

Place Citation HO22
82 – 86 Nunn Street BENALLA

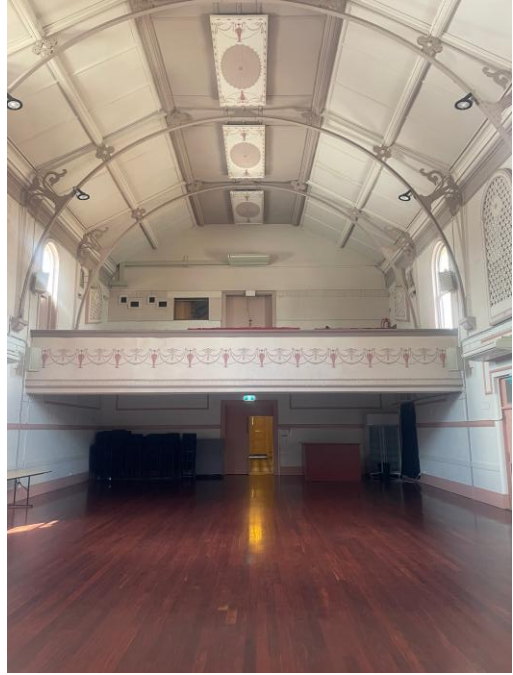
Address	82-86 Nunn Street, BENALLA		
Heritage Overlay	HO22		
Heritage Overlay Map			



Benalla Shire Hall 82 – 86 Nunn Street Benalla



Detail of balusters



View to the rear and gallery



View to the stage



Side elevation showing embellishments

Statement of Significance 1992

Source: <https://hermesorion.heritage.vic.gov.au/places/44459>

The former Benalla Shire hall is of regional significance for its role in the local government of the Shire since 1883 and is locally important as a prominent late nineteenth century public building. It is an important building in the Nunn Street precinct, further enhanced by its location opposite the National Bank (q.v.).

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared in accordance with the Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay, (2018)

Assessment against criteria

The following analysis is based on Victorian Government Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018).

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

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 (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla, the Benalla Shire Hall, is significant.

The context as provided by the setting which includes side and rear setbacks.

Significant fabric includes, but is not confined to:

- the original form, fabric and scale of the building;

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- architectural features found at the Shire Hall but not confined to: the stucco finish with a rusticated base and Italianate features that include: Tuscan columns; tri-partite windows; Palladian window; the pedimented central section and the parapet which features a circular stucco embellishment with console brackets and the date of construction.
- Internal fabric which includes the: slate staircase with cast iron balusters; upstairs balcony in the hall; stage area; metal trusses and the fine plaster embellishments and other decorative features.

The building is largely intact and has largely retained its integrity.

Alterations from the mid twentieth century and later are not significant.

How is it Significant?

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla, the Benalla Shire Hall is of local historical, aesthetic and social cultural heritage significance to the Benalla Rural City.

Why is it Significant?

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla, the Benalla Shire Hall is of historical significance as it provides evidence of the growing prosperity the establishment of Benalla during the late nineteenth century as an important regional city . (Criterion A)

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla, the Benalla Shire Hall is of historical significance for its internal alterations that were undertaken during the c1930s to provide a cinema for Benalla. Its role as a cinema during this period reflects the key period of early cinema development in Victoria. (Criterion A)

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla is of aesthetic significance for its striking civic architecture from the c1880s. The design and construction of the building is substantive. Features which include the: stucco finish with a rusticated base; Italianate features that include the Tuscan columns; tri-partite windows; Palladian window; the pedimented central section and the parapet which features a circular stucco embellishment with console brackets contribute to its aesthetic significance. The interior design which includes the: slate staircase with cast iron balusters; upstairs balcony in the hall; stage area; metal trusses and the fine plaster embellishments and other decorative features contributes to its aesthetic significance. (Criterion E)

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla through its scale and fine architectural expression is a key landmark building within the city and its environs. (Criterion E)

82-86 Nunn Street, Benalla is of social significance for its long-standing links with the community. This includes from its earliest days as the Benalla Shire Council offices, its twentieth century use as a cinema and today it continues to provide and support community activities. (Criterion G)

Additional Controls

External paint controls apply	Yes
Internal alteration controls apply	Yes

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Internal decorative detailing which includes the slate staircase with cast iron balusters, the decorative metal trusses; the balcony and all of the decorative plaster embellishments.	
Tree controls apply	No
Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	No
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No
Solar energy system controls apply	Yes

Description

An imposing two storeyed and stuccoed Italianate public building with symmetrical front elevation and central portico with balcony over. The portico has Tuscan columns and the lower level is rusticated with tri-partite windows. Above, "Palladian" windows flank the protruding central section which has a pediment surmounted by an unusual parapet treatment with circle enclosing "1881" in cast cement supported by consoles.

Inside, the foyer has been altered but the slate staircase with cast iron balusters and hall with balcony survive.

Place History

In 1882 Benalla's Municipal Chambers and Shire Hall were commenced on land acquired in Nunn Street, west side between Bridge and Church Streets. During the course of its construction it was decided to link the two buildings with a roofed stairway. Construction however was delayed due to the scarcity of bricks. Eventually contractors Gordon and Stephens were compelled to make the bricks themselves. William Salway, architect, subsequently urged Council to have the outside walls "cemented" because the irregularities of the bricks were not acceptable.

In 1883 Messrs Gordon and Watson were contracted to build the stairs and install ventilation. In 1883 the building was completed, the Council Chambers being two storeyed and measuring 16.2m x 13.4m (53' x 44'). The site was entered through iron gates.

In 1929 the Hall was extended to twice its length, the existing building being restumped and relined. Front doors and a concrete portico added to the Chambers which were also relined. Local architect, H.L. Hanlon drew the plans for the additions and alterations which were carried out by the Steven Brothers of Northcote. The interior was altered in the 1930s to in the Art Deco style and converted into a cinema. This use lasted until the 1950s.

In 1965 Benalla was proclaimed a City with new chambers built in Mair Street in 1958 (VHR H2189).

References:

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Bassett, J., and Dennis, J., *Benalla Sketched*, 2nd Ed. Neptune Press Pty Ltd, Newtown (Vic.) 1986, pp.36-39.

Benalla Standard 18 April, 28 July, Oct, 12 Dec. 1882. 27 April, 24 July, Aug. 1883, 29 Mar 1929, 12 Sept. 1887.