

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MEMORIAL HALL AND PARK

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Scott Street Barker Street CAVENDISH

STUDY NUMBER: 0437 **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

PRECINCT: Cavendish

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432J 5; VicRoads 228 J8; located on the south-east corner of Scott & Barker Streets in the centre of the township of Cavendish with the hall facing Barker Street.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Cavendish Memorial Hall, Barker Street, Cavendish

Image Date: 02/11/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the hall building including the interiors and memorial boards but excluding the interior of the southern extension, all the memorials and planting in the park and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Cavendish Memorial Hall is a single storey red brick hall with an unusual narthex across the front in the form of an arcade. This is cement rendered and painted pink with white details. The narthex incorporates seven arches, the three central arches being segmental the four outer being semi-circular, two in the facade and one each on the side elevations. The outer arches are filled in to form pavilions. The arches spring from simple stylised capitals above square piers. Above the arches is a low pediment with a shallow bell-shaped curve. The rising sun symbol of the AIF is in the centre of the pediment and below it there are the words "Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall" in raised sans-serif lettering. The front wall is face brick. The central door is bi-fold and has six panels. The windows on either side include pairs of double hung sashes and hopper windows above. Their sills and lintels are cement rendered and painted white. The windows are repeated in the north elevation. Those on the south elevation have been compromised by a large extension, recently remodelled, which now provides the main access to the hall. Internally the building has one main hall, an elevated stage and small rooms at the rear. The main hall has several traditional memorials on the wall. All are polished timber with gold lettering and some include photographs of those who served.

The park is located on the intersection of Scott and Barker Streets in Cavendish, in the centre of the township. The park has several memorial plantings, a large interactive paved map of Cavendish and a war memorial located in it, with accompanying symbolic plantings. The main war memorial is a tapering pylon of six dark grey granite blocks. It has two hollowed granite planter boxes at the sides and two shallow bluestone steps in front. Below a simple incised and gilded cross there is an dedicatory inscription to those who served from Cavendish and district and below that a list of eight names. The lettering is also gilded. The memorial is placed diagonally in the north-west corner of the park.

HISTORY:

The land on which the Memorial Hall and Park now stand, being allotments 1 and 20 of section 5 was allocated to A. R. Cruickshank and J. Fitzgerald in the preliminary survey of the Township of Cavendish. Alexander Donaldson's inn diagonally opposite is marked with a footprint of its plan. The Township Plan confirms that they purchased the land in 1852.

Andrew Rose Cruickshank was an early and important Port Phillip pioneer. He was born in 1820 and married Catherine Reid in Melbourne in 1842 (VPI, Reg. No. 716). He subsequently married Elizabeth Rickards in 1857 (ibid., Reg. No. 320, although de Serville gives her name as Annie). A Presbyterian, Cruickshank was a merchant in Melbourne and was elected an Member of the Legislative Council in the first Victorian parliament. Garryowen describes him as an "accountant" who, in 1844, saved a female servant's life when a chaise-cart overturned near Brighton (Garryowen, 897). Cruickshank had financial interests in several squatting runs including the nearby Wilderness and Melville Forest. Billis and Kenyon state that he died in February, 1859, but de Serville states that he died in 1889.

The identity of J. Fitzgerald is less certain. He may have been John Bryan Fitzgerald who, with his wife Mary, nee Kerr, the widow of Walter Birmingham, held Mullagh station north of Harrow as Fitzgerald and Co. from 1854 (B&K, 255). He died in died in 1871, aged 50 (VPI, Reg. No. 4016; de Serville, 470).

Robert Young laid the foundation stone of the present hall on Australia Day, 1924. Robert Young, a prominent local, was a long time proprietor of the Wannan or Cavendish General Store, and an advocate for the construction of the hall. The designer was Algernon Abbott MCE, Shire Engineer from 1901 to 1947, "possibly a record for service to a municipality in Australia", and the contractor was W Diwell (Dundas, 49-50).

The hall continues to be used for a wide range of public and community events and is the focus for community life for the township and district.

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THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3. Developing local, regional and national economies
3.21 Entertaining for profit

8. Developing Australia's cultural life
8.5 Forming associations
8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid
8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests
8.8 Remembering the fallen
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The hall is in good condition.
The war memorial and park are in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

Substantially intact complex, with a high degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Memorial Hall and Park are located in the centre of the township of Cavendish, on the north east corner of Scott and Barker Streets. The park contains several structures and plantings, including a war memorial with associated symbolic plantings, all of which is in excellent condition. The Memorial Hall is a single storey red brick hall with an unusual narthex incorporating seven arches across the front in the form of an arcade. The pediment has a symbol of the rising sun located in the centre and below it there are the words "Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall" in raised lettering. The southern elevation has been compromised by a large extension, recently remodelled, which now provides the main access to the hall. Internally the building has one main hall, an elevated stage and small rooms at the rear. The main hall has several traditional memorials on the wall. All are polished timber with gold lettering and some include photographs of those who served. The hall is in good condition, and the park and war memorial are in very good condition.

How is it significant?

The Memorial Hall and Park in Cavendish are of historical, architectural and social significance to the township of Cavendish and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Memorial hall and park are of historical significance as a prominent and well-used public building and public open space in a street that has been an important commercial thoroughfare and thus is a reminder of an earlier, more prosperous era of the town's history. The hall has additional historical significance for its association with those who have served and those who have fallen from the Cavendish area in World Wars One and Two. The Park is of a complimentary nature, providing further historical interest, as it has been created as a memorial park which houses the town's war memorial and symbolic memorial plantings. The complex is of social significance for the association with returned soldiers, and remembering those who have served and fallen in conflict. It is of further social importance for its role as an important local meeting place for over 80 years. The hall is of architectural significance for the unusual narthex incorporating seven arches across the front in the form of an arcade. This is a rare example of Interwar free classical architectural style in the Southern Grampians Shire.

COMPARISON:

0305 Memorial Hall, McLennan Street, Glenthompson
0163 Memorial Hall, Glendinning Street, Balmoral

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ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

27-Mar-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Garryowen	Chronicles of Early Melbourne	1888	865, 897
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	385
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	52-3, 255
Shire of Dundas	Dundas Shire Centenary 1863-1963	1963	49-50