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## Drill Hall - Castlemaine Historic Area



B5133 Drill Hall

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### Location

23a Lyttleton Street & Cnr Frederick Street,, CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450 - Property No B5133

### Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

### Level of significance

State

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 7, 2008

Built by D J Thomson Jnr. in 1889 to S E Bindley's drawings, acting under Public Works Chief Architect, H R Bastow, this high-gabled unusually complete timber drill hall is a picturesque variation on a standard pattern used statewide. The fretted gable infill and carved eaves brackets provide a Swiss chalet flavour which is uncommon for its construction date and rare within its type (compared to Geelong Drill Hall).

The hall forms a contributive part of a public building precinct in Lyttleton Street and the Castlemaine Historic Area B4894

Classified: 11/11/1982

Castlemaine Historic Area: Castlemaine grew as a result of the discovery of gold along Forest Creek in July, 1851. By December of that year the population on the field was greater than that of Melbourne. In 1852 Mr Templeton surveyed the township of Castlemaine and in 1853 the first auction of the town site was held.

The Castlemaine goldfield was allegedly the richest alluvial goldfield in the world. Such was the prosperity of the diggers that the townsfolk were optimistically expectant of Castlemaine becoming Victoria's second city. The

prosperity of the diggers and the optimistic townsfolk is reflected in the high number of imposing buildings erected in the first few years of the town's life. However, the rich alluvial diggings were worked out within 15-20 years. From the 1870's the town's population began to drift away, but they left behind a rich legacy of the town's former prosperity in the form of its buildings.

Within the Castlemaine Historic Area may be found many items of significance. These range from intact nineteenth century streetscapes composed of imposing public buildings to simple miner's cottages. Within the historic area there are a number of identifiable component areas, each telling an important part of the history of Castlemaine. In addition, there are many other items of significance outside of these areas, but still within the historic area. These include the former steam flourmill, the Church of England, the Congregational Church and Forest and Barkers Creeks.

Despite the town's topographical confinements to the valley of the two creeks, the wide streets and large buildings convey an atmosphere of grand spaciousness in this central Victorian goldfields town.

Classified: 01/12/1982

Hermes Number 69231

Property Number

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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/>*