

FORMER SCHOOL OF MINES



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1 former school of mines
lyttleton street castlemaine
entrance



former school of mines
lyttleton street castlemaine
street view



former school of mines
lyttleton street castlemaine
rear view 1997

Location

27 LYTTLETON STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1644

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO641

VHR Registration

February 10, 1988

Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 2, 1999

The foundation stone of the School of Mines, Castlemaine was laid on 18.12.1889 on the site of the old police court which had previously been used for classes. The architect was WC Vahland of Bendigo and the builder a Mr Dunstan. The school was built at a time when interest in applied science was high and its establishment also reflected the strong tradition of Mechanics? Institutes and mining schools many British migrants had brought to Victoria.

Schools of mines were particularly popular in Victorian gold mining towns such as Bendigo, Ballarat and Castlemaine. The greatest enrolments were however in non-mining subjects as the school attempted to meet local demands and the needs of other industries. At the time it was opened the new building contained a laboratory, assay and balance rooms, art rooms, lecture hall, museum Library and offices. Classes were also held in telegraphy. The school initially operated under the supervision of the technological commission but when this was disbanded in 1890 it came under the control of the education department. In 1926 the Castlemaine junior technical school was added to the rear of the building. Constructed of brick, the two-storey building has a rendered Italianate facade with a parapet. The vertical element through the facade is asymmetrically placed with a porch entrance in the lower storey and a pedimented tablet at parapet level. The windows all have semi circular arches and those in the upper storey, applied triangular pediments over them. The building was originally symmetrical about the front entrance and urns were located on the parapet. A further three bays were added in 1928, disrupting the symmetry.

Vahland was an important and influential architect in the Bendigo district and the Castlemaine School of Mines shows typical elements of his style. The building is also significant as an example of the provision of technical education for men and women at a time when post- primary education was not generally available.

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:

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. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1889,
Architect/Designer	Vahland, William Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	267
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings
Castlemaine City

Former School of Mines, 27 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine (the exterior of the building to the depth of the front wing).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p3088]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

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/>