

# THEATRE ROYAL



H2144 Theatre Royal  
Castlemaine August 2007 ac  
052



H2144 Theatre Royal  
Castlemaine August 2007 ac  
063



H2144 Theatre Royal  
Castlemaine August 2007 ac  
032



H2144 Theatre Royal  
Castlemaine August 2007 ac  
022



H2144 Theatre Royal Castlemaine plan

## Location

30-32 HARGRAVES STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Municipality**

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H2144

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO619

## **VHR Registration**

December 13, 2007

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - September 12, 2007

What is significant?

Castlemaine's Theatre Royal was built in 1858 to replace the first canvas and timber Theatre Royal which burnt down in 1857. Local residents raised a public loan to enable the lessees Messrs Rainer and Gingell to rebuild the theatre. The result was a more substantial building constructed of random coursed local sandstone and brick with a roof of Morewood and Rogers galvanised iron tiles. The new theatre had a capacity for 225 people in the stalls and 675 in the 'Pit'. The front section of the building housed a hotel known as the Royal Hotel which closed in 1910 after a hearing before the Licences Reduction Board. The theatre continued and adapted through various stages as a bioscope and picture theatre from the early twentieth century.

Extensive alterations took place in 1938-39 to convert the theatre into a cinema with a stalls area and dress circle accommodating 972 patrons. The building's facade was rendered and given a Moderne styling characterised by strong horizontal bands, a stepped parapet and glazed decorative tiles to wall surfaces beneath the awning. The 1930s Moderne inspired detailing extends throughout the building's interior. The key elements are the oak stair, 1930s light fittings, exit signs and the fluted pilasters and patterned friezes on the walls and ceiling of the auditorium. From the early 1980s the building was also used as a discothèque, theatre, live music venue and theatre restaurant, as well as a cinema. Sections of nineteenth century decorative schemes including wallpaper survive on interior walls hidden by later accretions. The building continues to operate as a cinema.

How is it significant?

Theatre Royal, Castlemaine is of historical and social significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is significant?

Theatre Royal, Castlemaine is of historical significance as the earliest known continuously operating theatre in Victoria and as a rare surviving goldfields theatre in Victoria.

Theatre Royal, Castlemaine is of historical and social significance for its long and continuous associations with popular forms of mass entertainment since the mid nineteenth century. As a goldfields theatre and later as a cinema, it has been highly valued by members of the community as central to the social and cultural life of the area.

## 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. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria 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 may 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.

**Exterior:**

Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.

**Interior:**

Installation, removal or replacement of projection and sound equipment (except for the early projector), providing they do not adversely impact on significant elements, or involve structural alterations.

Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings in appropriate heritage colour schemes, provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.

Installation, removal or replacement of screens or curtains, including cinema screens and curtains (and associated structure), curtain tracks, rods and blinds, other than where structural alterations are required.

Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art works.

Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.

Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.

Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed.

Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like on plaster surfaces.

Installation of new fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements affixed to plaster surfaces.

Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

Construction dates	1938, 1858,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	5218
Property Number	

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**Plaque Citation**

Built as a hotel and theatre in 1858, the Theatre Royal later became a picture theatre and was given a Moderne style facade in 1938-39. It is the earliest known continuously operating theatre in Victoria.

**Extent of Registration**

1. All the building marked B1 on Diagram 2144 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 2144 held by the Executive Director being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 10334 Folio 318.

*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/>*