

# Heritage Council Determination

---

|                                  |                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Determination date               | 1 October 2026                                                                                                 |
| Place/Object name                | Dow's Pharmacy and Collection                                                                                  |
| Location                         | 42–44 Conness Street, Chiltern, Indigo Shire, Yorta Yorta Country                                              |
| VHR number                       | H2474                                                                                                          |
| Category                         | Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place                                         |
| Relevant legislative provision/s | Inclusion in the Heritage Register, pursuant to section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i> |

## Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **1 October 2026**, in accordance with section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.

The Heritage Council also determined to:

- Include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is not required (specific permit exemptions), that would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, pursuant to section 49(3)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.
-

## Executive Director's Recommendation ('the Recommendation')

On **13 July 2026** the Executive Director made the Recommendation to the Heritage Council that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection ('the Place') is of State-level significance and should be included in the Victorian Heritage Register ('Heritage Register').

The Recommendation was advertised publicly for a period of 60 days, beginning on **17 July 2026**.

## Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day advertisement period no submissions were received pursuant to section 44 of the Heritage Act.

## The Place

### Description

Extracted from the Executive Director's Recommendation:

*Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is located on Conness Street, Chiltern. The building (1868) is a single-storey gable roofed building constructed of red handmade brick with a verandah over the street. A rear extension was added in 1952. The front of the building is a pharmacy and the rear is a residence.*

#### **Pharmacy**

*The front rooms related to use of the building as a pharmacy include two shops, a dispensary, and two storerooms. The two shops were retail spaces and likely split between medicinal and non-medicinal goods. The dispensary was not open to the public and was used to prepare and compound the medicines.*

#### **Shop**

*The two front doorways feature a splayed entrance with double timber-panelled doors. The floors are timber, as are the shop counter benches. The floorboards are timber and the walls are plastered brick.*

#### **Pharmacy & Dispensary**

*The interior fittings of the main pharmacy space are comprised of timber shelves and timber cabinets with glass windows and doors. The floorboards are timber and the walls are plastered brick. There is some evidence in the hallway under the current paintwork of Art Nouveau-style wallpaper, likely dating from the early twentieth century. There is evidence of wallpaper behind the peeling paintwork in the dispensary, possibly dating from the 1900s or earlier.*

#### **Residence**

*The residential space comprises of four bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, a living space, a porch, a sleepout, and a laundry.*

#### Exterior

*The original building exterior is red brick. The exterior walls of the 1952 addition are timber-framed with bull-nosed weatherboards and asbestos cement sheeting. The backyard is grassed with a few trees, and a clothesline.*

#### Interior

*The floorboards for the residential section are timber and the walls are either plastered or painted brick, except for the passage walls to the dispensary which are timber-framed and lined Masonite. The extension consists of a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, laundry, sleepout room and porch. The flooring of the kitchen, laundry and other extension rooms have a linoleum finish.*

#### **Objects integral**

*The collection contains 3,913 objects dating from the late-1800s to the 1960s. Their provenance is to Dow's Pharmacy, and relate to the composition, storage and distribution of medicines and pharmaceutical products. Examples include raw compounding ingredients, pre-packaged*

*medications, personal hygiene goods, compounding equipment and instruments (such as scales and pill-making machines), glass bottles, prescription ledgers and pharmaceutical texts.*

## Heritage Council's findings

### State-level cultural heritage significance

The Heritage Council finds that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council agrees that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is historically significant for its association with the growth of commercial pharmacies in Victoria and the development of the pharmaceutical industry over 100 years.

The Heritage Council agrees that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is a rare example of a highly intact nineteenth-century pharmacy with a substantial collection of objects, including a wooden pill-rolling machine, brass scales, bottles and carboys which have remained largely undisturbed since the pharmacy's closure in 1968. It is the only known historic pharmacy in Victoria which retains its collection, and only one of two in Australia.

The Heritage Council notes that due to the age and nature of the collection there may be objects within the collection that are subject to the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (Vic) or other such legislation. The Heritage Council notes that should the owner or manager of Dow's Pharmacy and Collection be required to take action to comply with other legislation, the Executive Director should be notified to determine any approvals required for these activities under Part 5 of the Heritage Act.

The Heritage Council determines that Dow's Pharmacy and Collection meets the following Criteria for Assessment in the Heritage Council's Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (**Attachment 1**) at the State-level:

- **Criterion A** – Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.
- **Criterion B** – Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

The Heritage Council's findings generally accord with the Executive Director's Recommendation.

### Extent of Registration

The Extent of Registration is provided as **Attachment 2** and include all the Place shown hatched on Diagram 2474 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 9 Section S Township of Chiltern; and part of the road reserve of Conness Street to the extent of the land forming the footprint of the permanent verandah; and all of the Objects Integral to the Place which are listed in the inventory held by the Executive Director.

### Permit exemptions

The Heritage Council determined specific permit exemptions for works or activities which would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Place or the Objects Integral to the Place, which are provided as **Attachment 3**.

### Conclusion

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **1 October 2026**, in accordance with section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the Dow's Pharmacy and Collection is to be included in the Victorian Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.



