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# HEATHCOTE POWDER MAGAZINE



HEATHCOTE POWDER  
MAGAZINE SOHE 2008



1 heathcote powder  
magazine side view aug1997



heathcote powder magazine  
end view nov1984



heathcote powder magazine  
rear view



heathcote powder magazine  
slit window detail

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## Location

FOREST DRIVE HEATHCOTE, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1402

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO461

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

February 12, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

What is significant?

The Act to Regulate the Importation, Carriage and Custody of Gunpowder was passed in 1857 in a period when increasing deep mining for gold engendered a requirement for safe storage of large quantities of explosives. Under the Act, public powder magazines were financed by Government and administered locally. After 1857 over twenty five new magazines were erected in Victoria and older magazines extended. The Mclvor diggings, with which the Heathcote Powder Magazine is associated, were a pivotal point of mining activities in the central goldfields area and ensured the development of Heathcote as a township. The Heathcote Powder Magazine was constructed by the Public Works Department in 1864, in high quality quarry faced local stone laid in coursed ashlar. Like several other magazines built during the 1860's, the Heathcote Powder Magazine features a brick vaulted space inside a buttressed rectangular building, with a small used entry and office space. The vault, buttressing and baffled air vents were a manifestation of the (erroneous) belief prevalent at the time that massive masonry would help to contain explosives. The gable roof over the vault was originally of slate. Sawn Oregon racks remain in the main room, together with a two door iron safe with decorative stencilling.

How is it significant?

The Heathcote Powder Magazine is of historic and architectural importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Heathcote Powder Magazine is of historic significance as an example of a building type, which played an important part in the development of deep alluvial and quartz mining activities in the goldfields of Victoria in the late 1850s and the 1860s.

The Heathcote Powder Magazine is of architectural significance as a fine example of a rare building type. Set in the picturesque surrounds of the Mclvor Range Reserve, the building demonstrates particularly fine stone masonry and brick vaulting work and is an excellent example of a Public Works department designed powder magazine.

## 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)

#### **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:**

Reinstatement and making good of the fire damaged roof in materials and form to match the original.

Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

Regular landscape maintenance.

Construction dates            1863,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,

Hermes Number                587

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.

## **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 1402 is now described in the category as a Heritage Place:

Heathcote Powder Magazine, Mclvor Range Reserve, Heathcote, Greater Bendigo City Council.

### EXTENT

1. All of the building known as the Heathcote Powder Magazine as marked B-1 Diagram 602090 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L-1 on Diagram 602090 held by the Executive Director.
3. The stencilled two door safe located on the floor of the magazine against the southern wall.

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/>*