

Victorian Heritage Database Report

## Former Stawell Butter Factory and Ice Company, 1-3 Curtis Street corner Prince and Johnson Streets, STAWELL

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**Location:**

1-3 Curtis Street corner Prince and Johnson Streets STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

**Statement of Significance:**

The former Stawell Butter Factory and Ice Company buildings, 1-3 Curtis Street, Stawell are historically significant as one of the few surviving butter factory buildings in the Wimmera. Architecturally the charcoal lined timber buildings of 1894 gain significance by being one of the few remaining building of this type, once a common feature of the butter factories, in Victoria. Unremarkable in appearance, setting or technological importance, the buildings gain social significance through the long relationship with the Mitchell family, a prominent civic minded family of Stawell.

The former Stawell Butter Factory and Ice Company buildings, 1-3 Curtis Street, Stawell are architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of a 19th century industrial building. These qualities include the single storey height; the U shaped building with gable roof forms; the corrugated iron roof cladding and the brick and weatherboard clad walls insulated with charcoal.

The former Stawell Butter Factory and Ice Company buildings, 1-3 Curtis Street, Stawell, is historically

significant at a LOCAL level. The factory is one of the few surviving butter factory building in the Wimmera. The factory is also associated with George Mitchell are prominent citizen in Stawell.

Overall, The former Stawell Butter Factory and Ice Company buildings, 1-3 Curtis Street, Stawell are of LOCAL significance.

## Description

This description is taken from Dr. Jan Penny, 'Industrial History. Manufacturing industry project methodology statement'. Report, National Trust Victoria, 1992. This report classifies the heritage value of Victorian butter factories.

The original butter factory is a U shaped building with timber external walls lined with timber with charcoal insulation between the skins. According to reports dated 1894, the ceilings were also lined with paper felt to stop the charcoal packing from falling through. Flooring was 4 inch Kauri pine and walls of tongue and grooved lining boards 6 inches wide and ½ inch thick.

The roof is a simple gable of corrugated iron with a small timber louvered vent inserted part of the way along the longer ridge of the gable. The loading bay which forms one arm of the U is still intact although not in good condition.

There are two boiler rooms, one of timber, the other of brick. Both have corrugated iron gable roofs and presumably the timber boiler room is the original one. The boilers were removed and sold for scrap some years ago and the pipes used as fence uprights on the property.

The brick sections of the butter factory were built around the 1920s. The butter factory is a long rectangular building with a vent inserted into the gable and a simple wooden finial at either end. The adjoining rectangular brick building has an older looking timber louvered vent in the gable. Attached to this building on the western wall is a small building with narrow corrugated iron walls which appears to be either another boiler room or a small machinery shed.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	112082
Property number	

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*