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# ST FRANCIS XAVIER CHAPEL AND CATHOLIC CEMETERY



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2.st francis xavier eganstown  
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1.st francis xavier eganstown  
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## Location

3835-3911 MIDLAND HIGHWAY EGANSTOWN, HEPBURN SHIRE

## Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0738

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO614

## VHR Registration

August 23, 1989

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 1999

St Francis Xavier at Eganstown, built 1865-1867, has both architectural and historical significance for the following reasons:

- 1) The small weatherboard gothic chapel with its associated cemetery has importance as a surviving example of the many modest buildings constructed for combined church and school purposes which sprang up throughout Victoria's goldfields areas during the last century.
- 2) The complex has importance for its associations with the pioneer gold seeker, John Egan, who was the first to discover gold in the Daylesford district and reputedly, the second to discover gold in Victoria. The chapel and cemetery were built on land donated to the Catholic Church by John Egan. Family descendants still live at Eganstown, named after their ancestor.
- 3) St Francis Xavier is notable for its handsome Celtic cross, which stands in front of the chapel, and was erected as a monument to John Egan.
- 4) The cemetery, which has gravestones dating from the 1860s, many still in excellent condition, illustrates the two streams of migrants, Irish and Swiss Italian, who settled the Daylesford district from the late 1850s.

## 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 1865,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Hermes Number 421  
Property Number

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## History

Associated People: Assoc.People JOHN EGAN

## Plaque Citation

This chapel was built in 1865-67 and is a rare example of the modest buildings built for church and school use in Victoria's goldfields. It is important for its association with pioneer gold seeker John Egan.

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 738, St Francis Xavier Chapel and Catholic Cemetery, Midland Highway, Eganstown, to the extent of the whole of the building and the whole of the land as shown in Memorial No. 117 Book 172.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G33 23 August 1989 p.2165]

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*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/>*