

Item name: Coolah Shire Hall

Location: 57 Binnia Street Coolah 2844

Warrumbungle

Address: 57 Binnia Street

Planning: Northern

Suburb/nearest town: Coolah 2844

Local govt area: Warrumbungle

Parish: Coolah

State: NSW

County: Napier

Other/former names: Regent Theatre

Area/group/complex:

Group ID: 1391104

Aboriginal area: Gamilaroi

Curtilage/boundary:

Item type: Built

Group: Community Facilities

Category: Hall Public

Owner:

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use: Library

Former uses: Community hall, theatre

Assessed significance: Local

Endorsed significance: Local

Statement of significance: Aesthetically significant main street Community Hall. It has a high level of social significance as the location for numerous community events and entertainment in Coolah throughout the Twentieth Century.

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Historical notes of provenance: The Coolah Shire Hall in Binnia Street, Coolah, at times known as the Regent Theatre, was officially opened by Colonel M. F. Bruxner, Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport, at a grand ball on Wednesday, 31st July, 1935 in the presence of a large gathering of people. As the Shire President, R. C. Stephens had been detained, the Deputy President, W.E. Foley officiated in his stead.

The opening of the hall coincided with the official turning on of the town electricity supply from Tucker's garage, now Weaver Meares produce store in Binnia Street. Married on the previous night in the local Anglican Church were Allan and Mary Doolan of Punchbowl. Allan had worked as an electrician upon the reticular of the supply. When they left the church Tucker Bros. turned on the town lights for the first time and as a treat for the happy couple.

The land for the hall was generously made available by Captain Ralph Johnson, proprietor of the Coolah Hotel, whilst the hall was constructed by W. M. Horton of Gloucester for the sum of 2319 pounds. The proposed hall was designed and supervised by the Shire Engineer, G. Jack Cliff, after which Cliff Lane, Coolah, is named. The plans provided for the front of the building and hall offices to be constructed of brick and the main hall to be of fibro cement lined with acoustic board and fibrous plaster. Provision was made for a spacious hall entrance with cloak rooms and ticket offices. The auditorium of the hall was planned to be 40 feet by 76 feet, with a stage of 21 feet by 40 feet, with a supper room of 32 feet by 40 feet at the rear. The licensed seating accommodation in the hall was set at 630 persons.

The Regent Theatre (Mudgee) Ltd. leased the hall for a period of ten years following its opening. Vid. H. E. Haynes, storekeeper was the local manager for the Company. The rental was more than sufficient to pay the annual installments of principal, insurances and upkeep. A subsequent long term lessee was Victor Clarence North, a former employee of the Bank of New South Wales at Coolah. Mr. North, at the same time ran the picture theatre and the hall, whilst conducting a local cordial factory.

The new hall eventually replaced the Coolah Town hall that existed in lower Binnia Street almost opposite the Housing Commission Erskine flats. It is interesting to note that silent movies had been shown in Coolah prior to World War I. Later, Mr. H. Richardsan had a picture hall in 1914 and 1915. By 1919 each hotel had its own hall, i.e. Royal (E. B. Webb), Central (J. Nearen) and the Commercial (R. J. and M. Shearman). In 1931 G. Irwin was showing pictures in the old Coolah Town Hall, the site now occupied by the school teachers' flats.

Advertising slides shown prior to the films at the theatre on the night of the 17th April, 1952, sponsored the local firms of Valley Motors, Parisian Frock Salon, Batfield's Taxi Service, Lamberts K and K, Coolah Motors, F. Aspinall, Tucker Bros., and coming features at the Regent Theatre. The slides together with others from the theatre are now in the possession of the National Film and Sound Archives. They are excellent examples of the announcing style of Reg Grundy who later made his name in the television industry.

No longer are films shown or balls and dances held in the Hall. Today, the former hall is used as the Coolah library, visitor information centre and gallery. Included among the library collection is a number of photographs of Coolah and surrounds taken by celebrated Australian photographer Max Dupain in 1948.

Themes: National theme

7. Governing

8. Culture

State theme

Government and Administration

Leisure

Local theme

Designer: G. J. Cliff

Builder: W. M. Horton

Year started:

Year completed: 1935

Circa: No

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Physical description: The Coolah Shire Hall is a Interwar Stripped Classical style building constructed of face brickwork with a corrugated steel hipped gable roof located behind a brick parapet to the street front elevation. There is a central recessed entrance porch, flanked with four simple Doric style concrete columns. The face brickwork to the front walls and parapet above are in red textured brick.

The windows are pivot steel framed windows with sashes divided into four, cross-barred with textured glass panes.

The porch is well above pavement level and there are six steps leading to the porch from street level. Timber framed and panel doors at the porch lead into the hall. A pair at the centre and a single door to each side.

The parapet is decorated in cement rendered panels in an Art Deco style wave pattern, with attached wording "Coolah Shire Council 1935" to the central panel. The brickwork is further decorated with variations in style such as stack bond in the centre and at the parapet and vertical bricks forming the heads and sills of the windows. The side walls are constructed of painted fibre cement sheets with timber cover battens and contains highlight windows down each side and above door line. Each sash is divided into eight panes and timber framed.

Physical condition level:

Physical condition: Good.

Archaeological potential level:

Archaeological potential Detail:

Modification dates: Entrance stairs, planter bed and disabled access ramp - c.2010s

Recommended management: - Continue to maintain building in good order.

- The curtilage or setting of this building shall be taken as being the title of the Lot of land that it stands on.

Management: Management category

Management name

Further comments:

Criteria a):
[Historical significance]

Criteria b):
[Historical association significance]

Criteria c): The Coolah Shire Hall is a good example of an Interwar period Stripped Classical style building with Art Deco motifs.
[Aesthetic/ Technical significance]

Criteria d): The Coolah Shire Hall has a high level of social significance as the location for numerous community events and entertainment throughout the Twentieth Century.
[Social/Cultural significance]

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Criteria e):
[Research
significance]

Criteria f):
[Rarity]

Criteria g): The Coolah Shire Hall is representative of halls constructed in small rural communities during the early to mid
[Representative] Twentieth Century.

Intactness/Integrity:

References:	Author	Title	Year
	Roy Cameron	Shire hall	2004

Studies:	Author	Title	Number	Year
	Hickson & Cameron	Coolah Shire Community Based Heritage Study	Day 1	2004
	Peter Duggan	Warrumbungle Shire Community Based Heritage Study		2018

Parcels:	Parcel code	Lot number	Section number	Plan code	Plan number
		2			DP1001698

Latitude: -31.823786

Longitude: 149.719768

Location validity:

Spatial accuracy:

Map name:

Map scale:

AMG zone:

Easting:

Northing:

Listing:	Name	Title	Number	ListingDate
		Local Environmental Plan		15/09/2000
	Warrumbungle LEP 2013	Local Environmental Plan	i10	29/11/2013
		Heritage study		08/09/2005

Data entry: Data first entered: 09/10/2000

Data updated: 31/05/2019

Status: Completed

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Image:



Caption: Coolah Shire Hall, c.2004

Copy right: B.J. Hickson

Image by: B.J. Hickson

Image date: 07/09/2004

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/139/1390013b.jpg>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/139/t_1390013b.jpg

Image:

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Caption: Coolah Shire Hall

Copy right: Warrumbungle Shire Council

Image by: Peter Duggan

Image date: 06/12/2016

Image number:

Image url: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/34508e9231a3c7745129f76cdfb860b91a2.JPG>

Thumbnail url: http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Heritage/shi/WebAP/P/Thumb_test34508e9231a3c7745129f76cdfb860b91a2.JPG