

# WUNDERLICH/MONIER TERRACOTTA ROOF TILES COMPLEX



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1 wunderlich terra cotta tile  
works demolished mitcam  
road vermont view of  
chimneys nov1993



1 wunderlich terra cotta tile  
works demolished mitcam  
road vermont view structure



former wunderlich terracotta tile works registration plan

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## Location

656 MITCHAM ROAD VERMONT, WHITEHORSE CITY

## Municipality

WHITEHORSE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1008

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO5

## VHR Registration

December 19, 1996

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 3, 1999

What is significant?

The clay pit at Vermont was first opened in 1925 to supply Wunderlich's Brunswick tile works. The Vermont tile works opened in 1932.

How is it significant?

The former Wunderlich terra cotta tile works is of historical and architectural significance to Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The works are historically significant for their association with the Wunderlich company, the principal importer of terra cotta roofing tiles in Australia from 1892 to the outbreak of World War I. The Wunderlich company became the largest Australian manufacturer of terra cotta roofing tiles, a material which literally changed the appearance of southern Australian suburbs, and which continued to remain popular one hundred years after its introduction. The Vermont manufacturing plant, which retains its original office building, is the largest and most intact pre-war tile works in the State. The down draught kiln is the earliest known survivor of its type.

The works are architecturally significant for their use of lattice (Belfast) timber roof trusses in the curved roof structure which housed the kilns. This roof structure, probably relocated from the Brunswick tile works, is a rare industrial roof form, and the only known extant example of this type of truss in Victoria.

## 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:

The following exemptions apply to the office building (marked B2 on Diagram 605687) only:

#### INTERIOR DECORATIVE SCHEMES

Interior painting to walls and ceilings, provided the preparation work for painting does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or other decorative scheme.

Removal of existing carpets / flexible floor coverings eg vinyl.

Installation of carpets and flexible floor coverings

Installation of curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings.

#### REFURBISHMENT OF TOILETS, KITCHENS

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

Removal of existing kitchen benches and fixtures and floor coverings and installation of new kitchen benches and fixtures, including associated plumbing and wiring.

#### INSTALLATION OF HEATING SERVICES

Installation of hydronic, or concealed radiant (Ceiling Foil Radiant Heating or under carpet heating) type heating, provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings, architraves and the location of the heating unit (boiler etc) is concealed from view.

#### RE-WIRING

Re-wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.

#### HANGING OF PAINTINGS, MIRRORS, AND OTHER WALL-MOUNTED ITEMS

Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors, and other wall-mounted items.

#### INSTALLATION OF INSULATION

Installation of bulk insulation to the roof space.

#### INSTALLATION OF SMOKE DETECTORS

Installation of smoke detectors.

#### REMOVAL OF EXTRANEIOUS EXTERNAL ITEMS

Removal of air-conditioners / pipework / wiring / antennae / aerials / and making good.

#### INSTALLATION OF DAMP-PROOF COURSES

Installation of damp-proofing by either injection method, or "grouted pocket" method.

## SIGNAGE

Existing signage may be altered/replaced provided that the new sign is no larger than the existing, is located in the same position and that no internally illuminated signage is used. A PACKAGE OF WORKS TO MAKE SAFE THE CHIMNEY STACK AND ENVIRONS AND ADDRESS OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS INCLUDING REMOVAL OF UNSAFE LATTICE TRUSSES, DEMOLITION OF UPPER PART OF CHIMNEY STACK GENERALLY AS DESCRIBED IN THE REPORT BY JMP DATED 28 NOVEMBER 2007 AND SUMMARY PREPARED BY IAN STOTT, OF CSR, AND DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2007.

## CONDITIONS

1. The methodology of the demolition is to avoid damage to the base of the stack and the nearby kiln.
  2. Retention of as much of the stack as possible (engineer has suggested up to the lower cord of the truss be retained).
  3. An agreed program of conservation works to stabilise the remnant stack (including capping) and the kiln including roofing over the kiln to avoid further deterioration of the structure. The documentation describing the conservation works is to be prepared by a heritage consultant, submitted for the approval of the Executive Director and completed within 6 months of the demolition of the chimney.
  4. An historian is to undertake an oral history program to record the experiences of the remaining workers who worked in the kiln areas.
  5. Exempt classes of works or activities are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the registered place / object. However, if other previously hidden original or inaccessible details of the object or place are uncovered, any works that may affect such items shall immediately cease. The Executive Director shall be notified immediately to enable Heritage Victoria to inspect and record the items, and for discussion to take place on the possible retention of the items, or the issue of a modified approval.
1. Nothing in this Declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exempt alterations provided work has not commenced on the alteration.

Construction dates	1925,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	WUNDERLICH TERRA COTTA TILE WORKS,
Hermes Number	4626
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People:

## 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 1008 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Former Wunderlich terra cotta tile works, 656 Mitcham Road, Vermont, Whitehorse City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the timber framed building marked B1, all of the down draught kilns marked K1-K3 inclusive, all of the chimney stack marked S1 and all the office building marked B2 on Diagram 605687 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council.
2. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 605687 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council, being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 3739, Folio 798 and being part of the land described as Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision Number PS 332167K.

Dated 20 November 1996

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G50 19 December 1996 p.3289]

*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/>*