**Professor Philip Goad**  
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

# Attachment 1

## Victorian Heritage Register Assessment Criteria

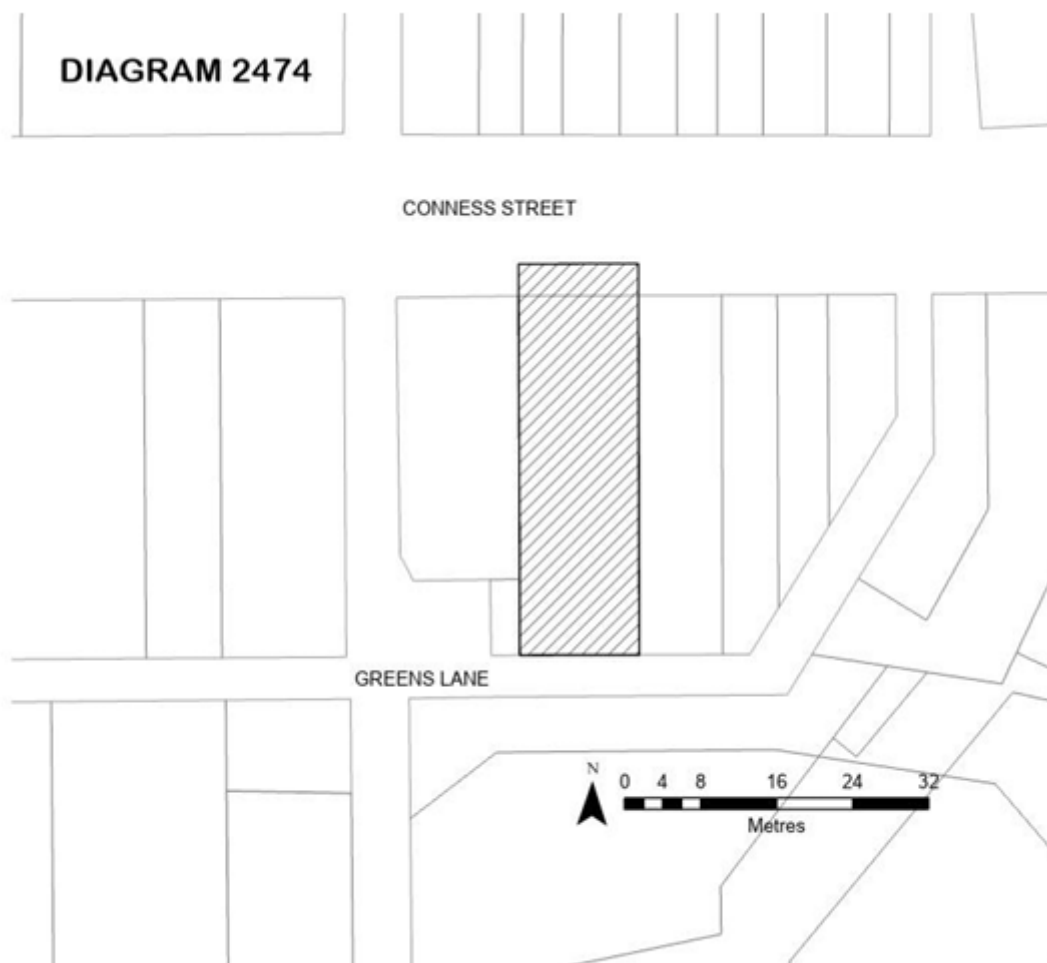
|                    |                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Criterion A</b> | Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.                                                              |
| <b>Criterion B</b> | Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.                                                 |
| <b>Criterion C</b> | Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.                            |
| <b>Criterion D</b> | Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.                               |
| <b>Criterion E</b> | Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.                                                                     |
| <b>Criterion F</b> | Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.                             |
| <b>Criterion G</b> | Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. |
| <b>Criterion H</b> | Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.                  |

These were adopted by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 1 December 2022, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 December 2012.

# Attachment 2

## Extent of Registration

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2474 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 9 Section S Township of Chiltern; and part of the road reserve of Conness Street to the extent of the land forming the footprint of the permanent verandah; and all of the objects integral to the place which are listed in the inventory held by the Executive Director.



# Attachment 3

## Categories of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit (permit exemptions)

### 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 Dow's Pharmacy and Collection in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

### 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 Act.

**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 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 **Dow's Pharmacy and Collection**. 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

### Building

#### *Interiors*

1. Repair, replacement and installation of smoke detectors and security sensors in the same locations.
2. Works to electrical wiring, switches and power outlets provided existing locations are used.

#### *Exteriors*

3. Repairs to gutters, downpipes and drainage to direct water away from the building.

### External Land

4. All subsurface works including installation of underground services and drainage.
5. All gardening, new planting and landscaping works and activities, provided that garden beds and plantings are not located in areas that may contribute to building dampness or cause mechanical damage to the building.
6. Pruning, lopping and removal of trees and vegetation.

### Fences and gates

7. Repairs, maintenance and replacement of fences and gates provided that existing fence and gate heights are generally maintained.

### Objects integral

8. Management of objects integral including temporary removal, transportation and relocation, conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and temporary loans of eighteen months or less. These activities must be undertaken in accordance with the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries and/or in accordance with the accepted collection management standards, policies and procedures of the National Trust. These activities may be undertaken by conservators in the employ of or contracted to the National Trust or authorised people directly supervised by them.

### Footpath on Conness Street

9. Repairs, maintenance and replacement of the Conness Street footpath provided that existing levels are maintained.