

# FORMER GOLD WARDEN'S OFFICE



FORMER GOLD WARDEN'S OFFICE SOHE 2008



1 former gold warden's office  
hargraves street castlemaine  
front view sep1995



H1404 plan

## Location

35 HARGRAVES STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1404

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO992

## VHR Registration

February 12, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

Twenty-two gold wardens offices were built to service the administration of the 1855 and 1858 Gold Acts. The earlier offices were small, often prefabricated timber buildings of one or two rooms. Later offices, in gold-fields where money more long term mining activities were taking place, were more substantial masonry buildings of several rooms. The Castlemaine office was one of the last, and the largest, to be built, in 1864.

The Castlemaine Warden's office consisted of four rooms in a stuccoed brick building with two gable roofs linked by a smaller cross gable. The design by Public Works architect Charles Maplestone (who also designed other Wardens offices including that at Daylesford), used very simple classical elements with moulding at impost level, linking semi circular arches in paired windows in the front facade, and stilted segmental arches on the side windows. There was an office for the Gold Warden, Warden's Clerk and Warden's Court room, and Mining Registrar's office. Opening off the latter room, in the centre of the building was a strong-room with brick barrel vault for secure storage of gold prior to transport to Melbourne. The building was used subsequently as a residence for the watch-house keeper, and as a police residence, and is now a private residence. The former office stands among a precinct of civic buildings dating from the 1850s, 60s and 70s, including the court house, former School of Mines, stone lockup (moved to a position adjacent to the office from a site nearby) and the former Savings Bank/Police Station.

The Castlemaine former Gold Warden's Office is of historical and architectural importance to the State of Victoria.

The Castlemaine former Gold Warden's Office is of historical importance as an intact example of the public office buildings which associated with the considerable task of administration of the Gold Fields Act in the 1850s and 60s. This historical association is strengthened by the location of the building within a precinct of other civic buildings associated with same era.

The Castlemaine former Gold Warden's Office is of architectural importance as the largest and most developed example of the twenty two warden offices constructed in the gold fields, and one of the last constructed. In its planning it accommodated in separate spaces under one roof the functions of Court activities, Gold Wardens enforcement of court decisions, Mining Registrars administration of leases, and secure storage of gold.

## 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      | 1864,                  |
| Architect/Designer      | Maplestone, Charles W, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,      |
| Other Names             | POLICE RESIDENCE,      |
| Hermes Number           | 4836                   |
| Property Number         |                        |

---

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1404 is now described in the category as a Heritage Place:

Former Gold Warden's Office, 37 Hargreaves Street, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

### EXTENT

1. All of the former Gold Warden's Office marked B-1 and all of the land marked L-1 being part of the land known as . all on Diagram 605824A held by the Executive Director.

Dated 5 February 1998

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G6 12 February 1998 p.347]

*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/>*