

Andrew Ward

Architectural Historian

RSSILA Building

McLachlan Street, Horsham

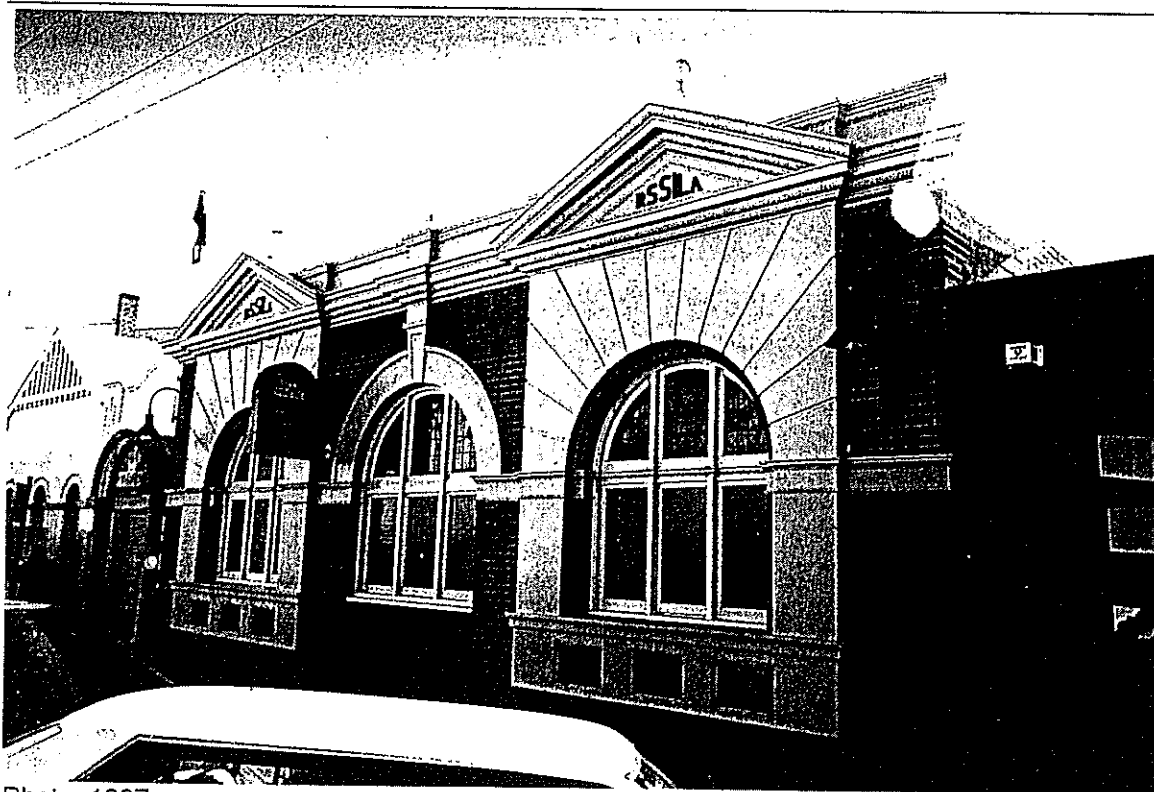


Photo: 1997

Existing Registrations:

Victorian Heritage Register: nil

National Estate Register: nil

National Trust Register: nil

History: The foundation stone for this building was laid on 22.1.1921. The architect was G.(?) Lucas and the builder W.E. McGregor.

Description: Though extended on both sides, the original Classical Revival building is in situ. The façade is symmetrical and consists of a central round arched window (former entry?) with flanking pavilions in stucco also having round arched windows with exaggerated voussoirs in the manner of the period and surmounting pediments. The body work is in red brick which contrasts with the stuccoed pavilions and dressings generally.

Integrity: High (façade)

Condition: Sound

Comparative examples:

Significance:

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Significance: The Reformed Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia (later known as the Reformed Soldiers League) building is of historic, aesthetic and social importance. It is historically (Criterion A) as a building erected immediately following the First World War and demonstrating the importance of the League at that time. It is aesthetically important (Criterion E) as a rare surviving Neo Classical building of the interwar period in the commercial centre, the symmetry of the design in conjunction with the Romanesque treatment being highly distinctive. It is socially important (Criterion G) as a building valued by the community and for its capacity to recall the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces at different times in the city's history.

References: Town of Horsham, Parish Plan, Department of Lands and Survey, 28.2 1928.
Horsham Sewerage Plan no.132, c.1927, amended June 1948.
Wimmera Masonic Lodge file, Horsham Historical Society.
Brian Brooke and Alan Finch, A Story of Horsham, A Municipal Century, City of Horsham, 1982, p. 235-6, 243-4.

Data sheet prepared by Andrew Ward 2/98