Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Singleton Medical Centre, VHR H0497

162 Wellington Street, Collingwood, Yarra City

Wurundjeri Country



VICTORIA State Government

HERITAGE VICTORIA

Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that Singleton Medical Centre, located at 162 & 162A Wellington Street and 21 Singleton Street, Collingwood in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended. The category of registration is recommended to be Registered Place.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* (**the Act**), I suggest that the Heritage Council determine:

- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act); and
- the proposed categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is under the Act not required, will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place under section 49(3)(a) of the Act
- to update the name to Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings).



STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria
Date of recommendation: 16 November 2026

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its website for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council's website.

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to conduct a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if a submission requests a hearing, and that submission is made is made by person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land.

If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at the end of this report.

Description

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is located on a rectangular site at the southern corner of Wellington and Singleton streets; addressed as 162 and 162A Wellington Street and 21 Singleton Street, Collingwood. The original 1889 building occupies the western half of the site, fronting Wellington and Singleton streets. The rear of the site is occupied by later additions, including a large single-storey garage with roof deck above, and a two-storey addition fronting Singleton Street.

The original building is a two-storey structure designed in a Victorian Italianate style and constructed of rendered masonry on bluestone footings. Hipped roof forms are clad in (later) metal sheeting and rendered chimneys remain with cornice detailing. The principal (west) elevation comprises a prominent central bay with flanking recessed bays. The central bay comprises a large single sash window at ground level occupying the location of the original main entrance. The altered opening is flanked by consoles topped by a pediment with decorative relief to the tympanum. An engraved memorial stone commemorating the founding of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary is mounted beside the central opening. Above, at the first floor, is a single blind window (infilled). Flanking bays are recessed between decorative pilasters, each containing a pair of pilastered openings at ground and first floor. Openings are characterised by round arched heads decorated with archivolts and floriated keystones. At ground level, the southern end bay contains a single wide arched opening (formerly a single door and single window) with decorative ironwork gates containing a coat of arms with 'JS' initials (originally installed in main central entrance). The third window from the northern end of the façade has been lowered to ground to create a doorway.

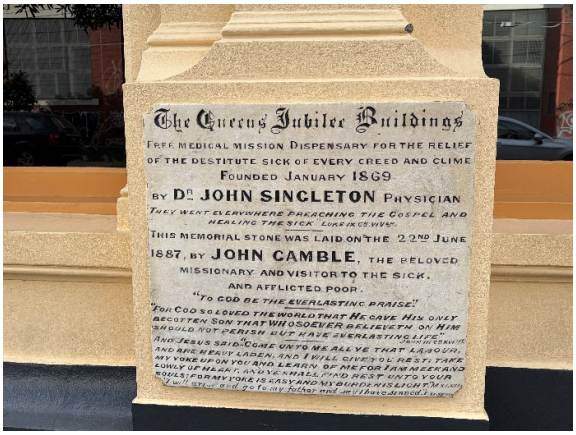
The principal façade composition is unified by string courses at impost and sill-level, and entablatures marking the ceiling levels of each floor level. The first-floor entablature comprises a deep cornice with modillions and dentils. Above, the parapet is balustraded with solid projection to the central bay at the site of the former pediment.

The side (north) elevation to Singleton Street is plainer in decoration with rough-hewn bluestone footings (overpainted) and raised rendered bands marking the ceiling levels of each floor level. Openings are simply detailed with rendered sills and round arched heads. A recessed entrance door contains a six-panel timber door with fan light above. Various later additions front Singleton Street to the rear of the original building volume, including a two-storey mock-Victorian parapeted addition with rendered bands and round arched openings; and several single-storey forms with roller doors to the street.

Internally, the place has been substantially altered for its adaptation into a bathhouse and entertainment venue. Remnant original or early elements include structural walls, some doors, architraves, cornicing, window reveals and a brick fireplace.



2026, Principal (west) elevation of building to Wellington Street, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Memorial Stone commemorating the founding of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Detail of the coat of arms decoration to iron gates, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Iron gates to entrance at the southern end of the principal elevation, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, View looking north along Wellington Street to the principal (west), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Western and northern facades at the corner of Singleton Street (left) and Wellington Street (right), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, North elevation (Singleton Street), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Interior, front rooms looking towards Wellington Street, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Interior, front rooms looking towards Singleton Street, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Interior of bathhouse, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Interior, remnant brick fireplace, Source: Heritage Victoria.

