

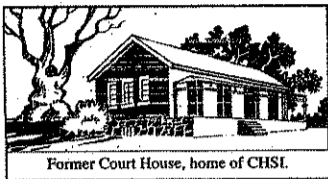
CASTLEMAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

The Castlemaine Historical Society was formed in 1965. The Society operated for many years from temporary premises in various locations.

In 1996 the Society was granted a lease to its present home in the historic Former Court House. This enables the members to more effectively carry out the aims of the Society; to study, record and promote the historical heritage of Castlemaine and District.

Meetings (with interesting guest speakers), exhibitions, a monthly newsletter, guided tours, the development, cataloguing and maintenance of an historic archive collection, indexing of records and the provision of a research service are the major means by which these aims are furthered.

FAMILY & LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH:



Anyone wishing to study aspects of Castlemaine's rich history, or research their family heritage can access the archives of the Society in person, or by forwarding a research request by mail.

Research in person:
The Former Court House, 7 Goldsmith Crescent, is open to the public on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Ph: (03) 5470 6072

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS MADE WELCOME!

Appointments for other times can be arranged by phoning (03) 5472 1425 or (03) 5474 3011

Mail inquiries:

Write to: Castlemaine Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 655, Castlemaine, VIC. 3450
Email: chsi@castlemainehistoricalsociety.com
(Please include a return postal address)

Archives. Society holdings include early directories, voters' lists, local newspaper index, various petitions and some records and indexes concerning land sales, gold escorts, mining leases, rate assessments, schools, churches and cemeteries.

A listing of holdings can be seen at Internet site: www.castlemainehistoricalsociety.com

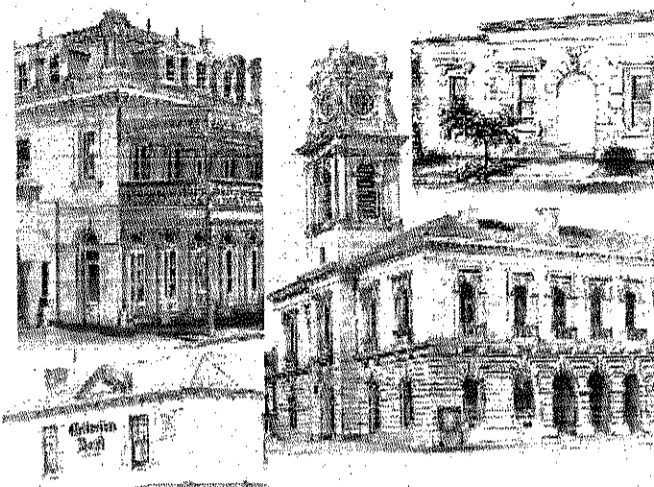
Text prepared by Castlemaine Historical Society Inc. (Reg. No:A9493B)
Cover collage adapted from
Valleys of Gold: Castlemaine and Mount Alexander Goldfields Sketchbook
David Williams 1992 (artist, author, publisher)
37 Wildwood Avenue, Vermont South, 3133

Fifth printing November 2008
Printed by Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre

HISTORIC TOWN WALK

A TOWN WALK IN HISTORIC CASTLEMAINE

Welcome to Castlemaine - a gold mine of history



A round walk of about an hour in Central Castlemaine

Castlemaine Historical Society Inc.

Mount Alexander Walks and Trails Advisory Board.

ORIGINS OF STREET NAMES

Urquhart Street
William Swan Urquhart was the first Government Surveyor for this district. He planned the town in 1852 and selected the Hospital, Market Square, Gaol and Church Reserves.
Hargraves Street
Edward Hammond Hargraves was the first discoverer of gold in Australia. He visited Castlemaine in November 1852, when the town survey was approaching completion.
Barker Street
Dr. William Barker was a pioneer settler, whose pastoral run included part of the area that was later to become Castlemaine. Commissioner Henry Porter Mostyn was in charge of the Camp at Fryers(town) and afterwards Inspector of Police in this district.

