

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Brimpaen Hall and Memorial Gates
Address: 157 Brimpaen - Laharum Road BRIMPAEN
Place Type: Hall Public ,War Memorial
Citation Date: 2022



Brimpaen Hall 2013, Brimpaen - Laharum Road Brimpaen

**Recommended
Heritage Protection** **VHR -**

HI -

PS
Yes

Integrity

Brimpaen Hall and Memorial Gates
Hermes No 186055

Heritage Citation Report
29-Aug-2023 02:23 PM

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Moderate to good integrity - windows replaced with aluminium frames 1954, walls re-clad c1960+ with metal siding. Hall still operational and marker of community from 1922 to present.

History and Historical Context

A committee was formed in April 1922 to supervise the planning and construction of a public hall for the Brimpaen district. R Matthews was elected as chairman with H Dore acting as both secretary and treasurer. The committee set a target of £160 to cover materials and construction costs, with funds raised through public donations. A subscription list published in *The Horsham Times* documents that approximately £162 3s 6d was pledged by fifty individuals and Horsham based businesses. Some local residents generously donated as much as £10 per family.

Although the committee soon reached their target they were nonetheless eager to reduce costs, with the district's residents recorded as 'felling and hauling hardwood logs to Ludke's sawmill at Brimpaen' for use in the hall.[1]

An 11 acre parcel of land was selected adjacent to the Brim Springs State School No. 2525. Construction of the hall took place over a 12 day period in late October 1922, with Mr Tom Oulton, from Horsham, engaged to oversee works and manage the enthusiastic local volunteer labour force. The completed building measured 48 ft by 24ft and was clad in weatherboards with three large doors, seven windows and a Queensland myrtle wood floor.[2]

The opening ceremony was held on 30 November 1922. The *Horsham Times* published the following account of the event:

Thursday night will long be remembered by the residents of Brimpaen, when the public hall was officially opened by Mr. A. S. Rodgers, Minister of Customs. The hall was packed to its utmost, many having to remain outside. Over 300 people had assembled to join in the jollifications. Amongst those present were to be seen visitors from Pimpinio, Horsham, East Wonwondah, Jalumba, Dadswell Bridge, Glenisla and other closer districts. Mr. R. Matthews (chairman of the hall committee) presided, and in a brief speech introduced Mr. Rodgers, who, after congratulating the residents on their splendid effort in building a hall of this kind and of having a credit balance in hand, said he had very great pleasure in declaring it opened. Cr. Anderson (Mayor of Horsham), who was present, also congratulated the residents on their achievement.

The correspondent also recorded the festivities that followed the ceremony, noting that:

once the official business was over musical items were rendered by Misses Anderson, McClounan, Messrs. Frencham, Prideau Oates. Mrs Frencham acted as accompanist. Mr. Mutton amused the audience with his humorous recitations. The catering was in the hands of our old and esteemed friend, Mr. Culliver, who in his usual capable way carried out his-duties excellently. His large marquee had-been erected in close proximity to the hall, and here for a couple of hours or more he, with voluntary helpers, was kept busy supplying the wants of the inner being. Mr. Chas. Culliver was in charge of the soft drink booth, and did a roaring trade, this being very much appreciated by all. Dancing was brisk until 3 o'clock, when each-and-all began to think of home.[3]

The hall became a meeting place for Brimpaen's many community groups and organisations, as well as a venue for both Church of England and Presbyterian church services.

The Brimpaen Soldiers' Welfare Club met at the hall and staged farewell and welcome-home presentations for World War 2 servicemen of the district.

The club also organised a roll of honor and memorial commemorating the supreme sacrifice made by Brimpaen and district servicemen in World War 1 and 2.[4] The granite memorial gates erected at the entrance to the hall

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

were dedicated by Canon Fettell, Vicar and Rural Dean of Horsham, Church of England Horsham on December 4 1949. The *Horsham Times* described the occasion:

About 150 residents of the Brimpaen district attended the dedication ceremony of the war memorial gates at the entrance to the Brimpaen Hall on Sunday. The gates were erected by the residents of Brimpaen in honor of servicemen from the Brimpaen district who lost their lives in World Wars 1 and 2. The dedication ceremony was performed by the Rev. Canon N. S. Fettell. Civic representatives were the President of the Arapiles Shire Council (Cr.L. McDonald). Cr. V. R. Lawrence (Horsham City Council), Cr. J. C. M. Carter (Wimmera Shire), and Mr. I. Anderson represented the Horsham R.S.L. The posts of the gates are of granite and have a tablet attached to each. One tablet has the following inscription: Dedicated by the people of Brimpaen in honor of those who gallantly gave their lives in World Wars 1 and 2. The other bears the names of the following servicemen: World War 1, M. Matthews, P. Smith, J. Twatt, R. Carter. C. Smith. G. McDonald, D. McTavish, G. Bowden, H. Hann and H. Wickham. World War 2, A. McGennissen and W. Boak. The tablet with the names was wrapped by the Union Jack and was unveiled by Mr. H. Smith.[5]

In the *Brimpaen Centenary 1880 - 1980* (1980) author Bill Kurtze provides a chronology of alterations and improvements to the building and surrounds:

1925 WW1 Honour Roll moved to hall from school;

1927 Piano purchased;

1928 Rear skillion constructed to house cloak and supper room;

1930 Stage constructed;

1935 12 Eucalyptus cladocalyx (Sugar Gum) trees established as perimeter plantings;

