

## ORDERLY ROOM AND RESIDENCE



H543 orderly room residence kepler st1



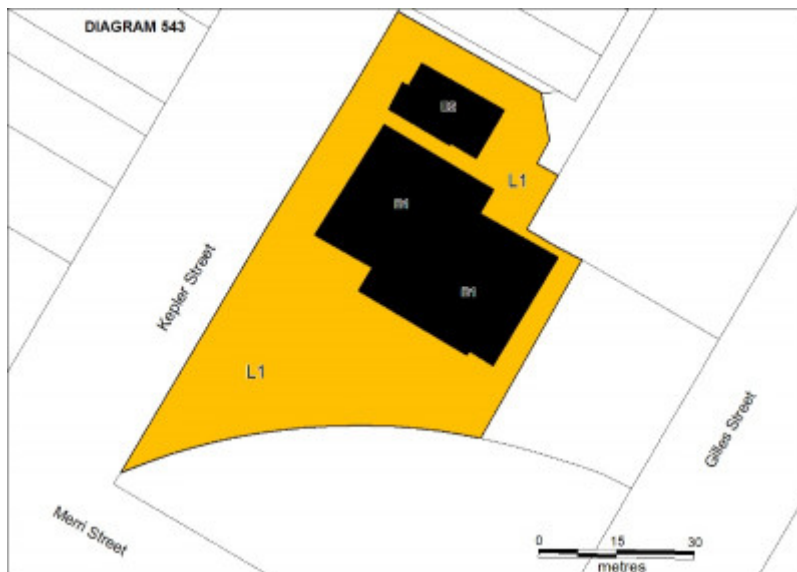
H543 orderly room gun room



H543 orderly room interior



H543 orderly room residence



H543 Warrnambool Orderly Room and Residence Plan

### Location

KEPLER STREET WARRNAMBOOL, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

### Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0543

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO185

## VHR Registration

June 12, 2008

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Warrnambool Orderly Room was constructed in 1868 on the Warrnambool Government Reserve and expanded to include a Gun Room and Residence in the late 1880s. The masonry Orderly Room was designed by the Shire Engineer A. Kerr and was regarded to be one of the most elegant of the volunteer defence association buildings in Victoria.

A sense of isolation and the vulnerability of Victoria's gold wealth precipitated the development of the volunteer movement in the colony, and in 1854, the Volunteer Act was passed. In Warrnambool there were attempts to form a volunteer unit as early as 1855; however it appears these were unsuccessful.

The Orderly Room on Kepler Street was built and used by the Warrnambool Detachment of the Western Corps Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery. After the 1858 Amending Act, the Warrnambool Volunteer Rifle Corps was established, disbanded in 1863, before the new Warrnambool Detachment was formed in September 1866. Before a permanent building was provided, the Volunteer corps met and trained in the Royal Exchange Hotel. A public appeal was made in 1867 and in 1868 a site was reserved for an Orderly Room on the Kepler Street edge of the government reserve. The building designed by council engineer, Andrew Kerr and was opened with a grand ball on New Year's Eve 1868, with the celebrations were deemed so successful that another ball was staged the following evening. The then Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Manners Sutton, claimed it to be the finest Orderly Room he had seen in the Colony. In early 1869, the Orderly Room grounds and land adjacent to it were permanently reserved for the militia by the Government.

The hall, aside from its military purposes, was a popular venue for social and cultural functions, and was the temporary home for two schools between 1870 and 1872.

In 1884, new legislation was passed which abandoned the volunteer system in favour of a partly paid Militia Force to supplement the Colony's small permanent defence force. The Warrnambool facilities were retained for use by the new militia. The addition of the Gun Room and the adjacent cottage to the Orderly Room in September 1888, were part of the Public Works Department major upgrade of orderly room facilities, headed by S.E. Bindley.

During both WW I and WW II the Orderly Room was used as the headquarters of the local military authorities to enlist volunteers and for medical examinations. The Warrnambool Orderly Room was used for military training until after the Second World War, and later used as an assembly hall and venue for concerts held by the Warrnambool Technical School, and as the main venue for the local basketball competition. The Warrnambool Technical College took over the premises in February 1960 and the Orderly Room currently houses the Student and Learning Centre of the South-West TAFE.

How is it significant?

The Warrnambool Orderly Room and Residence is of historical and architectural significance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Warrnambool Orderly Room and Residence is of historical significance as one of only two surviving masonry Orderly Rooms from the period of volunteer defence in Victoria. It is historically significant for its association with the colonial volunteer defence movement which reached its peak during the mid-nineteenth century. Its continual usage throughout the peak of the nineteenth century volunteer movement, through to the militia system after 1884 and usage by defence force authorities during World War I and II is also important.

