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# POWDER MAGAZINE



POWDER MAGAZINE SOHE  
2008



1 powder magazine napier  
street avoca side view  
sep1983



powder magazine napier  
street avoca rear view  
aug1984

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## Location

NAPIER STREET AND CAMP STREET AVOCA, PYRENEES SHIRE

## Municipality

PYRENEES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1548

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO7

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 21, 1999

### What is significant?

The Powder Magazine, Avoca, built in 1860, is part of a larger justice precinct designed by the Public Works Department and includes the court house (1859), police residence (1859) and lock-up (1867). The magazine, which was designed to exclude all flammable materials and protect the stored materials from weather and dampness, is a rectangular brick building with a deeply overhung gabled slate roof. The building has a small porch in the centre of one facade, narrow ventilation slits and unusual diagonal corner buttresses. The internal ceiling is a brick barrel vault constructed to minimise damage to surrounding areas in the case of explosion.

### How is it significant?

The Powder Magazine, Avoca, is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Powder Magazine, Avoca, is historically significant for its early date of construction. The magazine is important for its relationship with the nearby courthouse, police residence and lock-up which together form an example of an early justice precinct. The building, together with the other buildings in the precinct, played a significant role in Avoca's past and has a close association with the area's goldmining history.

The Powder Magazine is architecturally significant as an example of a comparatively rare building type, strongly associated with the goldmining district settlements. The characteristics of the building such as its simple form and vernacular style are important for demonstrating contemporary engineering structure design practice.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2003]*

## 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](#).

Construction dates	1860,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	POLICE MAGAZINE,
Hermes Number	39
Property Number	

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## History

Powder Magazines in Victoria were primarily intended to store explosives used in goldmining, quarrying and road-making. Publicly owned powder magazines were located outside many goldfields towns to avoid accidental explosions close to residential areas. By 1890 there were 22 public magazines in Victoria, but by 1921 all were closed, due to the decline in goldmining activity. They were replaced by a system of licensed private magazines.

Powder Magazines were also constructed inside forts to store gunpowder and other explosives.

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The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2003. Sources were as follows:

Avoca Shire Heritage Study, 1993  
 Frances O'Neill, Police Buildings Survey  
 National Estate Register

## Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings  
 Avoca Shire  
 Powder Magazine, Napier Street, Avoca.  
 [Victoria Government Gazette No. G39 12 October 1988 p3086]

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/>*