History

Statement of Country

The Wurundjeri people have an unbroken connection to the land and waters around Collingwood from time immemorial. Wurundjeri Country includes the city of Melbourne (Narrm) and an area extending north to the Great Dividing Range and beyond, west to the Werribee River, and east to Mount Baw Baw.

The Yoorrook Justice Commission recorded how colonisation brought irreparable damage to First Peoples in Victoria with the introduction of diseases, massacres, dispossession from Country, confinement on missions and reserves, forced labour, separation of families and ongoing policies and practices that perpetuate systemic injustice (Yoorrook Justice Commission 2025)

The Wurundjeri continue to live, work, practise culture and manage land and waters around Collingwood and the surrounding area.

Dr John Singleton

Dr John Singleton (1808-1891) was a medical practitioner and evangelical Anglican noted for his philanthropic activities, particularly among the poor of Melbourne. After arriving in Victoria from Dublin in 1851, he established a practice in Melbourne and with his wife, Isabella and her friend Hester Hornbrook, co-founded the Melbourne City Mission. Between 1860-1864 he practised medicine in Warrnambool. During these years he became an advocate for the welfare of Aboriginal people and helped promote the establishment of the Framlingham Reserve. In 1865 he worked as a physician at Mount Gambier and then Maryborough, returning to Melbourne in 1867.

In 1869, Singleton started his Free Medical Mission Dispensary. He employed Australia's first women doctors, Laura Morgan in 1886 and Constance Stone in 1890. He was known as the 'prisoner's friend' for his support of penal reform, advocated for Melbourne's homeless population and co-founded the Royal Children's Hospital. He founded three establishments for women in Collingwood: The Home for Friendless and Fallen Women; The Widows' Cottages; and an emergency refuge, The Night Shelter for Women and Children (Sylvia Morrissey 1976: online; Hamish Townsend 2012: 11-19).

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary, Collingwood

First premises (1869)

Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary opened in January 1869. It initially operated from a two-room stone cottage at 162 Wellington Street, founded and leased with the help of the Melbourne City Mission and the Collingwood Council. The dispensary offered free medical consultations, treatment and medicines to poor patients, as well as spiritual guidance. Described as the first of the kind in Victoria, the clinic was '…situated in the centre of a dense and poor population, where numbers of aged and infirm people—widows and deserted women and children, and numerous industrious tradespeople and their families, with very small and often uncertain earnings—reside' (Collingwood Free Medical Mission Dispensary Annual Report 1880: 3; Sylvia Morrissey 1976: online).

The work of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary was particularly important in Collingwood where there was a shortage of doctors, in marked contrast to wealthy areas such as St Kilda. By 1861 Collingwood had 12,653 residents, at a time which also saw the beginnings of the noxious trades for which it was to become infamous. By the 1880s Collingwood had Melbourne's highest death rate (eMelbourne; *Collingwood Conservation Study*: 107).

As well as being a medical doctor, Singleton was a staunch temperance advocate, providing free medical care based on the then unusual principle of treatment without the use of alcohol. In 1876 a mission hall was opened at the rear of the dispensary which was used for Bible classes and evangelistic services by various denominations, including the Salvation Army from 1883. In 1880 the organisation's annual report declared that since its opening 11 years prior, it had attended to 62,550 patients and paid over 3,500 visits to the homes of the sick.

Queen's Jubilee Buildings (1889)

In 1887, Singleton purchased the land at 162 Wellington Street in response to the growing demand for the dispensary's services. He set about raising funds for new larger purpose-built premises (*The Argus* 11 July 1888: 8; *The Argus* 2 October 1891: 6). On 31 January 1889, a two-storey building opened, called the 'Queen's Jubilee Buildings', named in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee of 20 June 1887.