The Warrnambool Orderly Room and Residence is of architectural significance as an early masonry orderly room, and as an example of a mid-nineteenth century Volunteer Forces complex, encompassing the Orderly Room, Gun Room and Residence. It is important an example of the development of Orderly Rooms after the 1884 change in legislation which disbanded the volunteer forces in favour of a partly paid militia. Between 1885 and 1889, Public Works Department embarked on a construction program which saw many Orderly Rooms demolished or upgraded. The Warrnambool Orderly was considered worth retaining by the department, and the Gun Room and Residence were constructed during this period, expanding the facilities for the Warrnambool militia.

## Permit Exemptions

<span class="c1">General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.</span> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.</span> <span class="c1">Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be

contacted.

**Exterior:** Minor repairs and maintenance to buildings, structures and services within the registered land (but not new buildings and structures).

Any works to non-registered buildings and structures within the extent of registration, but not additions.

Installation or removal of external fixtures and fittings such as, hot water services and taps.

Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.

Repair and replacement of fences and gates.

**Interior:** Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.

Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art or religious works or icons.

Installation of honour boards and the like.

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

Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.

Removal or installation of notice boards.

Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.

Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like on plaster surfaces.

Construction dates	1868,
Architect/Designer	Kerr, Andrew,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	DRILL HALL AND RESIDENCE,
Hermes Number	1630
Property Number	

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## History

Customs in Victoria

The revenue collected from Customs was particularly important for Victoria from the 1850s, as a recently separated colony now responsible for the cost of government administration. Tariffs continued to be placed on such items as spirits, wine, beer, sugar, tobacco, coffee and tea. The customs department in Victoria grew steadily, with the construction and improvement of customs facilities at the ports along the coast. After the 1850s gold rush boom, Victoria fell into recession in the 1860s, and a protectionist trade policy was introduced to encourage local industries. In the 1870s, Customs Houses were built along the Murray River and grand and imposing Customs Houses were built in Williamstown and Melbourne, both of which demonstrated civic pride and the prosperity of the colony. By the 1890s, Portland had eclipsed both Port Fairy and Warrnambool as the principal port of the Western District. At Federation, the need for separate Customs operations in each of the colonies disappeared, and a national Customs department was created.

Development of Warrnambool

Warrnambool was officially surveyed by William Pickering in 1846. The date of proclamation of Warrnambool town lands is listed as 30 January, 1847, and the first land sales took place in July that year in Melbourne (Osborne 1980: 1). The commencement of town development was signalled by the construction of the Warrnambool Hotel in August 1847, built at the corner of Banyan and Merri Streets, and it was soon followed by the Royal Hotel, and later establishing of a general store by John Chisholm and Richard Osborne. The Warrnambool Public Works Committee was formed in 1850 to accelerate the provision of roads and other important public works. In that year the town had a population of 342. The discovery of gold at Ballarat in 1851 resulted in an increased need for primary produce, which left Warrnambool in a good position to cater for the diggings. This early trade relationship contributed to the progression of Warrnambool as Victoria's leading southwest port in the 1870s and 1880s. Communications with Melbourne and Geelong were via steamer services which began in 1854, while Cobb & Co. established its first coach route through the town in the same year. To increase the trade potential of Warrnambool, and combat the rise of silting in the port, the eminent British engineer, Sir John Coode

was invited to examine and formulate a scheme for the port's improvement. Works commenced in 1884 to construct a breakwater, and although completed by the end of the 1880s, subsequent works were necessary to upgrade and maintain the earlier efforts. In order to transport goods across then swampy Lake Pertobe to the town, a tramway was constructed in 1855, which was abandoned in 1899 with the extension of railway line to Terang. The constant problem of silting meant that the Warrnambool port never regained the prominence in the southwest that it had held in the 1870s.

## HISTORY OF PLACE

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The 1847 Pickering plan clearly marks Section IV as a Reserve for government purposes, and many Government buildings were subsequently erected on this block. In the early 1850s, plans were drawn up to build more permanent buildings to house the Court House and Watch House on part of the large Government Block bounded by Timor, Kepler, Liebig and Merri Streets.

The outbreak of the Crimean War and the scare of September 1854, during which Victoria's defence forces were exposed as inadequate, saw the recommendations by Defence Committee result in the Volunteer Act of November 1854. The Act allowed for the raising of 2000 men in a number of rifle corps to supplement the imperial forces. That year, Victoria's first home grown military force, the Volunteer Rifle Regiment was raised in Melbourne, and included the 1st (Metropolitan) Rifles, Carlton Rifle Corps, Pentridge Rifle Corps, East Collingwood Rifle Corps, Richmond Rifle Corps and the Southern (Prahran and South Yarra) Rifle Corps.

