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# THOMAS RIDGWAY STORE (FORMER)



Thomas Ridgway Store  
(former)

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## Location

16 BAIR STREET, LEONGATHA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

### What is significant?

The former Thomas Ridgway store, at 16 Bair Street, Leongatha, built in 1891, is significant. The single storey brick shop of Victorian origins has since been altered into an Interwar commercial-style shop. The building currently features a rendered parapet with 1939 Interwar awning and recessed entry. There have been alterations in 1937 after a major fire.

Any surviving internal Victorian features should be retained. Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former Thomas Ridgway store at 16 Bair Street, Leongatha has local historic significance to the wider South Gippsland Shire and associative significance to early key figures in the settlement of Leongatha.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the former Thomas Ridgway store is one of the earliest commercial buildings in Leongatha, being built in 1890-91. This building was part of the earliest developments of the Leongatha commercial area. It was one of the first stores on Bair Street, following the opening of the South Eastern Railway in 1891. This building demonstrated the early commercial growth in Leongatha and South Gippsland more generally at this time. The building's continued use demonstrates the longevity of these older commercial properties in larger towns within South Gippsland, such as Leongatha. (Criterion A)

The former Thomas Ridgway store is strongly associated with its original owner, Thomas Ridgway, who was well known in the South Gippsland region. In addition to the shop at 16 Bair Street Leongatha, Mr Ridgway also owned a large store in Mirboo North, where the main street is named in his honour. This building is part of Thomas Ridgway's legacy in South Gippsland that reflects Ridgway's commercial expertise within strong commercial precincts in the region. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1891, 1899, 1939, 1937, 1891, 1937, 1939, 1891, 1937,
Architect/Designer	Silverwood & Beck,
Other Names	Nick's Clothing, Nick's Clothing, Shop,
Hermes Number	30752
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Ridgway & Balding Store is single storey brick shop of Victorian origins, but now significantly altered. Notable elements include the rendered parapet, and the interwar awning, which complements the awning of the adjacent Bair's Hotel.

(Further inspection is desirable to determine the extent of surviving pre-1900 fabric.)

*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/>*