

SOUTH MELBOURNE COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION



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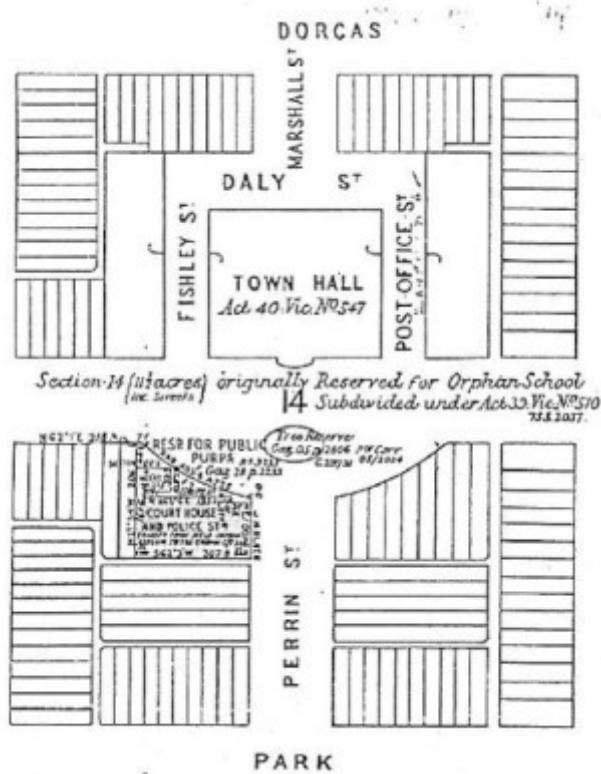
1 south melbourne court house & police station bank street south melbourne front view



h01486 south melbourne court house and police station entry she project 2004



h01486 south melbourne court house and police station rear she project 2004



H1486 plan

Location

209-213 BANK STREET SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1486

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO59

VHR Registration

November 1, 1989

Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

The Emerald Hill Police Station and Watch-house was operating from the municipal block on the corner of Coventry and Cecil streets by 1856, however with the completion of the town hall in 1880 the courthouse and police station, including five cells, was accommodated at the north-east corner of the building. With space being a problem, land was purchased for new law enforcement buildings on the southern side of Bank Street on the corner with Perrins Street. In 1928 construction began on two adjoining buildings, under the chief architect of the Public Works Department, E Evan Smith. In that year Smith also advertised for tenders to model a royal arms in a panel over the court house door. The Court House and Police Station remain substantially intact as designed in 1928. Both buildings are in the Spanish Mission idiom, a style popular during the 1920s rarely used for public buildings.

The Police Station is a long hip-roofed two-storeyed structure dominated by an arcaded loggia at second floor level and a terracotta pantile roof with a wide bracketed eave. Its planar rendered walls are ornamented with a projecting balcony set on hammer beams, wrought iron balustrade and gates and the original bossed rainwater heads. The window and door joinery remains intact; the entrance retains its multi-paned bevelled glazing to both the doors and the semi-circular fanlight above.

The Courthouse stands adjacent to the Police Station, drawing on the same Spanish Mission references, yet applying them to quite different effect. It is a hall-like gabled structure, the planar render facade of which is surmounted by a bold semi-circular parapet, flanked by scroll-like cappings. The facade is further embellished, and the building's use alluded to, by the royal coat of arms set into the render, while the entrance is framed by a simple architrave with a blind Italianate balustrade above. The Courthouse retains the original elegant leadlight fanlights above its entrance doors, large round-headed multi-paned windows to the east facade, its terracotta pantile roof, and the fleche to the ridge of the roof, decorated by twisted columns typical of the Spanish mission. Internally it is substantially intact, with polished joinery to the entrance airlock, lobby and benches within the court room itself, and a simple ceiling with strapped plasterwork typical of the period. The police station and court house are important examples of the Spanish mission style as applied to public buildings. They are also important examples of Public Works Department architecture.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (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 of Heritage Victoria 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 of Heritage Victoria 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](#).

Construction dates 1928,
Architect/Designer Smith, Edwin Evan,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Hermes Number 1032
Property Number

Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

South Melbourne Court House and Police Station, 209, 211-213 Bank Street, South Melbourne, to the extent of the Court House and Police Station Buildings which are located on unreserved Crown Land Crown Allotment 3, Section 14, Parish of Melbourne South, included in Appendix A.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G43 1 November 1989 pp.3075-3076]

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/>