
FORMER TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND FAULDER WATSON HALL



1 former telegraph office & faulder watson hall barker street castlemaine side view faulder watson hall



FORMER TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND FAULDER WATSON HALL SOHE 2008



former telegraph office & faulder watson hall barker street castlemaine detail front door telegraph office



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former telegraph office and faulder watson hall barker street castlemaine side view telegraph office

Location

208-210 BARKER STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0671

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO579

VHR Registration

November 11, 1987

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 1999

The Castlemaine telegraph office was one of four opened on the Sandhurst line in January 1857, the others being at Sandhurst, Kyneton and Gisborne. It was the first major public building erected within the government reserve of 1853 (after the initial camp) and remained in use as a telegraph office until 5 July 1875 when the equipment was transferred to the new post office.

The building was constructed by local contractors Campbell and Thompson to a design by the Public Works Department (at that time under the direction of Charles Pasley). It is a freestone building with a slate roof and was originally designed as a two storey gabled building with two single storey flanking wings with hipped roofs. The northern wing was added in the 1860s.

From April 10th 1891 the telegraph office was leased by the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association for 1 shilling per annum to be used as clubrooms. The association had been founded on the 17th March 1880, membership at the time being limited to residents of the district of twenty five years standing (pioneers) and persons who had resided in the district for not less than fifteen years (old residents). The aims of the association included loan assistance to members, the promotion and advancement of native born Victorians and the promulgation of facts concerning the early history of the district.

On the October 27th, 1893 the Association acquired the property by Crown grant and shortly thereafter demolished the northern timber part of the telegraph office to make way for a new hall. The foundation stone of the present hall was laid on the November 20th, 1893 by Mrs Charlotte Watson, the widow of Faulder Watson, late publican of the imperial hotel in Castlemaine. Mrs Watson also offered a donation of £250 towards the cost of the hall provided it was named after her later husband. A donation of £50 was also received from Mrs Edward Fitzgerald.

The hall was opened on the night of the March 27th 1895 with a banquet and a dance and since that time has been used as an entertainment venue and for a variety of community activities including scouts, dancing classes, gymnastics and lodge and political meetings.

Faulder Watson hall is a rendered brick building of simple lines which commemorates the formation of one of the earliest historical societies in the state and which has provided a focus for community activities for nearly a century.

The former telegraph office, which was later united with the hall as a kitchen and museum, is of significance as an indicator of early government administration on the goldfields and the development of communications in the colony. The later association with the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association is also of interest showing as it does the transition from a mining town to a settled society.

[Source: Historic Buildings Council]

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	1857,
Architect/Designer	Pasley, Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association Hall,
Hermes Number	252
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Buildings No. 671.

Former Telegraph Office and Faulder Watson Hall, 208 Barker Street, Castlemaine to the extent of the whole of the land described in Certificate of Title, Volume 2523, Folio 451.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G44 11 November 1987 p. 3032]

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/>