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# CASTLEMAINE MARKET



CASTLEMAINE MARKET  
SOHE 2008



1 castlemaine market  
castlemaine front view



castlemaine market  
castlemaine detail of  
pediment



castlemaine market  
castlemaine outside lamp 8  
2000



castlemaine market building  
mostyn street castlemaine  
front elevation she project  
2003



castlemaine market building  
mostyn street castlemaine  
side elevation she project  
2003

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## Location

44 MOSTYN STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0130

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO646

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 13, 1999

What is significant?

The Castlemaine Market originally contained 22 shops for the sale of local fresh foods and products. It was one of three market buildings arranged geometrically around an arcaded water tank built over the town well in Market Square, in the centre of Castlemaine, one of the premier mid 19th century gold rush towns of the Central Victorian Goldfields. The two earliest red brick market buildings, known as East and West Markets, were erected in 1858 to the design of Edmund Spencer, the town surveyor. In 1861/2 an imposing North Market, the present Classical Revival building, was designed by the town surveyor, William Beynon Downe. The inspiration for the design has been attributed to works by British classical architect and surveyor general, Sir Christopher Wren (1632-1732) and Charles Fowler (1791-1867), noted for his mid 19th classical styled market designs in England.

During successive decades Market Square was beautified but the First World War brought a change in economic and social direction to the town. The East and West Market buildings were demolished in 1918 and 1919, respectively, to make way for a new high school, now recycled as part of Coles supermarket; the Return Soldiers League Club rooms, a memorial garden, Victory Park and War Memorial were established in the square to the west of the market building. Coinciding with the Second World War, the 1865 palms trees were replaced with Lombardy poplars. In response to community outcry over plans for construction of a State Electricity Commission substation on the North Market site, the National Trust listed the building in 1959; and when market trading ceased in 1967 the building was acquired by the National Trust in a deteriorated condition. Subsequently restored in 2000 the building was leased to Mount Alexander Shire Council for use as a Tourist Information Centre and focus for the Mount Alexander Diggings Trail, a guide to the Central Victorian Goldfields.

How is it significant?

The Castlemaine Market is of historical, architectural, technical and social, significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Castlemaine Market is of exceptional architectural significance as a rare surviving early colonial market building. Completed in 1862, displaying a mixture of Australian colonial Greek and Roman Classical Revival styles, the building is dedicated to Ceres, the Roman goddess of harvest, represented by a life size figurative sculpture fixed to the apex of the central facade, a gable portico pediment, supported by widely spaced Roman Doric columns, set between two brick wings, which terminate in towers adorned by Palladian influenced cupolas. The main building has a basilica plan with upper clerestory storey above the long colonnaded structure.

The Castlemaine Market is of historical and social importance for its association with the prosperity and growth of Castlemaine, a major gold rush town in the Central Gold fields of Victoria. The front entrance was designed as a temple, a symbol to secular power, at a time when there was civil unrest on the goldfields forcing the transition from military to democratic local government rule, heralded by the dismantling of Government Camp Reserve and opening of the new Town Hall and Market in 1862.

The Castlemaine Market has technical significance for its use of curved horizontally laminated wooden ribs in its roof construction, rare in building usage at the time.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2001]

## 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 all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan 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 must 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	1861,
Architect/Designer	Downe, William Beynon,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	269

Property Number

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## History

REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE - CITATION MARKET, MOYSTYN STREET, CASTLEMAINE, IS A BRICK MARKET BUILDING ERECTED TO THE DESIGNS OF TOWN SURVEYOR WILLIAM BEYNON DOWNES IN 1861- 62. SYMMETRICAL IN ELEVATION, THE MAIN FACADE FEATURES A TUSCAN PORTICO WITH RISING SUN MOTIF, STATUE OF CERES, ROUND HEADED ENTRANCE AND ROUNDELS. TWO TOWERS WITH CUPOLA CROWNED, OPEN TOP STOREY, TERMINATE THE SIDE WINGS, WHICH ARE ARCADED AND CAPPED BY A CORNICE. MARKET, MOSTYN STREET, CASTLEMAINE, IS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE CLASSICAL REVIVAL BUILDINGS IN AUSTRALIA, IS AN EXAMPLE OF A RARE BUILDING TYPE AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SUCH BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTRY AND IS A LANDMARK IN THE HISTORIC TOWNSCAPE OF THE FORMER GOLD-MINING CENTRE. THE CASTLEMEINE MARKET ALSO HAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS AND IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE PERIOD WHEN THE TEMPORARY TOWN BECAME AN ESTABLISHED AND PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. MARKET, MOSTYN STREET, CASTLEMAINE, WAS ACQUIRED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA) IN 1967 IN A DETERIORATED STATE AND SUBSEQUENTLY RESTORED. OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

## Plaque Citation

Castlemaine Market is registered by Heritage Council Victoria

Castlemaine Market is one of the most distinctive examples of the Classic Revival styles in Australia. It was designed by William Beynon Downe and built in 1861-62.

## Extent of Registration

*City of Castlemaine*. No. 130. Market, Castlemaine, Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. [Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

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*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/>*