a result of the formation of mining companies, necessary to finance the costly deep sinking of mines. Groups combined to provide funds and shares were made available to the general public. As a result a new class of person arose whose livelihood was in the dealing of shares.

The Mining Exchange building comprises a two storey block of shops at the front and a large single storey exchange hall at the rear. A central entrance in the symmetrical front facade leads to the main exchange hall, which is itself flanked internally by arcaded brokers' booths with arched clerestorey windows above, and a call room at the rear. The bull nose, corrugated iron roof of the main hall is supported on light trusses, principally formed of tension rods. Internally a bow fronted balcony projects above the entrance, set within an open elliptical archway with matching archways either side.

Designed in the typical classical 'boom' style of the late 1880s, the facade of this dark brick building utilises render to provide contrast. Shops are paired either side of a central wide elliptical entrance and prominent rusticated arches dominate the facade at street level. At first floor level, modified Palladian motifs form openings with emphasis placed on that of the central bay. A pedimented window and pediment placed centrally in the balustraded parapet above further emphasise the central bay.

The original single storey verandah was removed in 1964, however this was reinstated in 1986, based on the plans and details of the original.

How is it significant?

The former Mining Exchange building is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Mining Exchange building is of architectural significance as an important example of 'boom style' classicism employed in the 1880s. Its planning and form are almost unique and the detailing of the exchange is unusual and highly distinctive. It is an example of the work of local architect, C. D. Figgis, who designed a variety of buildings in Ballarat.

The former Mining Exchange building is of historical significance as one of the few mining exchanges extant in Australia. The only comparable building is that at Charters Towers, which displays similar elements, however is a much smaller example. The Mining Exchange building is illustrative of a fundamental part of Ballarat's early history and as such provides a direct link with Ballarat's gold mining era. It is illustrative of Ballarat's critical role in the development of the Stock Exchange in Victoria, as gold discoveries in the 1850s provided the opportunity for the maturity of business and industry through the floatation of companies.

The former Mining Exchange building is representative of the peak of building in gold-rich Ballarat in the late 1880s, corresponding to the boom in Melbourne. The building forms an important element in the townscape of Ballarat and, together with surrounding buildings, forms an important nineteenth century streetscape in Victoria. [Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

Permit Exemptions

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1887,
Architect/Designer	Figgis, Charles Douglas,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	70
Property Number	

History

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formed of tension rods. Internally a bow fronted balcony projects above the entrance, set within an open elliptical archway with matching archways either side.

The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:

Jacobs, Lewis, Vines and Aitken. *Ballarat: a guide to buildings and areas 1851-1940*. Melbourne 1981

Jacobs Lewis Vines *Ballarat Conservation Study* 1978

W. B. Withers. *History of Ballarat*. Ballarat 1887

Conservation Management Plan, Ballarat Mechanics Institute (including Old Mining Exchange)

Plaque Citation

Former Mining Exchange is registered by Heritage Council Victoria

This flamboyant example of Boom Period architecture was built to a design by John Figgis between 1887-1889. It is one of the few remaining mining exchange buildings in Australia.

Extent of Registration

No. 391 The Former Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 95 November 10, 1976 p.3273]

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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>