Lytleton Street
Lieutenant Thomas Lytleton was a member of the goldfields police. He later became Inspector of Police and was succeeded by Robert O'Hara Burke.
Templeton Street
William Templeton was chief of the town survey staff.
Campbell Street
William Campbell was a pioneer pastoralist who owned Strathloddon Station, amongst many others throughout Australia.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

11 Sep. 1863 - Constituted a 'Borough'.
30 Jan. 1950 - Created a 'Town'.
4 Dec. 1965 - Declared a 'City'.
22 Jan. 1996 - Local Government Amalgamations:
Castlemaine joins with Maldon, Newstead and most of Metcalfe to become the Mount Alexander Shire.

Mount Alexander Mail, 19th Oct. 1860

As the Melbourne to Murray Railway reached closer and the contractors Cornish and Bruce opened their Victorian Railway Foundry in Castlemaine, the local newspaper presented this stirring description of the town, designed for readers in England.
"Castlemaine is the principal town of the Mount Alexander Goldfields. It is nine square miles in extent. The population consists of about 10,000 persons. It is the Market Town, however, of about 30,000.
The Town Council consists of seven members, elected by the ratepayers, three retiring by rotation annually. The last assessment of annual values of the property in the district was £90,000. The duties of the Council are strictly limited to municipal functions. The Crown Lands within the district are under the jurisdiction of an officer styled a Resident Warden.
There are six Banks in the town, besides a Savings Bank. We have an Episcopal, and a Catholic Church in the town and others in the neighbourhood, the denominational congregations being also represented by well built places of worship.
Manufactures of various kinds are carried on throughout the district. The weekly yield of gold averages over 5,000 ounces. There are two newspapers, no soldiers, and only a few police members, and the town is the place of nomination for the North-Western Province, which returns five members to the Legislative Council.
Castlemaine is at a point in the railway line where traffic will diverge and converge from various parts of the country. It will afford facilities for access to the interior from the seaboard that do not now exist, and will prevent that concentration of people in Melbourne, from which so many evils now arise, distributing them over the country, where there is work to be done.
The Victorian Railway Foundry in the inland town of Castlemaine [is] an unanswerable argument against the sneers and depreciations of those who have not enterprise enough to enter on colonial life."
The advent of the railway in 1862, after much local political pressure, further added to the stability of the town.

