

Johnsonville Masonic Hall

25-29 Philip Street



Image: Charles Collins, 2015

Summary of heritage significance

- The Johnsonville Masonic Lodge is a single storey building built in a style that is typical of many community and church halls. The building is enhanced by its attractive street façade.
- This hall is an important part of the local community and makes a contribution to the wider setting of Johnsonville. It contributes significantly to the sense of place and continuity on Phillip Street.
- This building has had typical, albeit uneventful, history for a community hall in Wellington. It is primarily associated with the Johnsonville Freemasons who have owned and occupied the building for over a century.

District Plan:	Map 23, reference 366
Legal Description:	Lot 9 DP 1778
Heritage Area:	-
HPT Listed:	-
Archaeological Site:	Risk Unknown
Other Names:	Brook Street Johnsonville Coronation Lodge
Key physical dates:	Built: 1908 Additions/alterations: 1930
Architect / Builder:	Unknown
Former uses:	Masonic lodge
Current uses:	Masonic lodge
Earthquake Prone Status:	Not EQP – SR 192829

Extent: Cityview GIS 2013



1.0 Outline History

1.1 History

The Johnsonville Masonic Lodge was constructed in 1908 on Brook Street in Johnsonville - although road was later renamed Phillip Street. Prior to its construction the Johnsonville Coronation Lodge had met at the old Johnsonville schoolhouse, with a refectory in the Oddfellows hall or in the Temperance Hotel.¹

The building has remained in use as a Masonic Lodge for over 100 years and, as such, has undergone various phases of adaptations, alterations and additions. In 1930 substantial alterations were made to the hall, with an addition to the hall to the rear of the building. The building was re-roofed and a lean-to was constructed on the southern side.² Some alterations were also made to the hall in 1968,³ and the building was partially repiled in 2005.⁴

1.2 Timeline of modifications (original plans cannot be accessed)

1908 Original construction
1930 25 Phillip Street, 881 alterations to Masonic Hall (00049:14:486)
1968 25 Phillip Street, out building additions and alterations - hall
(00058:546:C26181)
2005 25 Phillip Street, partial repile (00078:1523:128141)

1.3 Occupation history

Johnsonville Masonic Hall

1.4 Architect

Unknown

¹ Wellington City Council, '25-29 Phillip Street' *Wellington Built Heritage Inventory 1995*, (Wellington City Council, 1995).

² WCA 00049:14:486

³ WCA 00058:546:C26181

⁴ WCA 00078:1523:128141

2.0 Physical description

2.1 Architecture

The Masonic Lodge is a single storey building built in a style that is typical of many community and church halls. The building is enhanced by its attractive street façade.

The street façade is notable for its simplicity and symmetry. The main entrance is a via pair of narrow three panel doors that are sheltered by a simple gabled porch. The porch is supported by a pair of turned columns, and the two-part flared barge boards, and the turned finial repeat the gable detail of the main roof. The entrance doors are flanked by a pair of narrow sash windows. A decorative plaque with Masonic emblems is fixed to the gable and denotes the building's use as a Masonic lodge.

The remaining building is arranged as a large hall. The roofs are relatively low-pitch and are a mix of lean-to and gables. The walls are generally clad in rusticated weatherboards.

2.2 Materials

- Rusticated weatherboards
- Corrugated iron roofing
- Tongue and groove flooring

2.3 Setting

This hall is set amongst predominantly residential buildings and sits comfortably in this context.

Sources

"Heritage building – 25-29 Phillip Street", 1997, 1041-06-PHI125, Wellington City Council Records.

Wellington City Archive

- 1908 Original construction
- 1930 25 Phillip Street, 881 alterations to Masonic Hall (00049:14:486)
- 1968 25 Phillip Street, out building additions and alterations - hall (00058:546:C26181)
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3.0 Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage values

Aesthetic Value:

Architectural: *Does the item have architectural or artistic value for characteristics that may include its design, style, era, form, scale, materials, colour, texture, patina of age, quality of space, craftsmanship, smells, and sounds?*

The Johnsonville Masonic Lodge is a single storey building built in a style that is typical of many community and church halls. The building is enhanced by its attractive street façade.

Townscape: *Does the item have townscape value for the part it plays in defining a space or street; providing visual interest; its role as a landmark; or the contribution it makes to the character and sense of place of Wellington?*

The lodge is a simple single storey domestic-scale building that fits well into the suburban streetscape of Philip Street.

Group: *Is the item part of a group of buildings, structures, or sites that taken together have coherence because of their age, history, style, scale, materials, or use?*

Historic Value:

Association: *Is the item associated with an important person, group, or organisation?*

This building has had typical, albeit uneventful, history for a community hall in Wellington. It is primarily associated with the Johnsonville Freemasons who have owned and occupied the building for over a century.

Association: *Is the item associated with an important historic event, theme, pattern, phase, or activity?*

Scientific Value:

Archaeological: *Does the item have archaeological value for its ability to provide scientific information about past human activity?*

Risk unknown.

Educational: *Does the item have educational value for what it can demonstrate about aspects of the past?*

Technological: *Does the item have technological value for its innovative or important construction methods or use of materials?*

Social Value:

Public esteem: *Is the item held in high public esteem?*

Symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual: *Does the item have symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual or other cultural value for the community who has used and continues to use it?*

The building is likely to be of symbolic, traditional and cultural value to the local Masonic Lodge community.

Identity/Sense of place/Continuity:

Is the item a focus of community, regional, or national identity?

Does the item contribute to sense of place or continuity?

The building has had few intrusive modern alterations or additions and contributes to the sense of place and continuity of suburban Johnsonville.

Sentiment/Connection: *Is the item a focus of community sentiment and connection?*

The building has a long history of use as a Masonic Lodge and is likely to be the focus of community sentiment and connection.

Level of cultural heritage significance

Rare: *Is the item rare, unique, unusual, seminal, influential, or outstanding?*

Representative: *Is the item a good example of the class it represents?*

The building is a good representative example of a community hall that was purpose-built for the local Masonic Lodge.

Authentic: *Does the item have authenticity or integrity because it retains significant fabric from the time of its construction or from later periods when important additions or modifications were carried out?*

This building has had few listed modifications made and retains a relatively authentic quality. It has authenticity of style, craftsmanship, materials, and setting.

Local/Regional/National/International

Is the item important for any of the above characteristics at a local, regional, national, or international level?

This building is locally significant for its architectural and social values.

4.0 Appendix

Research checklist (desktop)

Source	Y/N	Comments
1995 Heritage Inventory		
2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory		
WCC Records – building file		
WCC Records – grant files (earthquake strengthening, enhancement of heritage values)		
Research notes from 2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory		
Plan change?		
Heritage Area Report		
Heritage Area Spreadsheet		
Heritage items folder (electronic)		
HPT website		
HPT files		
Conservation Plan		
Searched Heritage Library (CAB 2)		

Background research

Insert any relevant background information into this section. This may include:

- *Additional plans, such as those for alterations*
- *Chunks of text from other sources such as Cyclopedia of NZ, Papers Past*
- *Additional images*