There were early attempts to form a volunteer unit in Warrnambool as early as 1855, during the Crimean War, however it appears these were unsuccessful. After the Amending Act of 1858, which raised a further ten companies in Melbourne, the first Volunteer Rifle Corps in Warrnambool was established in 1859, along with Rifle Corps in Portland and Belfast (Port Fairy). The Warrnambool Detachment of the Western Corps Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery was established in September 1866, with officers appointed in November 1866. The site for the Orderly Room was reserved in 1868, and the corps members were 'indefatigable in their efforts' over two years to raise funds for its construction through public subscription (*Warrnambool Examiner*: 1.1.1869). Prior to the construction of the Orderly Room, the Detachment met and trained in the Royal Exchange Hotel.

The Warrnambool Orderly Room was designed in a 'Grecian' style, by Andrew Kerr. Kerr was the Warrnambool Town Surveyor and Shire Engineer from 1856 until 1887, designed a number of Warrnambool's buildings including the Oddfellows Hall, the Masonic Temple and the Western Hotel in the late 1860s. The Orderly Room's location on the Government Reserve placed it with other important civic buildings including the original Court House (1856) and the Customs House (1860). It was built of local stone, with a rendered facade in a classical Italianate manner. A grand ball on New Year's Eve, 1868, celebrated the building's opening and the *Warrnambool Examiner* reported that Sir Henry Manners-Sutton described it as the finest Orderly Room he had seen in the Colony (SWTafe site). For the opening celebrations, the hall was decorated with pink ornamental paper, mottos hanging from two windows 'Long live Prince Alfred' and 'Advance Warrnambool' and a large stuffed albatross. The Orderly Room boasted impressive internal fittings, with seven chandeliers of various sizes, and a large Crown of Swords at the end of the hall (*Warrnambool Examiner*, 1.1.1869). The ball was so successful that it was decided to continue festivities the following evening.

In early 1869, the Orderly Room grounds and land adjacent to it were permanently reserved for the militia by the Government (*Warrnambool Examiner*: 26.3.1869).

The hall was used for a number of purposes from soon after its inauguration. Many social gatherings were held there, particularly during early part of 1869, and it was the temporary home for two schools; Ira Aldridge's Day School in November 1869 and James Kirby's Commercial School between 1870 and 1872. The Dramatic Society and the Warrnambool Musical Union were also based at the hall and Warrnambool's first major 'Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures' was held there in 1876 (SWTafe). In 1873, improvements to the Orderly Room were undertaken, which included panelling, the construction of an inner porch and an ornamental fence (*Warrnambool Examiner*: 17.1.1873).

In 1884, new legislation was passed which abandoned the volunteer system in favour of a partly paid Militia Force, which was to supplement the Colony's small permanent defence force. The Public Works Department (PWD) embarked on a large construction program to upgrade the Military Orderly Room facilities, and a number were demolished or altered. In his role as Grade II Architect for the PWD Buildings Division, S.E. Bindley designed many of the new Orderly Rooms built between 1885 and 1901, including the East Collingwood Rifles Volunteer Orderly Room and the Ranger Barracks in Ballarat. Bindley's initials appear next to drawings showing the additions to the Warrnambool Orderly Room in September 1888, which include the Gun Room and the adjacent cottage. Warrnambool's first major 'Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures' was held there in 1876 (SWTafe).

The Warrnambool Orderly Room was used for military training until the Second World War, and later as an assembly hall and venue for concerts held by the

Warrnambool Technical School. From the 1950s until the mid-1960s the Drill Hall housed the main local basketball competition, before matches moved to Henna Street. It now houses the library and the Student Learning Centre of the South-West TAFE.

## Plaque Citation

The 1868 Orderly Room and the 1880s Gun Room and Residence are significant for their association with the colonial volunteer defence movement, at its peak in the mid-nineteenth century.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 543 in the category described as Heritage Place.

Orderly Room and Residence  
Kepler Street and Part 197-205 Timor Street (fronts Kepler Street)  
Warrnambool  
Warrnambool City

### EXTENT:

1. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 543 held by the Executive Director, being all of the land described in Certificates of Title Volume 08882 Folio 115 and Certificates of Title Volume 08273 Folio 235.
2. All of the buildings marked B1 and B2 on Diagram 543 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Orderly Room  
B2 Residence.

Dated 6 April 2008

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 24 12 June 2008 1254]

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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/>*