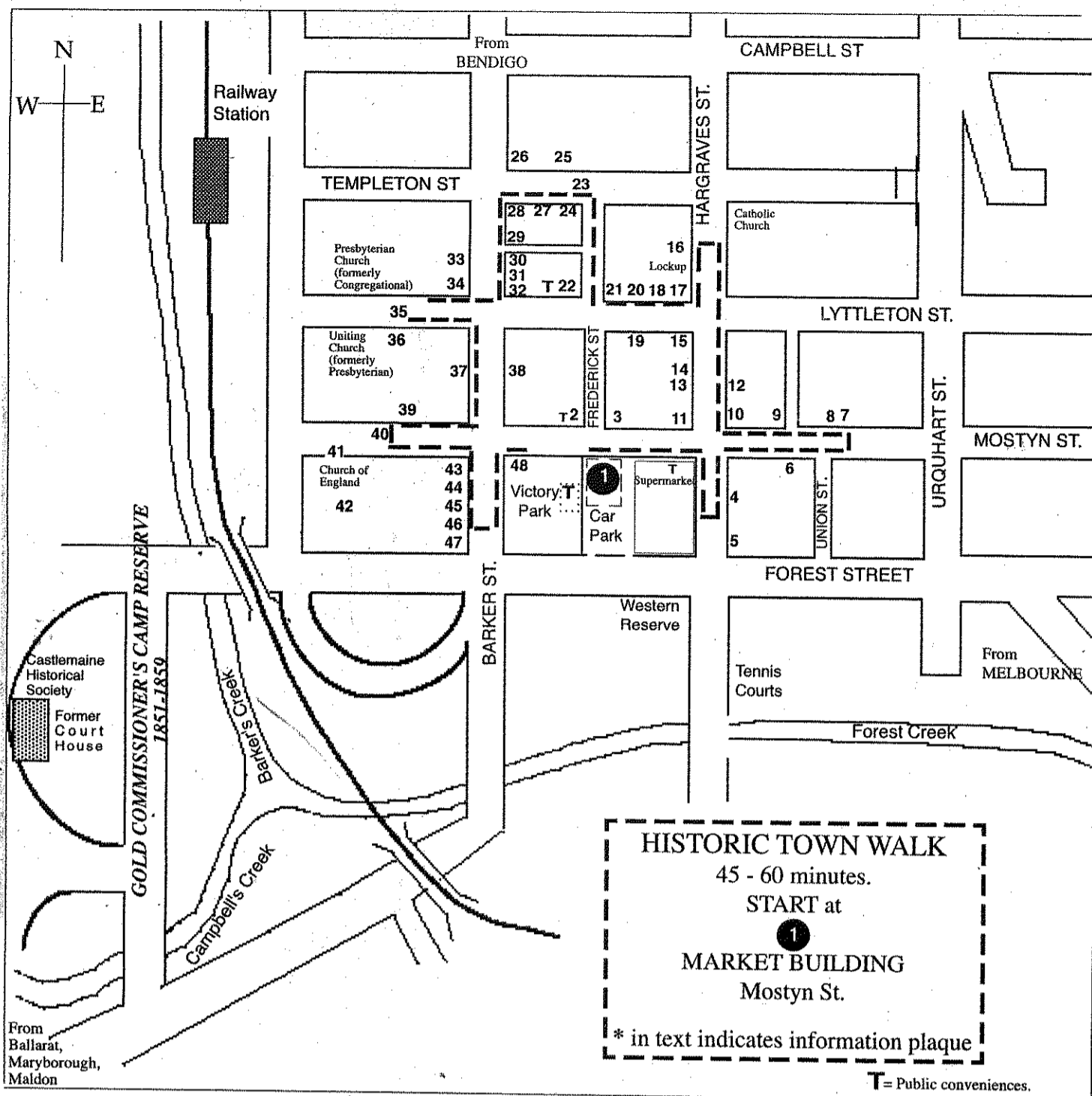
CASTLEMAINE "THE GREAT CENTRE"

HISTORIC TOWN WALK

This walk covers the central city area, its public buildings and commercial areas.
As you commence, pause a moment on the Market steps and look above the 1950s cantilevered verandahs to the pediments and ubiquitous galvanised iron roofs of the shops. Many of these exteriors, now modernised within, date from the town's beginnings.

CASTLEMAINE'S BEGINNINGS

European penetration and occupation dates back to the 1830s and 40s; the exploration of Mitchell and the pastoral days of Hepburn and others. Dr W Barker's Mt. Alexander Run and the neighbouring Strathloddon run, originally taken up by Donald Cameron, included the valleys of Barkers and Forest Creeks.
At Specimen Gully, Barker's hutekeeper and shepherds discovered gold in 1851. This news triggered the gold rush and Castlemaine became the centre of the Mt. Alexander goldfields.
Estimates of the total amount of gold extracted from these fields vary, but it is known that in one six month period in 1852 Gold Escorts to Melbourne and Adelaide carried 587,584 ounces (16.6 tonnes) out of Mt. Alexander.
Originally the town was located around the Government Camp site (to the west of the railway line) under the control of Commissioner Wright.
15 Feb. 1853 - First land sales of town allotments.
1 Nov. 1853 - Castlemaine gazetted as a township.
23 Apr. 1855 - Proclaimed a Municipal District.
15 Oct. 1855 - Municipal Council proposed.
22 Jan. 1856 - First Municipal Council elections.
Jan. 1858 - Commissioners and military withdraw.
By 1860 local government was well established and Castlemaine declared itself "THE GREAT CENTRE". Substantial public buildings and private homes were built and major industries serving goldmining and the surrounding communities developed.
The advent of the railway in 1862, after much local political pressure, further added to the stability of the town.



