

Item name: Narraburra Shire Offices - Senior Citizens**Location:** 124 Parkes Street Temora 2666

Temora

Address: 124 Parkes Street**Planning:** Southern & Western**Suburb/nearest town:** Temora 2666**Local govt area:** Temora**State:** NSW**Parish:****County:****Address:****Planning:** Southern & Western**Suburb/nearest town:** Temora 2666**Local govt area:** Temora**State:** NSW**Parish:****County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:** Civic Conservation Area**Group ID:** 2**Aboriginal area:** Wiradjuri**Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Built**Group:** Government and Administrative **Category:** Council Chambers**Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:****Former uses:****Assessed significance:** Local**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: The Narraburra Shire Council building occupies a prominent location on the corner of Parkes and De Boos Sts., and represents the early separation of local government into rural and municipal areas. #
4701893 on Australian Institute of Architects registry listing.

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Historical notes of provenance: The initial meeting was held on 6th June, 1906 of Temporary Councillors., with Mr. W. G. G. Lucas elected President. The first official meeting was 5th December, 1906 with Cr. W. De Little elected President. In October, 1910, land was purchased on the corner of De Boos and Parkes Streets for 225 pounds from A. C. Oldrini. In March 1907, plans and specifications for a building were prepared with an estimated cost of 1,000 pounds. Tenders were let on July 1, 1911. The tender for 1,150 pounds submitted by William Graham was accepted. The foundation stone was laid by Pres. Councillor C. Hawkins on 26th August, 1911. This new building was occupied by Council in 1912. Additions were made in 1959 to the west side of the building. Following the creation of the Northern Riverina County Council at the end of 1938, this new organization operated out of the Narraburra Shire Offices building until it moved into Auswild's buildings in Hoskins Street in 1946. The building continued its use as the offices of the Narraburra Shire Council until the amalgamation of that Council with the Temora Shire Council. The last meeting of Council was held on December 16, 1980. The building then became the home of the Temora Senior Citizens group. The foundation stone was removed and transferred to a position on the front wall of the current Temora Shire Chambers.

Insert from The Wind In Lonely Places compiled by Bill Speirs

In September, 1910, Councillor bill Ness, with the support of Council Hawkins, successfully initiated moves to build council chambers when it was resolved by the council that it should make arrangements to procure a suitable site and build a shire hall. Councillor Cartwright (the Shire President) with Councillors Hawkins and Ness were immediately appointed as a sub-committee to investigate the cost of a suitable site and building.

Three sites within the town of Temora were subsequently put forward for consideration; The southwest corner of Parkes & DeBoos Streets (the preferred site), the southeast corner of Victoria and Baker streets, and a site further along Baker Street on the south of Mr William Nixon's residence.

Having decided upon the first of these locations, the Shire Clerk was instructed to write to the NSW Minister for Public Works in order to ascertain the procedure for funding and building Council's headquarters in the town of Temora. The "Borough of Temora", while entirely surrounded by the "Shire of Narraburra", was a separate local government entity and Council was advised that it was therefore necessary for the Shire to gain the headquarters 'outside' the Shire's administrative boundary.

Unsuccessful in obtaining a grant from the Public Works Department to assist in the project, the Council sought the aid of the local member to acquire a special loan of 1000 pounds to facilitate the erection of its new office building.

In January, 1911, Councillor Ness moved that, provided the approval of the NSW Governor was forthcoming, Council should purchase a block of land on the corner of Parkes and DeBoos Street offered to them by the Shire Clerk, Mr AC Oldrini, for 226 pounds, upon which to build its headquarters. He added the recommendation that construction should begin without delay.

Delay did, however, intervene until Council's resolve was pressed by the circumstances outlined in the Presidential Minute read to the May general meeting in 1911 by Councillor Hawkins:

"Today, I beg to bring before you the necessity of taking steps in the matter of erection of Shire Offices. As you are all aware we have the land secured and paid for. When the land was arranged for it was on the understanding that immediate steps be taken to erect our own offices. It would now appear to me that the time has arrived to give effect to our previous intentions. As you will see today, the rent of offices we are now occupying has been raised from 1 pound to 1 pound 7 shillings and 6 pence per week (from 1.5.1911), an unexpected and big increase of 19 pounds 10 shillings a year. I therefore ask you to deal with this matter at once".

The point made, Henry Laker, Architect by profession and Shire Engineer, was instructed to draft plans for a suitable building incorporating a meeting room with floor space of about 26 feet by 20 feet and prepare an estimate of costs for consideration at the next meeting. With the plans adopted, tenders were called and at the July meeting William J Graham's tender of 1150 pounds to build the Shire Hall was accepted.

In what was decided should be only a 'local affair', the laying of the foundation stone was initially planned to take place on Saturday 19th August 1911 at 2.30pm with the official duty to be performed by the Shire President. The function, delayed a week until 26th August, took the form of a 'smoke social' with light refreshments. One hundred tickets were printed and an admission charge of 2 shillings and 6 pence was set. The Mayor of Temora and representatives of both the 'Temora Star' and Temora Independent' received invitations.

Construction proceeded steadily despite a setback on the morning of 5th August when Mr Graham's premises, in the old Oldfellows Hall in Hoskins Street, were destroyed by fire along with some of the building materials

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destined for the new Shire Hall.

The first meeting of the Narraburra Shire Council in its own chambers went unremarked in the minutes, but it was probably the general meeting held on 2nd March 1912 because in that month the Shire Engineer advertised for road making tenders to be returned to the new address.

Harry Laker's contribution to the project as architect of the building earned him a commission of 2 1/2 percent on the contract price, the princely sum of 28 pounds and 15 shillings.

In May 1913, Council altered its office hours, extending its three days per week to open every day (except Sunday) from 10 am to 3pm except Wednesday when it closed at noon. Thirty three years later, on 15th June 1946, the Shire Clerk brought to Council's attention the general half holiday, on Saturday afternoon, which had been introduced in Temora, and renewed his request to close Council's office on that day. Council agreed, introducing the five day working week for its indoor staff.

In the years which followed, several alterations would modify and extend the office to meet the changing needs to the staff. The first of these took place in April 1914 when Council authorised the installation of electrical lighting by Mr A Miers at a cost of 17 pounds 18 shillings and 6 pence.

Themes: National theme

7. Governing

State theme

Government and Administration

Local theme**Designer:****Builder:****Year started:** 1911**Year completed:** 1912**Circa:** No

Physical description: A single storey brick building in a residential style with hipped roof and return verandah, including turned posts and special brick details to doors, windows and balustrades.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition:

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: With the amalgamation of the shire and municipal councils, the building was adapted to provide facilities for health, aged care and community activities.

Recommended management:

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments:

Criteria a):
[Historical significance]

Criteria b):
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c):
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

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Criteria d):
[Social/Cultural
significance]**Criteria e):**
[Research
significance]**Criteria f):**
[Rarity]**Criteria g):**
[Representative]**Intactness/Integrity:**

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Various: Temora Centenary Book Con	Temora Yesterday and Today, 1880-1980.	1980
	Various: Temora Shire Council	Centenary of Local Government, Temora. 1892 - 1992.	1992
	Bill Speirs.	The Wind in Lonely Places. - Narraburra Shire Council, 1906 -	2006

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
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Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
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Latitude:	Longitude:		
Location validity:	Spatial accuracy:		
Map name:	Map scale:		
AMG zone:	Easting:	Northing:	
Listing: Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
	Heritage study		

Data entry:	Data first entered: 27/04/2004	Data updated: 09/10/2017	Status: Completed
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