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# FORMER FEDERAL COACH FACTORY



Former Federal Coach  
Factory



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Factory

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## Location

426 HARGREAVES STREET, BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO920

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 17, 2024

### What is significant?

The former Federal Coach Factory at part of 426 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo, built in 1900 for M. Kinsella and Sons, is significant.

Significant fabric includes:

- Its single-storey scale and two original street frontages to Hargreaves Street (seven bays) and Short Street (three bays), as well as the industrial building form built to the irregular allotment boundary without setback.
- The face brick walls and early patterns of openings including segmental arched windows with stone sills and wide segmental arched entrances for carriage access.
- The stylistic detailing such as decorative panels to the parapet, cement rendered cornices to the parapet, engaged brick pilasters that define building bays and contrasting trims to arched window and door openings (rendered to Hargreaves Street and face cream brick to Short Street).

Later alterations including the circa 1980s extension (after three bays in Short Street) are not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

The former Federal Coach Factory at part of 426 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo, is of local historic, rarity and representative significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

### **Why is it significant?**

The former Federal Coach Factory building at part of 426 Hargreaves Street is of historic significance because it provides evidence of one of the important industries that developed in Bendigo after the mining recession of the late 1870s. Goldmining was Bendigo's first significant industry, and by the late 1860s, the goldfields had become a focus for the foundry, engineering and wheelwright industries. The wheelwright industry in turn expanded into coach building, which provided the economic foundation for Bendigo's development through to the twentieth century (Criterion A).

The former Federal Coach Factory building at part of 426 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo is significant for its association with the coach building industry in Bendigo at a time when coaches were the key transportation option. Wheelwright Michael Kinsella conducted a shop in Hargreaves Street in 1875, and operated a coach building factory 'Federal Coach Factory' with his sons, William and Michael, from Mitchell Street in the 1890s. Part of 426 Hargreaves Street is significant as Michael Kinsella's new factory in Hargreaves Street built in 1900 to plans drawn up by Bendigo architect F. W. Lehmann. The availability of the motorcar from the early years of the twentieth century impacted on the coachbuilding trade. The factory operated until circa 1920 and the building was then converted to a motor garage by circa 1925, owned and operated by Charles A. Lawson at least until 1970. Its later long-term use as a garage also contributes to the historical significance of the building, representing the newly emerged industry that continuously supported the transportation by road network.

The former Federal Coach Factory building designed by F. W. Lehmann is a rare surviving example of the once extensive network of coach building factories that were established in Bendigo's central area in the second half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century (Criterion B).

The former Federal Coach Factory building at part of 426 Hargreaves Street is a representative example of an industrial building from 1900 built to a design by locally trained architect F. W. Lehmann. The design is representative of its coach factory type through its size and placement on the allotment boundary; its consistent pattern of openings along the street frontages; wide entrances for carriage access; and its simple but stylised parapet with Dutch gables. Notable features include the industrial building form, two Dutch gables over the entries to Hargreaves Street, cement rendered cornices to the parapet, engaged brick pilasters that define building bays and contrasting trims to arched window and door openings (rendered to Hargreaves Street and face cream brick to Short Street) (Criterion D)

Construction dates 1900,  
Architect/Designer Lehmann, F.W.,  
Other Names Kinsella's Coachworks, Lawson's Garage,  
Hermes Number 41607  
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/>*