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# TOWER HILL COMMON SCHOOL



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h00530 tower hill common school

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## Location

79 HIGH STREET KOROIT, MOYNE SHIRE

## Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0530

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO8

## VHR Registration

July 14, 1982

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 18, 1999

The former common school was once known as the Tower Hill Lake National School No.618 and from 1873 as the Koroit State School No.618. It opened in November 1857. It is now used intermittently by the local fire brigade. The area around the school has been developed as the Victoria Park Recreation Reserve. Tenders were accepted for the limited construction of the combined school and teacher's dwelling at a cost of £750 in December 1856. The school opened a year later. Neither the contractor nor the architect are named in contemporary correspondence.

The building has two pavilion wings and a centre section. The east wing was for teaching; the west and centre section accommodated the teacher. Later the west wing was also used as a classroom and a detached kitchen was built at the rear. When a new school was built in 1878 the old school was converted into a teacher's residence. In December 1879 the Education Department gave it to the police as a residence. From 1885 it was used for agricultural show purposes. Correspondence dated 18 August 1879 describes the building as built in stone with a shingle roof, the "walls are constructed chiefly of Merri stone (a light, weak tufa), with a bluestone (basalt) base, quoins and lintels: there is also "an old wood kitchen and chimney of the same material (detached) ..." the present roof is corrugated iron over the original shingles. Some of the interior fittings have been removed. An extensive corrugated iron addition was built at the rear, early in the present century. The detached kitchen has been demolished.

The Koroit School is one of the very few surviving national schools of which there were about 200 when they were brought under the Board of Education Act in 1862 with about 400 non-denominational schools. Private schools continued to operate independently. None of the other surviving national schools are similar in material, form, or condition the Koroit School was fairly typical of early schools for its symmetrical planning. Later schools tended to be asymmetrical. For architectural and historical reasons the former Common School Koroit is of State significance. The craftsmanship of construction is simple but good. The building's present condition is poor, particularly because of bad drains. Much of the internal fittings have been removed or damaged and a section of the No.2 school room wall has been demolished to open it to the rear extension. The structure is sound however and is not beyond restoration. Because it has been little used over the years the building is relatively intact.

## 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](#).

Construction dates 1857,  
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names KOROIT COMMON SCHOOL, TOWER HILL LAKE NATIONAL SCHOOL,  
Hermes Number 633  
Property Number

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## **Extent of Registration**

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 530 Tower Hill Common School, Victoria Park, High Street, Koroit.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 71 14 July 1982 p. 2358]

*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/>*