

# AJ THOMAS MOTOR GARAGE



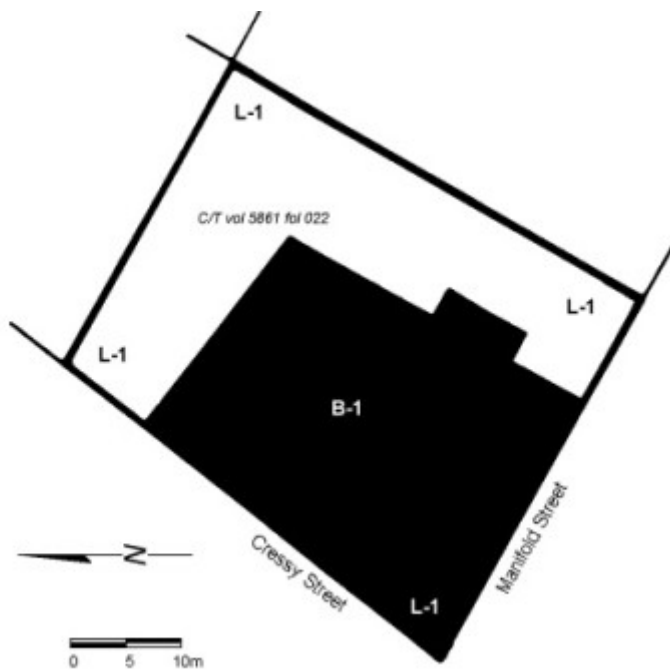
AJ THOMAS MOTOR GARAGE SOHE 2008



AJ THOMAS MOTOR GARAGE SOHE 2008



1 a j thomas motor garage camperdown front view sep1997



a j thomas's motor garage plan

## Location

100-102 MANIFOLD STREET CAMPERDOWN, CORANGAMITE SHIRE

## Municipality

CORANGAMITE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

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

H1383

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO55

## **VHR Registration**

December 11, 1997

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 1, 1999

What is significant?

AJ Thomas's Motor Garage consists of a complex of buildings dating from c.1912 and the 1920s unified by major alterations and a new rendered brick facade in Inter-war Mediterranean style dating from 1932. The 1932 design is attributed to prominent Camperdown architect, WP (Perry) Knights, and was one of his last recorded works in the district. The earlier portions of the building are in timber and once housed Thomas's earlier carriage building works. Knights's design, which included a sheltered drive-through service corner (with pumps) and a spacious showroom with large windows fronting on to Manifold Street, was in response to the needs of the automobile trade. The first Shell Company petrol pump in Australia was reputedly located here, while the signs 'Garage' and 'Duco' have survived on the east elevation.

The Mediterranean style, with its fusion of Renaissance Revival and Mediterranean domestic elements, became popular in Australia in the 1920s. The incorporation of these elements in the garage, including a square cantilevered corner turret with a tiled terra-cotta roof, cement render, etched and patterned glass, double pilasters and Roman frieze mouldings, represents a very unusual application of the style.

How is it significant?

The AJ Thomas's Motor Garage is historically and architecturally important to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The AJ Thomas's Motor Garage is historically important as a substantially intact, purpose-built, inter-war motor garage that dates from the period when automobile ownership and recreational car touring were increasing. Its exuberant architecture celebrated the growing prominence of the car in society, and helped to draw the attention of passing motor traffic on the busy Princes Highway. It is also one of the largest of the early garages in Victoria.

The AJ Thomas's Motor Garage is architecturally significant as an extremely unusual adaptation of the Inter-war Mediterranean style for a commercial motor garage. Its sheltered drive-through service corner, office and showroom were designed in response to the needs of motorists and the automobile trade. The small cantilevered tower, which was a common feature in inter-war garages in the United States, was rarely used in local designs. The retention of the signs and other original details, both internally and externally, also enhance the building's significance. The Motor Garage makes a strong and distinctive contribution to the commercial architecture of Manifold Street, and to the Princes Highway in Western Victoria generally.

## 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:

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### Policy:

The important facets of this place are those which concern its architectural and historical importance as a motor garage, office and showroom in the Inter-war Mediterranean style. The parts of the building which relate to its use in carriage manufacture are of local significance. The main focus for permit activity should be on the rendered brick facade, the signage, and the plaster and timber detailing of the office, showroom and rest room.

#### General Conditions:

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.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exterior

Repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.  
Demolition or removal of outbuildings and sheds.  
Repair, removal or replacement of fences and gates.  
Erection or installation of small outbuildings or sheds provided that the floor area does not exceed 25 square metres or the height 3 metres.  
All works to the timber former workshop parts of the building except demolition.  
Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.  
Painting over of modern advertising signs to match the colour scheme in force at the time of registration.  
Laying or removal of concrete or bitumen paving.  
Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.

#### Interior

Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.  
Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.  
Patching or repair of plaster provided that new work matches good adjacent work in style, detail and finish.  
Installation, removal or replacement of carpets, tiles and/or flexible floor coverings.  
Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.  
Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.  
Refurbishment of bathrooms or toilets including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.  
Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.  
Removal of existing laundromat equipment and making good.  
Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.  
Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.  
Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.  
Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Construction dates	1912,
Architect/Designer	Knights, WP,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	AJ THOMAS,
Hermes Number	5297

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 by including the Heritage Register Number 1383 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

A. J. Thomas's Motor Garage, Manifold Street and Cressy Road, Camperdown, Corangamite Shire Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. All of the building marked B-1 on Diagram 608122 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 608122 held by the Executive Director being all of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 5861, Folio 022.

Dated 4 December 1997

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G49 11 December 1997 p.3432]

*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/>*