

Item name: Bectric Hall**Location:**

Temora

Address:**Planning:** Southern & Western**Suburb/nearest town:** Temora 2666**Local govt area:** Temora**State:** NSW**Parish:****County:****Other/former names:****Area/group/complex:****Group ID:****Aboriginal area:** Wiradjuri**Curtilage/boundary:****Item type:** Built**Group:** Community Facilities**Category:** Other - Community Facilities**Owner:****Admin codes:****Code 2:****Code 3:****Current use:****Former uses:****Assessed significance:** State**Endorsed significance:**

Statement of significance: This hall is Classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW), added to the Register on 28-6-1982, and N.S.W Heritage Listed. It is one of the only two known existing pipe constructed public halls in the whole of Australia. (The other is in Western Australia). It has been refurbished in accordance with N.S.W. Heritage guidelines and is currently valued and used by the local community.

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Historical notes of provenance: The hall was built on the Bectric Recreation Reserve by community subscriptions and fundraising in 1904. It was constructed by Mr. John McDermott using suitable mud found near the site, and building was completed within two months. An open verandah was added to the western side during its construction. The building on the reserve occupies a site on the top of an extensive rise, overlooking a large area. This position, with its excellent drainage, has been a significant factor in the pipe construction remaining intact for over one hundred years. The hall was officially opened with a grand ball following the acceptance of the completed building by the committee just a few hours earlier on the day.

The hall as a community resource, has been supported by the representatives of the solid farming community of the area for over a century, being run by an active Hall Trust, which has gradually added improvements and extensions over the years. Improvements have included adding the supper room on the eastern side, and improving toilet facilities. The supper room was added in 1909, Gloria lights were installed in 1915, replaced with electric lights much later, and the front foyer / cloak room was added in 1930. The Trust still retains all of the Minute Books, going back to 1904.

Since its opening it has been the centre of most of the Bectric community's social activities, including parties, meetings, concerts, shows, church services, weddings, sporting afternoon teas, etc. Adding to its popularity as a social venue are the tennis courts and cricket oval which are also on the reserve, the tennis courts having been extended, and still (2006) in regular use for competitions. On 30th September 1982, the Reserve Trust secretary, Mr. G. R. Breust, was advised by the Lands Office in Wagga Wagga that a letter dated 5th August, 1982, had been received from the National Trust of Australia (NSW), advising that the Bectric Hall had been CLASSIFIED and included in the TRUST'S REGISTER. The Hall is listed as Classified, reference HBC / 293, approved on 28-6-1982.

The hall is still (2006) much in use, now even more so since its restoration. Restorations were undertaken by the Bectric community, keeping faithfully to the advice provided by the Temora Heritage Advisor, David Scobie. An expert in pipe work was found to provide advice and support in repairing any damage to the pipe walls, with the task taking months to complete. The finished work was painted in colours appropriate to its original colour scheme, samples of its earliest paintwork being found. A new toilet facility, with all modern conveniences was constructed meeting current (2004) regulations, but dressed up in a style reflecting the Hall itself. A whole new fence, in appropriate style and constructed from local timber, was also erected. All the restoration work was completed prior to the centenary celebrations planned for that year.

Its Centenary was celebrated in October, 2004 with a grand ball, church service, picnic, book launch and school reunion. A history panel and commemorative plaque were also unveiled. Over 200 people attended on each of the two days of celebrating. Attending were descendants of John McDermott the builder, and one old lady from Queensland who was the daughter of one of the original committee men who conceived the idea of building the hall. For their magnificent effort in restoring the Hall, The Bectric Hall Recreation Reserve Trust received a NSW Government Heritage Volunteers Award and a Highly Commended Award from the NSW Tidy Towns in 2004. They were also entered for the Community Spirit award.

Themes: National theme
8. Culture

State theme
Social institutions

Local theme

Designer: J. McDermott.

Builder: J. McDermott.

Year started: 1904

Year completed: 1904

Circa: No

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Physical description: It is a 1904 pise hall, with a corrugated iron roof, some walls covered in corrugated iron and some in boards. The pise walls are 18" thick. The floor and all timber work, including the lined ceiling, are of cyprus pine. It has been repaired and freshly painted. It has an attached supper room & kitchen / dressing room on its eastern side, also a verandah on the western side and an enclosed entry on the north side. A whole new front fence and entrance gateways has been constructed in keeping with the guidelines. A new septic toilet facility (to relace the "longdrops"), has been erected, looking very much like a miniature version of the hall itself. A descriptive history panel was erected and unveiled on the occasion of the Hall's centenary in 2004, along with a memorial plaque on a stone. The latter was unveiled by descendents of John McDermott, the original builder.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: Since restoration in 2003-04, excellent.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Western verandah was added during construction in 1904. The supper room on the eastern side was erected in 1909. Gloria lights, since replaced by electric, were installed in 1915. The front foyer / cloak room was added in 1930. A full restoration along Heritage guidelines was undertaken and completed for October, 2004.

Recommended management:

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments:

Criteria a): The rare hall marks the development of the village and the farming community, largely of German origins
[Historical significance]

Criteria b):
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c): The Pise Hall retains the original design and is remarkable for the integrity of the building and context - bush setting
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

Criteria d): The site is very highly valued by the local community
[Social/Cultural significance]

Criteria e): The construction materials and mthods are rare and worthy of research
[Research significance]

Criteria f): A rare construction
[Rarity]

Criteria g):
[Representative]

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References:	Author	Title	Year
	Tracey Robinson - compiler.	Back to Bectric, a collection of stories to celebrate the centenar	2004

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	David Scobie Architects	F Temora Shire Community based Heritage Study		2003

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
	LOT	66		DP	750864

Latitude: **Longitude:****Location validity:** **Spatial accuracy:****Map name:** **Map scale:****AMG zone:** **Easting:** 523431 **Northing:** 6181056

Listing:	Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
		Heritage study		
		National Trust of Australia register		

Data entry: Data first entered: 29/06/2004 Data updated: 13/08/2019 Status: Completed