In the Victorian era, the plural name *buildings* was often given to a substantial urban structure containing multiple functions, rooms, halls, offices, residences, or tenancies, even when it was physically a single structure. The name 'Queen's Jubilee Buildings' indicated that the new two-storey Free Medical Mission Dispensary provided many services. These included:

- a large dispensary
- two waiting rooms
- two consulting rooms
- a reading room
- a registry office for the unemployed
- a 'humble coffee palace' room
- a Bible and Tract depot (shop) for pure and interesting literature
- a large mission hall for lectures with meeting rooms which could be used for 'night school for lads' at the rear. (*The Argus* 30 January 1889: 9).

The 'Queen's Jubilee Buildings' were completed by contractor George Hunter, of South Yarra, to a design by architect J F Gibbons. The land, building and fixtures and fittings totalled £3,773 – all met through public subscription (*The Argus* 30 January 1889: 9).

'The Free Medical Mission Dispensary Collingwood estd Jany 1869' was originally inscribed along the building's façade. Underneath was a quotation from the Gospel of Luke: 'Glory to God in the Highest Peace on Earth Good Will to Men'. Both these inscriptions have been removed. The interior of the building also contained biblical references, now removed. (*The Argus* 1 February 1889: 5).

The work of the dispensary continued following Dr Singleton's death in 1891. In February 1897 the public subscribed for a stained-glass window to be made in Dr Singleton's memory and installed in his dispensary. The window was created by the Ferguson & Urie stained glass company and unveiled on 2 April 1897 by parliamentarian C J Ham. The window was donated to the City of Collingwood in 1979 and subsequently installed on the staircase of the Collingwood Town Hall (Ray Brown 2013: online).

The building was later known as 'Dr Singleton's Dispensary and Welfare Centre', and, by the 1970s, the 'City of Collingwood Health Centre'. The centre moved to 365 Hoddle Street, Collingwood in 1977 where it was renamed North Yarra Community Health Centre (Allom Lovell 1998: 410; City of Yarra).

In 2001 the building was converted into a dedicated gay bathhouse and social space. It has been an iconic venue for Melbourne's gay community since that time (A history of LGBTIQ+ Victoria, p.17).

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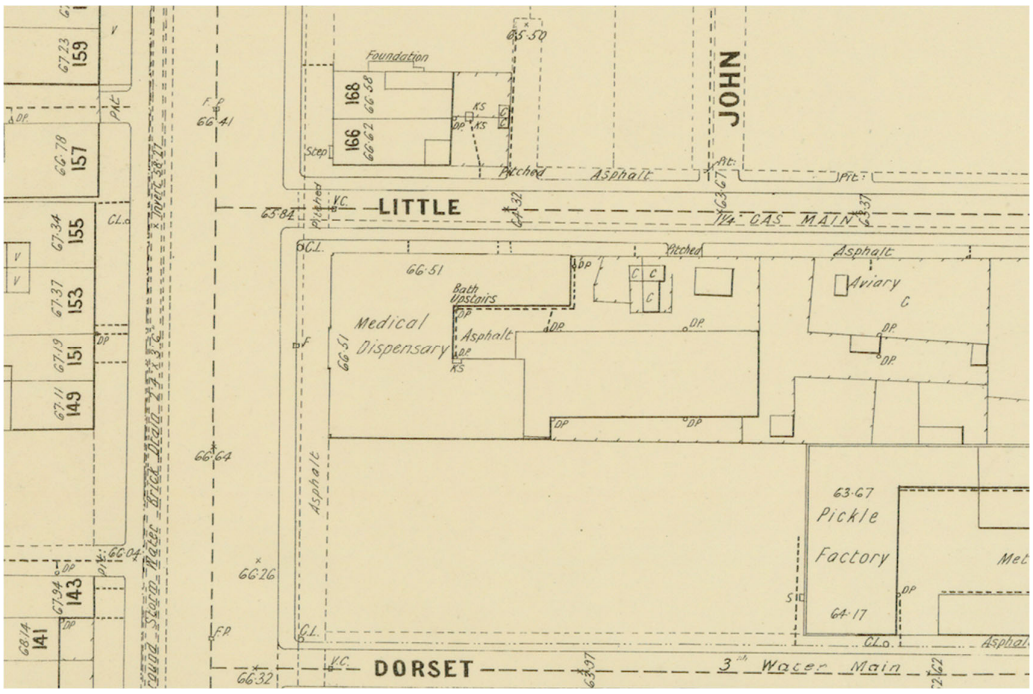
Historical images



Undated, Dr. Singleton's first dispensary on Wellington Street and later mission hall at the rear, Source: City of Yarra Local Historical Photographs Collection, Identifier: CL PIC 241.



c1889, Dr. Singleton's Collingwood Free Medical Mission Dispensary, Queen's Jubilee Buildings photograph by George H Lang, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9916854313607636.



