

Foresters Hall Statement of Significance, December 2018

Heritage Place: Foresters Hall

PS ref no: HO293

52 Aitken Street, Gisborne

37°29'20.60" S, 144°35'26.01"E



Statement of Significance

▪ What is significant?

The Foresters Hall is significant to the extent of the gable roofed hall and porch and its presentation to the public realm. It does not include landscaping, the rear or side additions nor the interior.

▪ How is it significant?

The Foresters Hall is locally significant aesthetically, architecturally, historically and socially to the Shire of Macedon Ranges.

▪ Why is it significant?

- The Foresters Hall is significant aesthetically as a unique traditional building feature within Gisborne town centre, which provides a concise impression of the scale of the township in its early years. (Criterion E)
- The Foresters Hall is significant architecturally as a traditional, simple solution to the universal requirement for a place of assembly. The built solution proved by the hall is a classic and universal form in rural Victoria and Australia. Its simplicity is reflective of the non-profit nature of the Ancient Order of Foresters. (Criterion E)
- The Foresters Hall is significant historically and socially as a reflection of a world-wide (although Empire focused) movement to provide social and financial assistance to the needy. This in turn was a reflection on the increasing need for assistance to those less well off in the society. This was a privately sponsored solution to a community need at a time when other – more philosophically oriented – solutions were being developed, e.g. socialism, communism, long before governments accepted any responsibilities in this area. (Criterion A, G)

Primary Source

Gisborne and Kyneton Heritage Study, December 2018.