



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 00404
2. **NAME** *Weld Hall* (1874-1881; 1889; 1890; 1919; 1962; 1980s; 1988; 1997)
FORMER NAMES Weld Institute, Weld Mechanics' Institute, Weld Repertory Theatre
3. **LOCATION** Cnr Queen and Adelaide Streets, Busselton
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Busselton Lot 310, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1293 Folio 378.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Busselton
6. **OWNER** Shire of Busselton
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 13/07/2001
Permanent Entry 14/12/2001
 - National Trust Classification: Recorded 02/02/1976
 - Town Planning Scheme: No. 20 07/09/1999
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 20/06/1996
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Weld Hall, a single storey brick building with a galvanised iron roof in a simplified Victorian Italianate style has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is associated with various organisations, including the Mechanics Institute, the Returned and Services League, the Weld Repertory Club and to a lesser extent the Working Men's Association, and reflects the important public educational role of such organisations in Busselton;

the place is one of the oldest remaining structures in Busselton;

the place is a physical reminder of the Mechanics Institute ethos, which was to promote the educational and cultural development of

communities throughout Western Australia and elsewhere. Once widespread, the majority of Mechanics Institutes have been replaced by the public library and adult education systems and their social function has all but disappeared;

the place contributes to the Busselton community's sense of place. It has served as a community and town hall, a rehearsal and performance venue for the local district band and in a formal educational capacity as a substitute classroom. It has continuing associations as a venue for local theatre;

the place has aesthetic value in its symmetrical form with its dominant large arched windows and simple decorative features; and

the place is associated with the growth of Busselton as a major regional centre and is a representative example of the type of building stock considered appropriate for public reading rooms.

The toilet block, constructed in 1962, and recently erected shed are considered to be of little heritage significance.