1899, Excerpt of MMBW detail plan. no. 1199 & 1200, City of Collingwood showing Free Medical Mission Dispensary, labelled 'Medical Dispensary', on the southeast corner of Wellington Street (left) and Little Smith Street (now Singleton Street, above), Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9911645223607636.



1950, Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary, Collingwood, Source: City of Yarra Local Historical Photographs Collection, Identifier: YL COLL 187.

Further information

Registered Aboriginal Party information

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is located on Wurundjeri Country.

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is not in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

(26 August 2026)

Integrity

The integrity of the place is good. The cultural heritage values of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) can be easily read in the extant external fabric. The integrity of the interior is low.

(22 July 2026)

Intactness

The intactness of the place is fair. The intactness of the external fabric is good, while the intactness of the internal fabric is low.

(22 July 2026)

Condition

The condition of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is excellent.

(22 July 2026)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

Amendment recommendation

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The cultural heritage significance of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) was recognised when it was included in the Historic Buildings Register in 1982. Its State-level cultural heritage significance was confirmed in 1998 when it was transferred into the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Amendment application

On 26 August 2026 the Executive Director made and accepted an application to amend the registration of the place to ensure it is consistent with current practices under the Act.

Assessment of additional land and summary of significance

The information below is provided under s.40(3A)(c)(i)(ii) and s.40(4)(c)(i)(ii) of the Act as part of the Executive Director's Statement of recommendation.

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration because it is his view that:

- The State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed.
- The additional land surrounds the place and is important to the protection or conservation of the place; or contributes to the understanding of the place.

The Executive Director notes that:

- The current extent does not include the land associated with, or to the rear, of the original building on the site. The land proposed for inclusion both is currently and has been used in conjunction with the place since 1869 which is over 156 years.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- If any of the additional land proposed for inclusion in the registration were developed, depending upon the nature of the proposal, there is potential for the development to impact upon the place and substantially reduce its State-level cultural heritage significance.
- The proposed inclusion of land associated with the place will provide clarity on the approvals process for works within the place.

Change of name

Current Name: Singleton Medical Centre

Proposed Name: Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings)

The proposed name reflects the original name of the heritage place visible in photos from c.1889. There is no evidence that the place was formally known as the Singleton Medical Centre.

Statutory requirements under section 40

Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) in the VHR is amended.

Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

Number: VHR H0497

Category: Registered Place.

Name: Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings)

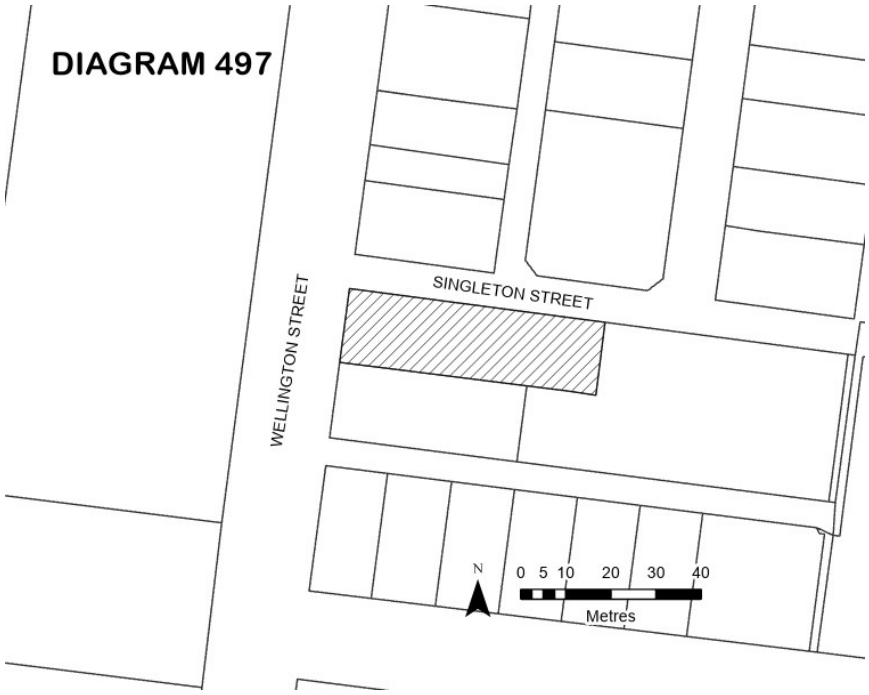
Location: 162 & 162A Wellington Street and 21 Singleton Street, Collingwood