1945 Porch constructed;

1949 Lighting plant instated, driven by petrol engine;

1952 Supper room extended by 22 ft by 14 ft;

1954 New windows were installed, concrete entrance steps constructed, a new chimney and woodshed erected and the exterior of the hall and outbuildings were painted. Funds raised through euchre parties and dances at hall. The *Horsham Times* also records that a 'beautifully framed painted portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II - a gift from Mrs Arthur Matthews' was presented to residents of Brimpaen to be exhibited in the hall;

1958 New floor installed in hall

1966 Electricity connected at Brimpaen, celebration at Hall to mark event;

1971 Construction of toilet block

1975 Refurbished ceiling in hall;

1979 Verandah on east elevation constructed.

Following the closure of the adjacent Brimpaen State School in the 1980s, the Brimpaen Public Hall has endured as an important focal point for the Brimpaen Community.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Footnotes:

[1] *Horsham Times*, 19 May 1922, p 6; 4 July 1922, p 3, Kurtze, *Brimpaen Centenary 1880 - 1980*, p. 17

[2] Kurtze, p. 17; *Horsham Times*, Friday 6 October 1922, p 2, Friday 3 November 1922, p 6

[3] *Horsham Times*, 5 December 1922, p 6

[4] *Horsham Times*, Friday 28 July 1950, pg. 9

[5] *Horsham Times*, Tuesday 6 December 1949, pg. 5

Description

Physical Description

Single storey, hall with CGI clad gable roof, enclosed entry porch and lean-to supper room/ toilets/ kitchen to rear and side. Brick chimney and hearth remains to supper room. Later shed and deep verandah attached to side of hall (at rear). Hall is clad with metal profiled siding (post 1960s) replacing/ concealing original weatherboard cladding. Interior of hall simple in decoration - wall cladding replaced, floorboards replaced (1958) and ceiling now suspended acoustic tile in finish. Memorial gates (granite pillars/ plaques, with wrought iron gates) extant to front of hall and plaque on rock located to side of hall, celebrating 100 years of Brimpaen settlement and soldier memorialisation (1980). Photographic honour board displayed inside the hall.

Physical Condition

Average to fair condition. Most finishes (inside and outside) have been renewed/ replaced. Original form of hall and interior still extant.

Memorial gates and structure in good condition.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria -

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural or natural history. (erected to service the growing farming community of Brimpaen - which was developing rapidly as a community in the interwar period - following the re-subdivision of early stations and farms)

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments. (community hall in district - one of many halls in the region - but representative of settlement and past population of the Brimpaen region)

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions. (community hall - used for recreation, schooling, church services and civic events - a key part of the past/present Brimpaen community in southern Horsham)

Comparative Analysis

Brimpaen Hall is a common building type across rural and regional Victoria. Comparison with halls in other Shires has not been undertaken, as its significance is clearly local in threshold and the structure is not of particular architectural merit. Comparison with other Horsham halls is discussed below. The hall is comparable

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

and represents community establishment/needs/growth in the southern section of the Shire of Horsham.

Sailors Home Hall, Murra Warra Hermes no. 186149: Sailors Home Hall - 1923 - framed construction - similar size/ construction - comparable - higher intactness though.

Jung Memorial Hall, Jung Hermes no. 186130: Jung Hall - erected 1926, reinforced concrete in construction - includes marble memorial boards on facade - similar in era to Brimpaen. Larger hall - has stage, balcony and backstage area - comparable.

Mitre Hall, Mitre Hermes no. 186146: Mitre Hall - erected 1915 - brick construction. Includes a stage and contemporary supper room - comparable.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the 1922 Brimpaen Hall, 157 Brimpaen-Laharum Road, Brimpaen include:

- . 1922 hall structure, entry porch, early supper room of 1928, WW1 memorial board (inside)
- . Memorial Gates at entry - granite pillars and wrought iron gates.

Exclusions: Later additions to supper room, attached store shed, verandah, later windows, chimney, metal wall cladding. Also, toilet block, shed, playground and BBQ facilities at this site.

How is it significant?

The 1922 Brimpaen Hall, Brimpaen, is of local historic and social significance to Horsham Rural City.

Why is it significant?

The 1922 Brimpaen Hall and memorial gates are:

. of local historical significance, illustrating the results of local regional growth in the early 20th century and in particular inter-war period - a boom period for agricultural development in the district. (Criteria A, D)

. of local social significance, illustrating the growing Brimpaen community's civic, educational, religious and recreational and community needs in the then outer Horsham district. The hall and gates are the only physical structures extant today in the Brimpaen locality. The memorial gates are also of social significance, memorialising the local community's contribution to WW1 and WWII. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Memorial gates - fence and pillars

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Prohibited uses may be permitted

No

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

References

Literature title: Article: 19th May 1922, page 6

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Article: 4 July 1922, p. 3

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Article: Friday 6 October 1922, p. 2

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Article: Friday 3 November 1922, p. 6

Literature type: Heritage Area Study

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Article: 5 December 1922, p. 6

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Article: December 1954, pg 5.

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher: Horsham Times

Literature year: 1922

Literature title: Brimpaen Centenary: 1880-1980

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Kurtze, Bill & Brimpaen Centenary Committee

Literature publisher: Brimpaen Centenary Committee, Brimpaen

Literature year: 1979

Literature title: Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria Vol. 2

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Blake L.J (ed.)

Literature publisher: Melbourne, Education Department of Victoria

Literature year: 1973

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.