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# FORMER PICKFORD WATCHMAKER SITE

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## Location

80 BRIDGE MALL BALLARAT CENTRAL, BALLARAT CITY

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7622-0485

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 24, 2024

### What is significant?

The area is first mapped as allotment 26 of Section D in detail in the 1857 *Revised Town Plan of Block A.B. C. D.* The site was likely occupied prior as part of the first phase of the Ballarat Main Street development, due to its proximity to Ballarat West and the Gravel Pit alluvial fields. The area was occupied by watchmakers from c. 1856 until 1865. The premises likely went through two stages of development beginning as a timber structure and developing into a bricked 'fireproof structure in the 1860s. The later nineteenth century appears to be a general high turn-over commercial occupation; however, features are still present on the 1923 Ballarat Sewerage Plan showing smaller outbuildings and a cesspit to the south of the site.

### How is it significant?

The site is of historical and archaeological significance.

### Why is it significant?

The site is of historical significance as the location of an early residence and watchmaker store during the years of the Victorian gold rush – one of the most significant rushes in world history. The later nineteenth century shows the development and decline of main road and the movement of the commercial center to Sturt Street. The site is of archaeological significance due to its potential to contain artefacts, deposits and features that relate to the establishment of commercial operations in the gold rush, and other later 19th-century activities.

Hermes Number 212212

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/>*