Municipality: Yarra City Council

Proposed extent of registration

The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for the Dr Singleton's Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 497 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 20788.



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photograph of the place showing proposed extent of registration



The red dashed line indicates the proposed extent of registration.

Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The proposed extent of registration includes all of the land (above and below ground and airspace) and every part of the place including but not limited to:

- The building (exteriors, interiors and fixtures).

A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for **all** works or activities within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation (permit exemption).

The recommended extent of the registration is the same as the notional Heritage Overlay currently mapped in the Planning Scheme (HO143).

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

Statement of significance

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is located on Wurundjeri Country.

What is significant?

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings), constructed in 1889 for the provision of free medical services and spiritual guidance to the community by Dr John Singleton.

How is it significant?

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Criterion H

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance to Victoria's history.

Why is it significant?

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is historically significant for its associations with the early provision of social welfare and medical care in Victoria. Established on the site in 1869 in an earlier timber building, the dispensary was one of the first ventures to distribute free medical attention to the poor in Victoria and demonstrates the extent of disadvantaged people's reliance on philanthropy at a time when governments provided few welfare services. The dispensary is of significance as the first medical practice in Victoria to appoint a female doctor, Dr Laura Morgan (1886), and later Dr Constance Stone (1890). [Criterion A]

Constructed in 1889 to a design by architect J F Gibbons, the Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is architecturally significant as an example of late nineteenth century institutional architecture. Although parts of the façade have been subject to alteration, the building stands as a good example of the conservative classicism that was prevalent in institutional architecture during the 1880s boom years. [Criterion D]

The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) is significant for its associations with Dr John Singleton, one of Melbourne's leading philanthropists. After his arrival in Victoria from Dublin in 1851, Dr Singleton became active in temperance work, prison reform and Aboriginal welfare. In addition to the founding of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary in 1869, he also opened night shelters and refuges for vulnerable women and co-founded the Royal Children's Hospital. A strong advocate for women in the medical profession, he was instrumental in employing the first woman to practice medicine in Victoria. The present building, built through public subscription, represents the peak of Singleton's efforts to provide free medical care to working-class communities and appears to be the last building directly linked to his work. [Criterion H]

Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

Introduction

A heritage permit is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are exempt from a heritage permit, if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is utilised to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

The interior of The Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings) has been substantially altered since its construction, most recently in the early 2000s to convert the premises to a bathhouse and entertainment venue. Further changes to the interior of the building that do not impact the remaining early structural walls, and original or early doors, architraves, cornicing, window reveals, and the brick fireplace on the first floor, will not harm the heritage values of the place.

All internal works to the more recent rear additions (including Manager's flat, carpark and pool) that do not increase the floor area or height of the additions will not harm the heritage values of the place.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the 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 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 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 Permit Exemptions

The works and activities listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings). These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.
5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor.
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works or activities in accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.
8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General conditions for specific permit exemptions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Exempt works and activities

1. All non-structural works and activities to the interior of Free Medical Mission Dispensary (Queen's Jubilee Buildings), including demolition, providing the works and activities do not impact the early remaining structural walls, and original or early doors, architraves, cornicing, window reveals or the brick fireplace on the first floor.
2. All non-structural works and activities to the interiors of the rear additions (including Manager's flat, carpark and pool).
3. Installation of roof-top solar systems that are not visible from the public realm.
4. Installation of rooftop plant and roof-mounted services to the rear additions (including Manager's flat, carpark and pool) that are not visible from the public realm.

