

# THOMPSONS KELLY & LEWIS ENGINEERING WORKS



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LEWIS ENGINEERING  
WORKS SOHE 2008

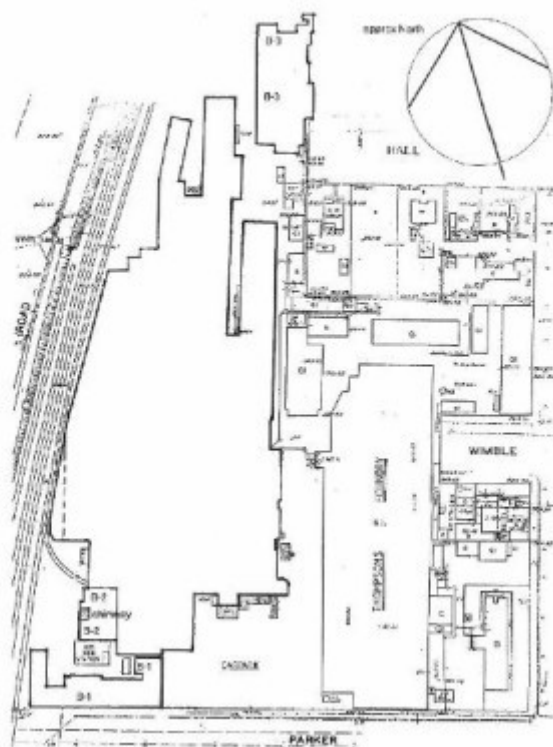


THOMPSONS KELLY &  
LEWIS ENGINEERING  
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1 thompsons kelly &  
lewis engineering works  
parker street castlemaine  
side view jan1998

DIAGRAM NUMBER: 608193



thomsons plan.JPG

## Location

5 PARKER STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Municipality**

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1732

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO989

## **VHR Registration**

August 6, 1998

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - May 28, 1999

### **What is significant?**

Thompson's Foundry was established in 1875 as an engineering workshop by brothers David and James Thompson. They set up their foundry beside the buildings they had been using as a flour mill since 1864, expanding the facilities in 1879 and 1881 to meet growing demand. Between 1912 and 1915 the premises increased considerably in size to accommodate workshops for the manufacture of steam locomotives for the Victorian Railways. The corrugated iron foundry building dates from this period. The large brick chimney stack was built in 1919. A section of the two storey, tuck-pointed brick building, now housing the main office, was part of the original flour mill complex on the site. It was gutted by fire in 1905 and extended and altered in later years. The brick Rail Fastener Shop was originally built as a Brass Foundry by the Commonwealth government during the Second World War. During the war the engineering works was engaged in the production of marine engines, steam turbines, forgings, armaments and munitions. At that time eight hundred men were employed on the premises.

Thompsons became a limited liability company in 1913. In 1924-25 the Thompson family surrendered control of the company and it was restructured as Thompson's Engineering and Pipe Company. After several changes of ownership since 1947, the company is now known as Thompsons, Kelly & Lewis Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of BTR Nylex Ltd) formed in 1987 by the merger of Thompsons with another heavy engineering firm of long standing, Kelly & Lewis.

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

Thompson's Foundry has historical, scientific and architectural significance to the state of Victoria.

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

Thompson's Engineering Works has historical significance for the important role it has played in the development of an engineering and manufacturing industry in Australia. The company became one of the major manufacturing industries in Victoria and throughout Australasia, designing and manufacturing machinery, sluicing and dredging equipment for the mining industry, pumping plants and equipment (including equipment for the Spotswood Pumping Station), railway points and crossings and steam locomotives. The company continues to operate as a

major designer, manufacturer and supplier of pumps and railway products in Australia. It is one of only a few survivors of the many engineering companies formed in nineteenth century Victoria, the then hub of manufacturing.

The engineering works has associations with notable figures in the history of engineering in Victoria. David Thompson (1828-1889) arrived in Australia from his native Ireland in 1852 and was joined by his brother James the following year. The brothers set up the foundry in 1875. David Thompson Jnr (1865-1916) served his apprenticeship at the works, eventually becoming manager after the death of his uncle in 1910. He developed the business into one of the largest and best equipped engineering works in Australia. An early works manager at Thompsons, E P Lewis, was one of the founders of another important engineering firm, Kelly & Lewis (merged with Thompsons in 1987). John Gurner Burnell (1885-1967) was General Manager of the works from 1925 to 1957. The development of Thompsons as a leading manufacturer of high-efficiency pumps owes much to JG Burnell's technical expertise and leadership.

Thompson's Engineering Works has architectural significance as a large and prominently situated factory complex built and extended over a period of more than 120 years. The extensive buildings demonstrate the development of this important engineering works, one of the largest of its kind in the state. The towering 1919 chimney stack, a prominent landmark in Castlemaine, is architecturally significant for its fine brickwork.

The 1919 chimney stack with its associated boiler and engine house is scientifically and historically significant for its long association with generation of power for the site.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

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. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or

rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. Interior - All interior alterations are permit exempt if they do not impact on the exterior.

Exterior - \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

\* The fixing and refixing of corrugated roofing iron on the walls and roofs of the buildings, the rebuilding of walls and roofs using corrugated galvanised steel or corrugated unpainted zincalume.

\* The removal of corrugated asbestos cement sheeting and its replacement with corrugated compressed cement sheeting or corrugated iron.

\* The repair of multi-pane windows and roof lights provided they are reinstalled in original locations and retained to their existing design.

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

Construction dates            1864,  
Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,  
Other Names                    THOMPSONS FOUNDRY (FORMER),  
Hermes Number                5480  
Property Number

## History

Associated People: Owner D & J THOMPSON;  
Owner D & J THOMPSON;

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1732 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Thompsons, Kelly and Lewis Engineering Works (formerly Thompson's Foundry), 5 Parker Street, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

### EXTENT

1. All of the exterior envelope of the specified buildings forming part of Thompsons, Kelly & Lewis Engineering Works, Castlemaine marked as follows on Diagram 608193 held by the Executive Director:

B-1 Main Office Building.

B-2 1919 Chimney Stack, Boiler and Engine House.

B-3 Fist Rail Fasteners workshop (former Commonwealth Brass Foundry).

2. All the land forming the footprints of the specified buildings and being part of Certificate of Title Volume 4326 Folio 865170 (Chimney stack, boiler & engine house), and Volume 3871 Folio 774046 & Volume 4302 Folio 860331 (former Brass Foundry)

Dated 16 July 1998.

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G31 6 August 1998 pp.2140-2141]

*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/>*