

Place name Mechanics' Institute (Former) - Sale College	Survey Date: 4/07/2004
Other name James Coverdale Building, Macalister Secondary College	Id: 1169
Street 125 to 141 York Street	Last Update 4/10/2004
Locality Sale	Postcode
Official Locality	Property No
Local Government Area Wellington Shire	
Precinct: Precinct - Sale Town Centre	
Easting	Northing
Map	
Workshop number	Workshop votes
Field survey number	Community priority
Designer	Builder
Ownership Public	Built Date 1891 Change Date

Description Location : Complex located on the corner of York Street and Macalister Street. The former 1891 Mechanics Institute fronts York Street as does the 1944 building which was the second Boys Technical School.

The first Boys Technical School of 1926 fronts onto Macalister Street. (RNE 100606).

There are three buildings of heritage significance on the present site of Macalister Secondary College, two built for Sale Technical School and the third being the former Mechanics' Institute in York Street, which accommodated the Technical School from an early date. The Mechanics' Institute was built facing York Street, Sale, in 1891 and was occupied by the School of Mines, Art and Technology. This is now owned by the Macalister Secondary College and forms part of the Macalister Secondary College group. The first Technical School building, built in 1926, faces Macalister Street and is typical of similar buildings throughout Victoria. It is a single storey building of square horseshoe plan. A porch entrance of Art Deco design is asymmetrically positioned. The lower walls and quoins are red brick. The upper walls are finished with stucco render and frame multi-paned casement windows. Rafters are exposed in the eaves for decorative effect and the roof is terracotta tiled. The later building, built in 1944, which faces York Street is also red brick but two storey and of distinctly modern design. Designed as a series of interlocking cubic forms, the main classroom section has two continuous bands of fenestration high-lighted by concrete sills and lintels. At the corner closest to the street, a rendered stairwell section is painted and features another corner window and flagpole. There are several other buildings on the site, towards the southern and western boundaries, which are not considered to be of architectural interest. (RNE 100606).

Condition and Integrity : Both the 1926 and the 1944 buildings are remarkably intact when viewed from the street and appear to be in excellent condition. As at 1997 (RNE 100606)

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Building	Victorian	Rendered Masonry	Not visible/known

Condition Good **Integrity** Intact

Redevelopment/change	
Education	Building

History The tender of Alex Davidson was accepted for the erection of the Mechanics' Institute in December 1889.(2) Completed in 1891 and replacing the old Mechanics' Hall in Foster Street(3), this building was used as a Mechanics Institute and Public Library. It has a long history of accomodating civic functions and a range of Sale schools such as the Sale School of Mines and Technology, later Sale Technical School, and the Sale Agricultural High School from 1907 to 1916.(4) The Institute is now part of the Macalister Secondary College complex and is now named after James Coverdale, a former Mayor of Sale.

Heritage Protections	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
	Planning Scheme	HO93		Listed
	Register of the National Estate	100606		Recommended

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations A Conservation Management Plan should be prepared for significant features within the whole college complex, including this building.

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking Regional significance **Final Recommendation**

Statement of significance The former Mechanics' Institute is a significant part of the heritage of Sale as evidence of an important phase of the development of educational services in Sale. The building's design and location symbolise the importance of this institution in the early development of the town. Features of architectural interest include the flamboyant buttresses and gargoyles and represent a comparatively high degree of embellishment for a Sale building. Cultural sentiment is probably attached to the building for its importance as a place of community educational activity over many years, demonstrating a continuity into the present through its association with Macalister Secondary College today.(A.4, F.1, G.1)

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Sale Heritage Study
(1) Photo displayed in Sale Museum.
(2) Lewis, M. B., 'Australian Architectural Index'.
(3) HBC File 603538(5).
(4) Blake, L. J., 'Vision and Realisation', p.1156.
Baragwanath, P. & Hodgson, J., (1994 onwards), An inventory of Mechanics Institutes in Victoria. (Unpublished inventory, Historic Places Branch)
Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review

York Street 0125, ID 1169.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



Update York Street 0125, ID 1169i.jpg.jpg

Peter Synan

1/01/1994



Update York Street 0125, ID 1169i.JPG

Geoff Neville

4/08/2006