Appendix 1: Important information for owners and interested parties

Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its website under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the Heritage Council's website. The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d).

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

(a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and

(b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

(a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and

(b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

(a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or

(ab) in the case of a place, determine that—

(i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and

(ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

(ac) in the case of an object, determine that—

(i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and

(ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

(b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

(c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—

(i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or

(ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or

(ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or

(d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—

(i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or

(ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.

(2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—

(a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or

(b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

(3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—

(a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and

(b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.

(4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—

(a) the land is ancillary to the place; and

(b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—

(i) is the owner of the land; and

(ii) consents to its inclusion.

(5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.

(6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)

42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given

(1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

(a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and

(b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and

(c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits

(1) This section applies if—

(a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—

(i) a place or object nominated under section 27;

(ii) an object nominated under section 27A;

(iii) land nominated under section 27B; and

(b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—

(i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;

(ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;

(iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;

(iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

(a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or

(b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities

(1) This section applies if—

(a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and

(b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose

(1) This section applies if—

(a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and

(b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser

(1) This section applies if—

(a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and

(b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;

In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.

Appendix 2: Existing registration details

Existing extent of registration

Historic Building No. 497 Singleton's Medical Welfare Centre, 162 Wellington Street, Collingwood (to the extent of the total external fabric of the building only).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No.35 16 April 1982 p.1054]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the *Heritage Act 1995* pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act).

Existing extent diagram

This registration was gazetted in 1982 without an extent diagram.

Existing statement of significance

Last updated on - July 13, 1999

What is significant?

The Singleton Medical Centre is a two storey brick building with a rendered facade, established in 1889 by Dr John Singleton as a dispensary to administer free medical attention and provide spiritual guidance to the poor. The dispensary originally included a large central mission hall at the rear with meeting rooms. The main building contained a large dispensary, two waiting rooms, two consulting rooms, a reading room, a registry office for the unemployed, a coffee room and book store. The facade is symmetrically composed about a pedimented doorway on the ground floor with paired round-headed arched windows deliniated into bays by panelled pilasters.

How is significant?

The Singleton Medical Centre is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Singleton Medical Centre is of historical significance as a substantial reminder of the work of Dr John Singleton, one of Melbourne's most active and generous philanthropists. Dr Singleton was born in Dublin in 1808 and arrived in Victoria in 1851. He was initially involved with temperance societies and gaol visiting, and was a vocal opponent of capital punishment. Whilst practising medicine in Warrnambool, Mt. Gambier and Maryborough, he developed an interest in Aboriginal affairs and helped establish the Framlingham Aboriginal Reserve near Warrnambool. After returning to Melbourne in 1867 Singleton continued his philanthropic works, establishing the free medical dispensary in 1869 as well as a number of other facilities such as night shelters and a retreat for friendless and fallen women and widow's cottages in Collingwood. The original 1869 dispensary eventually became inadequate for the purpose and the present building was constructed using funds from a public appeal. It remains the crowning achievement of Singleton's work in providing free medical care in the working-class suburbs of Melbourne and appears to be the last surviving building with which Dr. Singleton was associated.

The Singleton Medical Centre is of historical significance as a reminder of the early provision of social welfare and medical care in Victoria. The Dispensary was one of the first ventures to distribute free medical attention to the poor. It, and the other welfare facilities established by Singleton, demonstrate the extent of poor people’s reliance on philanthropy at a time when governments provided few welfare services. The site was also the first home of the Salvation Army in Melbourne, the Army using the dispensary’s hall. Of particular significance in the history of medical care in Victoria is the fact that Singleton was a great supporter of women in medical practice and the Collingwood dispensary became the first practice to employ a female doctor, Laura Morgan.

The Singleton Medical Centre is of architectural significance as an example of late 19th century institutional architecture. Although parts of the facade have been removed, sufficient remains to provide a good example of the conservative classicism that was prevalent in institutional architecture during the 1880s boom years.

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

Nil.