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## Old Telegraph Office - Castlemaine Historic Area



B0666 Old Telegraph Office  
Castlemaine

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### Location

208-210 Barker Street,, CASTLEMAINE VIC 3450 - Property No B0666

### Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

### Level of significance

State

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0671

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 7, 2008

Sandstone telegraph station of 1857, the north wing demolished in 1893 and one wall of the remainder incorporated in the Faulder Watson Hall which, however, is not the subject of this Classification. (See B4893)

Classified: 'Local' 20/081959

Revised: 03/08/1998

Part of Castlemaine Historic Area: Castlemaine grew as a result of the discovery of gold along Forest Creek in July, 1851. By December of that year the population on the field was greater than that of Melbourne. In 1852 Mr

Templeton surveyed the township of Castlemaine and in 1853 the first action of the town site was held. The Castlemaine goldfield was allegedly the richest alluvial goldfield in the world. Such was the prosperity of the diggers that the townsfolk were optimistically expectant of Castlemaine becoming Victoria's second city. The prosperity of the diggers and the optimistic townsfolk is reflected in the high number of imposing buildings erected in the first few years of the town's life. However, the rich alluvial diggers were worked out within 15-20 years. From the 1870's the town's population began to drift away, but they left behind a rich legacy of the town's former prosperity in the form of its buildings.

Within the Castlemaine Historic Area may be found many items of significance. These range from intact nineteenth century streetscapes composed of imposing public buildings to simple miner's cottages. Within the historic area there are a number of identifiable component areas, each telling an important part of the history of Castlemaine. In addition, there are many other items of significance outside of these areas, but still within the historic area. These include the former steam flourmill, the Church of England, the Congregational Church and Forest and Barkers Creeks.

Despite the town's topographical confinements to the valley of the two creeks, the wide streets and large buildings convey an atmosphere of grand spaciousness in this central Victorian goldfields town.

Classified: 01/12/1982

Hermes Number 69129

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/>*