

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Turnverein Hall (30-34 La Trobe Street, Melbourne), April 2022**

**Heritage Place:** Former Turnverein Hall, later Grand United Order of Oddfellows Hall

**PS ref no:** HO1275



**What is significant?**

The Turnverein Hall, later the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Hall, at 30-34 La Trobe Street, built in 1871 with façade completed in 1874.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The building's original external form, materials and detailing (from 1871 and 1874)
- The building's high level of integrity to its original design (from 1871 and 1874)
- The size and patterns of original fenestration and arched openings (La Trobe Street)
- The size and patterns of extant original fenestration and exposed rock face bluestone walls (Bell Place)

- The decorative elements including engaged pilasters, capitals, entablature, cornices, cement mouldings, key stones and voussoirs
- The contrasting rusticated and stucco surface treatments, recessed rendered panels
- The early (c1920s) timber multi pane leadlight windows at ground level.

Later alterations to the window and doors at ground level, and addition of the cantilevered verandah, are not significant.

#### **How it is significant?**

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The Turnverein Hall, later the Grand United Order of Oddfellows Hall is of local historic, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Melbourne.

#### **Why it is significant?**

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30-34 La Trobe Street is historically significant for its association with German migrants, who arrived in Melbourne from the 1840s and created their own cultural institutions to encourage social interaction, promote German culture and provide activities for newcomers. (Criterion A)

30-34 La Trobe Street is significant as a classically-styled building, which formed part of the landscape of grand public architecture that was constructed in Melbourne in the post-gold rush era. (Criterion D)

30-34 La Trobe Street is aesthetically significant for its largely intact, classically-styled, rendered façade. It is a carefully designed and well-resolved example featuring a symmetrical massing with a simple ground level façade, more ornate upper levels with decorative motifs, ornate columns, rounded arched window openings and detailed cornices. (Criterion E)

30-34 La Trobe Street is significant for its association with the German social and gymnastics club, the Melbourne Deutscher Turnverein Society who constructed the building as their clubrooms in 1871. Following the Society's move from La Trobe Street in 1906, the place is significant for its association with the Grand United Order of Oddfellows who used 30-34 La Trobe Street as their meeting place until the 1960s. (Criterion H)

#### **Primary source**

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Hoddle Grid Heritage Review (Context & GJM Heritage, 2020) (updated March 2022)