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# Stawell Gas Holder, 47-49 Wimmera Street, STAWELL



SL 426 - Stawell Gas Holder,  
47-49 Wimmera Street,  
STAWELL

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## Location

47-49 Wimmera Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1085

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO19

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 27, 2004

From Heritage Victoria Statement of significance.

The Gas Holder at Stawell is a riveted steel structure built in 1910 and rebuilt in 1940, as part of the Stawell Gas Works. The Stawell gas Works is a currently operating Gas & fuel Corporation depot on its original 1872 site. The gas works complex shows the evolution of the original works from 1872 to the present day; gas derived from coal processed on site to shipped in Tempered Liquid Petroleum Gas (TLPG). Most of the nineteenth century buildings have been demolished with the exception of the lower portions of some walls of the original retort house, they being incorporated into the existing offices and workshop/store after the Gas & Fuel Corporation acquired control of the works.

The Stawell Gas Holder is the second oldest surviving after the Hamilton gas Holder, and is an essentially intact example of a once common industrial structure. The gas holder represents a process and function of the gas industry from gas derived from coal processed on site to shipped in TLPG gas. The Gas Works at Stawell at Stawell demonstrates an association with two important local personalities, George Kay and Wilkinson, who initiated, owned and operated the original works.

Overall, the Stawell Gas Holder, 47-49 Wimmera Street is of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	113217
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The gas works is a currently operating gas depot on its original 1872 site. The gas works complex shows the evolution of the original works from 1872 to the present day; from gas derived from coal processed on site to shipped in TLPG gas.

Most of the nineteenth century buildings have been demolished with the only remains being some foundation buried below ground level. The exception to this is the lower portions of some of the walls of the original retort house, they being incorporated into the existing offices and workshop/store int the 1960s or 70s.

The original gas holder structure was constructed in 1873 and is now demolished, the base filled in and grassed over. The existing structure was first built in 1910 and rebuilt in 1940. It is still used today for its original purpose (though the gas is now TLPG). Although there is evidence of maintenance and repairs in the form of riveted patches, it appears that the fabric is mostly of 1910 origin. The gas Holder is a large riveted below ground tank with a capacity of 538 cubic metres (19000 cu. ft.) of gas.

As the Gas Works complex is currently used it is subject to rigorous regular maintenance and thus retains its operational condition and integrity.

No gas holders have survived in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Out of at least 55 gas holders known to have been installed in country Victoria, only eight are known to have survived. Of the eight, five are substantially intact, one is partly demolished and two are within the Bendigo gas Works complex. The existing gas holders are:

Bendigo 1926 and 1947

Ararat built 1947

Colac built 1930

Hamilton 1877/1909

Horsham built 1951

Warrnambool built 1930

Stawell 1910/1940

The above description and comparative information was extracted from the Heritage Victoria file.

*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/>*