26. TONKS Timber and Hardware. In 1851 the wheel tracks from Major Mitchell's ox carts (from 1836) were still visible in the yard. The buildings were established in 1900 by contractor H.D. McBean who built many public and residential buildings in Castlemaine.

27. The red brick building next to the Fire Station is the top floor of the stables used when the Police Station occupied sections of this corner block from 1889. Feed supplies were loaded into the barn area at street level, and the horses stabled below.

28. STATE SAVINGS BANK, 1920 until 1979. * Foundations of the earlier police station were used and early police cells incorporated into the basement floor when this building was constructed.

29. LIBRARY. Original hall opened as Mechanics Institute, 1857. Front additions in 1861, 1872 and 1893.

30. FAULDER WATSON HALL. Opened in 1895 as premises for the Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association which had been formed in 1880 to 'promulgate facts relative to the early history of the district.' Hall funded chiefly by donation from Mrs. Watson in memory of her husband.

31. TELEGRAPH OFFICE. * First Telegraph Communication 1st. Jan. 1857. Moved to Post Office in 1875. Crown Grant to P. & O.R.A. in 1893.

32. POST OFFICE * The first Post Office was at 'The Camp' in 1852. As the town developed a wooden building was erected on this site in 1859. The present building dates from 1875, complete with clock bell cast locally at Horwood's foundry.

33. GEO. CLARKE BUILDINGS. Beginning with a general store out of town, George Clarke prospered and built these 'new' premises from which to conduct his wide ranging business. Arcade developed in the late 20th century.

34. VEREY'S CORNER. Occupants have been decorator, PHOTOGRAPHER, confectioner, PHOTOGRAPHER, then chemist. Verey's first photographic studio here circa 1884. Built new premises in early 1900s.

35. SIR HARRY LAWSON statue. Premier of Victoria 1918-1924, and later a Senator. *

36. CASTLEMAINE ART GALLERY & HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 1930-31. * Committee was formed in 1913.

1. MARKET BUILDING. Constructed 1861-62. Market until 1967. W. Downe, architect. * Vendors could back vehicles and unload produce through doorways along the sides into the arched stalls. This was the central building of three, the others running east and west along the Market Square block.

2. A.N.Z. BANK, 1856. * Started as The Bank of Australasia. Continuous ownership and operation.

3. This recently restored pharmacy was originally built as Goldsmith's Hotel in 1861, one of numerous licensed premises in a thirsty gold mining town.

4. THEATRE ROYAL, c.1855. Original building destroyed by fire 1857, but quickly rebuilt. Behind the 1930s facade is one of the longest continuously operating entertainment establishments in Victoria. Lola Montez performed here. The old stonework of the external walls can be seen from Mostyn Street.

5. Trading was done with tokens in 1857 when this building operated as Butterworth's Store. It became the Commercial Hotel in 1874.

6. Now the 'Empyre', this was the Albion Hotel, one of three in the block between Hargraves and Union Streets.

7. Now The Restorer's Barn, this was the Mt. Alexander Hotel from 1864-1907, when W.J. Stoneman took it over as a grocery business - the beginning of a chain of supermarkets.

8. TRADES HALL. Built c.1860, and successively an insurance office, shop, and dressmaker's, it became the Trades Hall in 1914. The dressmaker's sign can be made out on the side wall.

9. Signs of name changes also can be seen on the facade of this building - another hotel, successively the Freemason's, Victoria, Sporting Club.

10. WILLIAMS' BUILDINGS. Originally a single storey collection of shops. E D Williams redeveloped this site as his lucrative grocery and general merchandise business expanded.

11. The east wall of the original Government Survey Office, where the first Municipal Council meetings were held, has been preserved in this corner shop.

