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Name: Senior Citizens' Club (Former Council Chambers & Court House)
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 10942
Municipality: Central Coast Council
Date Listed: 20/04/2007

Location Addresses

1 CRESCENT ST, PENGUIN 7316 TAS

Title References

156423/1

Property Id

6755324



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Untitled

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Setting: 3-5 Crescent Street, Penguin consists of a small group of early-mid C20th civic buildings - the Senior Citizens Club (formerly the Council Chambers and Courthouse), the Meals-on-wheels Depot (formerly the Fire Station built 1949) and the Police Station (c1970 replacement for an earlier station). The subject of this entry to the heritage register is only the Senior Citizens Club and its immediate environs as indicated on the CPR map. This group was originally part of a wider collection of civic buildings that defined the town centre, and which included the Town Hall at 78 Main Road (demolished late C20th) and the Post Office (the early Post Office being replaced with a modern building late C20th).

Directly in front of the Senior Citizens Club is an area of paved open space formed by the intersection of Main Road and Crescent Street and a railway line crossing. This results in the tall built form of the Senior Citizens Club being highly visible from Main Road traffic through the commercial business district, and in there being a partially screened view of the ocean from the front of the Club.

Description: The 1908 former Municipal Council Chambers is a substantial Federation building of face brick construction. General stylistic features demonstrated include steep pitched roof of hip and gable forms, the overall building form and layout of windows and doors, incorporation of a verandah under the main roof form, and brick chimney detailing. Late C20th alterations to the exterior include partial enclosure of front verandah, construction of a skillion addition at rear, replacement of the original roof and removal of roof vents. A level of internal alteration to suit its use as a Club can be expected.

History: The building currently known as the Senior Citizens Club and former Council Chambers and Court House is part of Lot 2215 granted to Edwin Cummings, Joseph Raymond and Anderson Cummings (LTO Transfer No. 12039 Prior CT 3832/56). The local government purchased it from the VDL Bank and a purpose built Council Chambers and Court House was approved for construction in 1908 (Advocate 7 Sept 1908). The Red Cross was also allocated space in this building at one time. (PHG) The passing of the Local Government Act in 1906 gave Penguin its first municipal council. The first councillors were Messrs J Yaxley, J D McKenna, H Mainwaring, W Elphinstone, A Lillico, L J Clarke, J McHugh, G Pullen and G Hooper. The latter was elected the first Warden, and Mr T Chamberlain was Council Clerk. (http://www.tco.asn.au/oac/community_history.cgi?oacID=20) G.G. Pullen became a well-known name in Tasmanian, especially in his later years, when he was a Methodist Minister at Ranelagh and Campbelltown. He was also at one time a member of the Tasmania Parliament (Glenn Charlton Pullen.) In 1964 the Penguin Council relocated to a premise on Ironcliffe Road and c 1990 was amalgamated into the newly formed Central Coast Council based in Ulverstone, as part of a major consolidation of local councils across Tasmania. The building was retained for public use, being adapted as a Senior Citizens Club and indoor bowling centre, with an outdoor bowling area developed at the rear.

Significance:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

The former Council Chambers and Court House at 3-5 Crescent Street, Penguin, now known as the Senior Citizens Club, is of historic cultural heritage significance as it is important in demonstrating the evolutionary pattern of the Central Coast district. The building demonstrates that the township was once a seat of local government, enacted from this building along with judicial proceedings as a courthouse and the provision of local council services. With the loss of the Town Hall and early Post Office, this building is one of the few surviving civic buildings within the town centre - and which demonstrate a self-governing and once-thriving regional community.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

The former Council Chambers and Court House 3-5 Crescent Street, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance because it is important as a representative building in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of cultural places. The building has the ability to demonstrate the principal and typical characteristics of a small regional Council Chambers and Court House and demonstrate the stylistic characteristics of the Federation architectural style as applied to a small civic building.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

The former Council Chambers and Court House 3-5 Crescent Street, Penguin is of historic cultural heritage significance through community values derived from its symbolism as the local seat of government and function as a courthouse and council service centre 1908-64, and its importance as a social gathering place as a Council facility and more recently as a Senior Citizens Club.

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

The former Council Chambers and Court House 3-5 Crescent Street, Penguin has association values with various councillors and the legal profession. Wilfred George Barker and Geoff Chisholm were two local councillors who also represented their electorate in state government. Local government personalities Mr Morton A Webster, H E Whittle, Lou T Stubbs (well known builder) are amongst some of the Mayors and Councillors associated with the building over a period of 1908-64.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

PLEASE NOTE This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.