

# FORMER CASTLEMAINE COURT HOUSE



FORMER CASTLEMAINE  
COURT HOUSE SOHE 2008



1 former castlemaine court  
house goldsmith crescent  
castlemaine front view



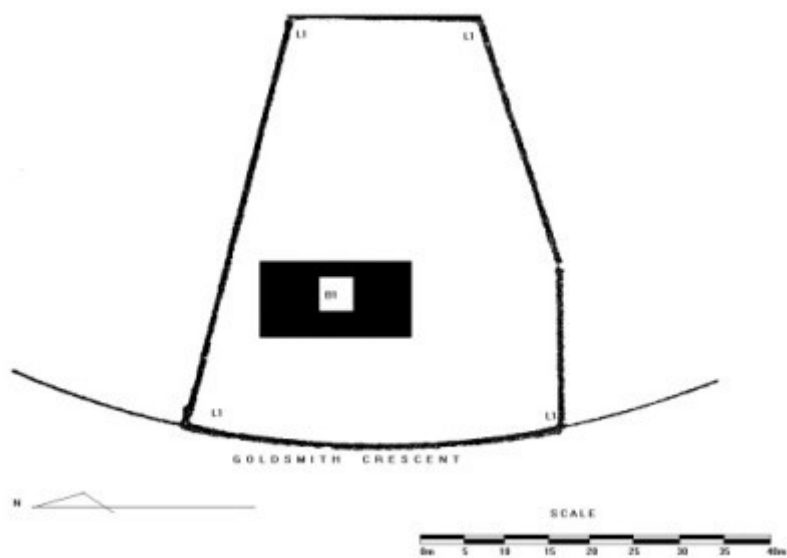
former castlemaine court  
house goldsmith crescent  
castlemaine verandah



former castlemaine court  
house goldsmith crescent  
castlemaine rear view



former castlemaine court  
house goldsmith crescent  
castlemaine side view



former castlemaine court house goldsmith crescent castlemaine plan

## Location

7 GOLDSMITH CRESCENT CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Municipality**

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1682

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO612

## **VHR Registration**

May 12, 1976

## **Amendment to Registration**

May 21, 1998

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - March 24, 2000

What is significant?

The enormous influx of people to the Victorian central goldfields in the 1850s resulted in the rapid establishment of law enforcement instrumentalities and the erection of many public buildings. In 1851 a Commissioner's Camp was established at the junction of Barkers and Forest Creeks in Castlemaine and a police office was erected there the following year. Public Works Department Colonial Architect Henry Ginn authorised and supervised the works. Built of brick and laid on a sandstone base, the building was converted into a court house in 1852 and in the same year housed the first sitting of the Supreme Court of Victoria on the goldfields. Sittings of the County Court and the Court of Petty Sessions were held between 1852 and 1856 and in 1865 the Castlemaine Mining Board took over the building. The building remained the property of the Crown until 1940 when it was sold to artist Alice .M.E. Bale. In 1983 the building was compulsorily acquired and transferred back to the Crown. The single storey building, with its modified timber verandah and iron clad roof, is now used by the Castlemaine Historical Society.

How is it significant?

The former Castlemaine Court House is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Castlemaine Court House is of great historical importance as one of the earliest extant public buildings of the Colony of Victoria and is possibly the earliest surviving public building of the Victorian goldfields. While originally constructed as a police office, the building operated as a Circuit Court from 1852 until the late 1850s and was presided over by Mr Justice Barry,(later Sir Redmond Barry), in 1852 at what is thought to have

been his first Supreme Court sitting outside of Melbourne. The building is believed to be the oldest building remaining in Castlemaine and has strong historical associations with the gold rush era, in particular the establishment of law and order on the goldfields, and settlement in central Victoria. The building also has long associations with the Castlemaine Road Engineers and the Castlemaine Mining Board, the latter which occupied the building for approximately 30 years.

The former Castlemaine Court House is of historical interest for its association with artist Alice Marian Ellen Bale (1875-1955). Alice Bale was a talented artist who exhibited widely and was also an editor of the journal of the Victorian Artists' Society from March 1918 until its last issue in February 1919.

The former Castlemaine Court House is of architectural significance as an example of a public building which pre-dates the Public Works Department standard designs.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Exterior

- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- \* Repair or replacement of timber paling fences.
- \* Regular garden maintenance.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.

#### Interior

- \* Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- \* Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- \* Refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets and or en suites including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors

Construction dates	1852,
Architect/Designer	Ginn, Henry,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	POLICE RESIDENCE,
Hermes Number	260
Property Number	

---

## Plaque Citation

Former Court House is registered by Heritage Council Victoria

Built c.1851, this is one of the earliest surviving public buildings from the Victorian gold rush era. It operated as a Circuit Court from 1852 until the late 1850s. The building also has associations with the artist Alice Bale.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1682 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Former Castlemaine Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

### EXTENT

1. All the building known as the former Castlemaine Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, Castlemaine, being the building marked B1 on plan 603727, held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on plan 603727, held by the Executive Director, being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 9519 Folio 689.

Dated 7 May 1998  
RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G20 21 May 1998 p.1133]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*