12. PENNEY'S BAKERY, c.1880. Note the sign "THREE COURSE MEALS 1/3" beside the second storey windows.

13. UNION BANK, 1859-65 then doctor's residence and surgery. Now a private residence.

14. FRENCH'S TALBOT DRUG STORE, 1858. Early chemist.

15. SUPREME COURT HOTEL, 1859-1913, has extensive cellars. Renovated as Heron's Art Gallery in recognition of its later philanthropic owner, Miss Heron.

16. The State Savings Bank began in this building with the interesting keystone in 1855. In 1921 it became the police station, and the bank moved to the police station site. (see No:27) * Note the poor ventilation in the granite lockup, to the left, down the hill.

17. GOLD WARDEN'S OFFICE, now a private residence. The Warden headed the Mining Court and sometimes also served as the Police Magistrate.

18. COURT HOUSE, 1877 replaced an earlier court building on this site, which itself had superseded the first courthouse in the Gold Commissioner's Camp on the other side of Barker's Creek. That 'Former Court House' is now the home of the Castlemaine Historical Society Inc.

19. IMPERIAL HOTEL, 1861. Another of the many hotels from the early days, built in 'grand' style with interesting mansard roof and extensive cellars.

20. SCHOOL OF MINES, began in 1887 in the old Police Court on this site. This building was constructed in 1889.

21. TOWN HALL This building dates from 1898, replacing the plainer Municipal Chambers of c.1862.

22. DRILL HALL, 1889. Castlemaine 1st Company, Victorian Volunteer Rifle Corps moved from Camp Reserve to this site prior to 1863. Now a Sports Fitness Centre.

23. This part of Templeton St. was the site of early burials, before the township was surveyed in 1852. In 1856, bodies were disinterred and removed to the Castlemaine Cemetery, located at Campbells Creek, which had been gazetted in 1853.

24. FIRE STATION site from 1857. At the Relief of Mafeking celebrations 1901, over enthusiastic ringing cracked the fire bell. Present day technology makes the "new" bell obsolete.

25. These three adjoining buildings were the Salvation Army's Officers quarters, Barracks and Citadel between 1885 and 1898. The Army bought the first, a wine and spirit merchant's building (1859) and added the central building, reported at the time to be capable of seating 1000.

37. ODGERS & Co. Family businesses in timber/hardware and undertaking operated on this site from 1879-1987. (Now Home Hardware & Sleepzone).

38. BALL & WELCH STORE moved here from their original store in Vaughan, prior to establishing department stores in Melbourne. (Now Target Country.)

39. "BALLARA" 1861-64. This substantial grey rendered building is now a medical clinic. This and the prior timber house were from 1857 the house/office of FITZGERALDS of CASTLEMAINE XXXX fame. Subsequently a private hospital.

40. SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL *

41. HEPBURN camped here in 1838, prior to the gold rushes, on the way to establishing his pastoral run further South West * Plaque in retaining wall.

42. AGITATION HILL. Here 'diggers' held protest meetings about the gold licence system prior to Eureka.

43. CRITERION HOTEL, 1853. Original building was wooden. The oldest continuously licensed premises in Castlemaine. Rear section of adjacent brick building (Real Estate Agent) was a Music Hall.

44 - 47. This row of substantial bank buildings bordering what was then the Market Square indicate the wealth being wrung from the surrounding gullies and the expectations held for the future of Castlemaine in the 1850s and 60s.

44. BANK OF VICTORIA, 1856, replaced earlier small corrugated iron building. Later became C.B.C. of Sydney. Now legal offices.

45. ORIENTAL BANK CHAMBERS, 1862. Subsequently, printing works, newspaper office, legal chambers. Now an Internet café.

46. BANK OF NSW, 1866, replaced single storey 1855 building. *

47. NATIONAL BANK, 1860. Originally Bedford Arms Hotel.

48. VICTORY PARK, established 1919, and 1896 Sir James Patterson memorial. *(Chewton Mayor, then MLA, Premier 1893-94). Notice the drinking fountain provides for horses and dogs as well as humans. This corner was the popular meeting place for political campaign meetings and was also the scene of auction sales of stock - a horse being judged by its ability, fully laden, to gallop up the 'church hill' opposite.