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|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Building:</b>      | Box Hill Town Hall                               | <b>Significance:</b>      | A           |
| <b>Address:</b>       | 1022 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill                   | <b>Melway May Ref:</b>    | 47 E9       |
| <b>Building Type:</b> | Town Hall and Municipal Offices                  | <b>Construction Date:</b> | 1934-35     |
| <b>Architect:</b>     | H J R Cole, F W Kerr, J C Aisbett, Cr J S Gawler | <b>Builder:</b>           | Rispin Bros |



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**Condition:**  
 G[] F[  ] P[  ]

**Existing Heritage Listings:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Victorian Heritage Register     | [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]            |
| Register of the National Estate | [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]            |
| National Trust                  | [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] |

**Recommended Heritage Listings:**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Victorian Heritage Register     | [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] |
| Register of the National Estate | [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] |
| Heritage Overlay Controls       | [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] |

## History

The Box Hill Town Hall complex was opened on 15 April 1935 by Lord Huntingfield, Governor of Victoria. Following the separation of the Borough of Box Hill from the Shire of Nunawading in 1925, the council had continued to occupy offices on the north-west corner of Cambridge and Station Streets, built in 1889. H J R Cole, the Town Clerk and F W Kerr, the Shire [sic] Engineer, were responsible for the planning, whilst Councillor J S Gawler, acting in an honorary capacity, was the general designer. The official council architect, J C Aisbett, was in charge of documentation. Aisbett had undertaken other work for the City of Box Hill whilst Cr Gawler was a partner in the long-established firm of Gawler and Drummond and was for a period lecturer-in-charge of the Architecture Department at the Melbourne University. The builders were Rispin Brothers, and the tender price was £40,424.

## Description

The Box Hill Town Hall is a monumental double-storey symmetrical building in the Classical Revival style. The walls are of locally-made bricks clad in Snowcrete render. The facade has a simple portico with austere Classically-inspired decoration. The frieze bears the words CITY OF BOX HILL, whilst the coat-of-arms of the city sits centrally in the plain parapet, which is decorated with small acroteria. The windows are narrow, vertical strips with slightly recessed spandrel panels. The roof is concealed behind a very plain parapet.

## Comparative Examples

Richmond Town Hall, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Caulfield Town Hall, Glen Eira Road (corner Hawthorn Road), Caulfield

## Significance

The Box Hill Town Hall is of outstanding aesthetic, historical and social significance. It is an excellent example of austere Classical Revival design applied to a major, monumental public building. The building is also associated with the major architectural firm of Gawler and Drummond. The building is a notable landmark on the municipality's primary east-west thoroughfare and was the civic focus of the City of Box Hill from its construction until the mid-1990s amalgamation, and as such is of historical and social significance.

## Source

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

## Additional Historical Information

Eleanor Finlay & Marjorie Morgan. *Those Were The Days: Box Hill in Pictures 1930-1960*. Box Hill, 1994. p 6.

Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978. p 170.