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# FERNDALE MANOR



1 ferndale manor castlemaine  
front elevation



ferndale manor castlemaine  
rear elevation

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## Location

60 RAY STREET AND 26 GAFFNEY STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0133

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO658

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 8, 2024

### **What is significant?**

Ferndale Manor was built in Castlemaine for Henry Issacs in 1859-60 to designs by architect, Edward Spencer. From 1867 to 1876 it was the residence of Alexander William Robertson who, together with John Wagner, ran the Victorian operations of Cobb and Co. from Castlemaine. By this time the town had grown rapidly to become the administration and service centre for the goldfields, after the discovery of gold in the region in 1851.

Ferndale Manor is a two-storey Georgian building of face brickwork with a pyramidal hipped slate roof over the main square section. The symmetrical front facade contains a central entrance portico with balustraded balcony supported on Ionic columns. A verandah, which flanks the entrance porch, returns around one side of the building and a two storey polygonal bay is incorporated on the opposite side. Broad eaves, on three sides of the building, are supported on brackets and incorporate distinctive soffit detailing.

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

Ferndale Manor, Castlemaine is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

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

Ferndale Manor is of architectural significance as an early and substantial house built in the goldfields town of Castlemaine. It is notable for its design and for such detailing as the distinctive treatment of the eaves.

Ferndale Manor is of historical significance as an illustrative example of a house built in the late 1850s when Castlemaine was the leading town in the region, and for its association with Alexander Robertson, a partner in Cobb and Co.

**[Online Data Upgrade Project 2007]**

## **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	1859,
Architect/Designer	Spencer, Edward,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	272
Property Number	

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## History

Ferndale Manor was built in Castlemaine for Henry Issacs in 1859-60 to designs by architect, Edward Spencer. From 1867 to 1876 it was the residence of Alexander William Robertson who, together with John Wagner, ran the Victorian operations of Cobb and Co. from Castlemaine. By this time the town had grown rapidly to become the administration and service centre for the goldfields, after the discovery of gold in the region in 1851.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2007. Sources were as follows:**

Heritage Victoria File no. 603977

## Plaque Citation

Built in 1859-60 for merchant Henry Isaacs to a design by Castlemaine architect Edward Spencer, this early substantial house is notable for its design and detailing such as the distinctive treatment of the eaves.

## Extent of Registration

*City of Castlemaine*. No. 133. Ferndale Manor, 60 Ray 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/>*