

# TRARALGON COURT HOUSE



TRARALGON POST OFFICE  
AND COURT HOUSE SOHE  
2008



Traralgon Post Office from  
the north side



IMG 7075



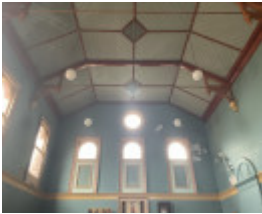
Court Room



Court Room from bench



Court Room from bench



Court Room ceiling

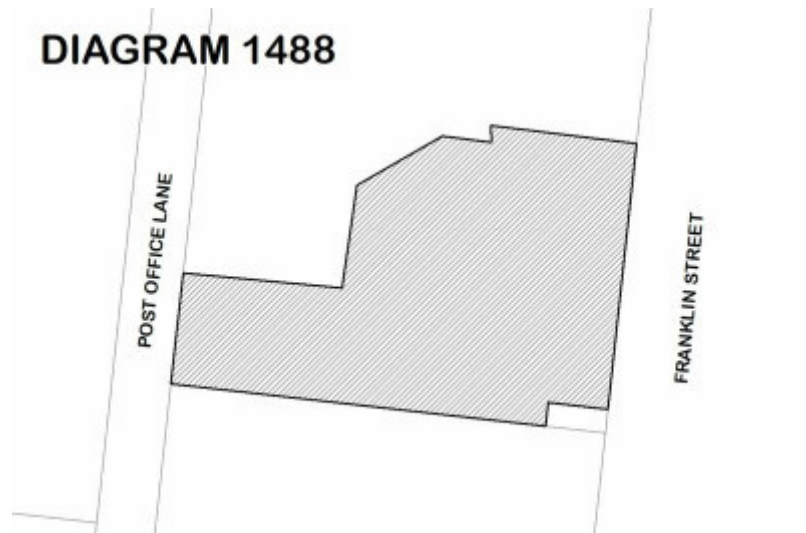


DIAGRAM 1488

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### **Location**

161-165 FRANKLIN STREET TRARALGON, LATROBE CITY

### **Municipality**

LATROBE CITY

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1488

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO4

### **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

### **Amendment to Registration**

August 18, 2022

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 9, 2022

### What is significant?

The Traralgon Court House is a single-storey red brick courthouse adjoining the Traralgon Port Office, designed and constructed in 1886 by the Public Works Department. It includes loggia over the main entrances on Kay Street, objects integral to the court room and interiors.

### How is it significant?

The Traralgon Court House 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

### Why is it significant?

The Traralgon Court House is historically significant for its association with the establishment of substantial courthouses and public offices in regional towns during the late nineteenth century. It is a particularly impressive example which demonstrates the growth of civic administration and legal institutions in Victoria during this period. [Criterion A]

The Traralgon Court House is architecturally significant as a key part of this Public Office Complex designed by the Public Works Department and a notable example of its class. Externally, the court room takes a Grecian temple form with a gabled roof, ornamental iron ridge cresting and cartouche. The main entrances are accentuated by loggias and porticos which are supported by cast iron and brick columns and surmounted by balustrades with ornamental urns. The Court House retains a collection of fine and original court room furniture. [Criterion D]

## 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](#).

## **Specific Exemptions:**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this information is to assist owners and other interested parties when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

It is acknowledged that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future. However, under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not knowingly, recklessly or negligently remove, relocate or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate all or any part of any part of a registered place without approval. It should be noted that the definition of 'develop' in the Act includes any works on, over or under the place.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under section 38 of the Act) or after registration (under section 92 of the Act). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

## **Disrepair of registered place or registered object**

Under section 152 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not allow that place or object to fall into disrepair.

## **Failure to maintain registered place or registered object**

Under section 153 of the Act, the owner of a registered place or registered object must not fail to maintain that place or object to the extent that its conservation is threatened.

## **Conservation management plans**

The Traralgon Court House should be managed under the guidance of the *Traralgon Court House Conservation Management Plan Annexure: Policy Review and Permit Exemptions* (Conservation Studio, February 2021) and *Court House (and Post Office) Traralgon, Victoria: Conservation Management Plan* (Ivar Nelsen, September 2009).

## Archaeology

There is no identified archaeology of State level significance at the place. However, any works that may affect historical archaeological features, deposits or artefacts at the place is likely to require a permit, permit exemption or consent. Advice should be sought from the Archaeology Team at Heritage Victoria.

## Aboriginal cultural heritage

To establish whether this place is registered under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* please contact First Peoples – State Relations in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* are separate pieces of legislation. Please be aware that both Acts are required to be satisfied and satisfying the requirements of one Act may not satisfy the requirements of the other.

If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact First Peoples – State Relations in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact First Peoples – State Relations in the Department of Premier and Cabinet to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

## Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

## Notes

- All works should ideally be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place. 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.
- Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
- Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits where applicable.

## General Conditions

- All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place.
- Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place are revealed which relate to the significance of the place, then the exemption covering such works must cease and Heritage Victoria must be notified as soon as possible.

## Permit Exemptions

The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Traralgon Court House.

### *General*

- Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like with like. Repairs and maintenance must maximise protection and retention of significant fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any repairs and maintenance must not exacerbate the decay of fabric due to chemical incompatibility of new materials, obscure fabric or limit access to such fabric for future maintenance.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing external services such as plumbing, electrical cabling, surveillance systems, pipes or fire services which does not involve changes in location or scale.
- Repair to, or removal of items such as antennae; aerials; and air conditioners and associated pipe work, ducting and wiring.
- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. The Executive Director must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- Painting of previously painted external and internal surfaces in the same colour and product type provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes or schemes. This exemption does not apply to areas where there are specialist paint techniques such as graining, marbling, stencilling, hand-painting, murals or signwriting, or to wallpapered surfaces, or to unpainted, oiled or varnished surfaces.
- Cleaning including the removal of surface deposits by the use of low-pressure water (to maximum of 300 psi at the surface being cleaned) and neutral detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing with plastic (not wire) brushes.

### *Temporary installations*

- The installation and/or erection of temporary elements associated with short term events. This includes:
  - o Temporary (lightweight) structures such as shelters, marquees, tents and screens, provided they are not directly fixed into the fabric of the Court House building.
  - o Temporary infrastructure including wayfinding/directional signage, lighting, public address systems, furniture and the like in support of events and performances which do not require fixing to the ground.

### *Interiors (1886 Court House)*

- Works to maintain or upgrade existing bathrooms and kitchens, including installing new appliances, re-tiling and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of window furnishings and devices for mounting wall hung artworks, utilising existing penetrations where possible. All holes and fixings should be repaired following removal.
- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of existing electrical wiring. If wiring is currently exposed, it should remain exposed. If it is fully concealed it should remain fully concealed.
- Removal or replacement of smoke and fire detectors, alarms and the like, of the same size and in existing locations.
- Repair, removal or replacement of existing ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the central plant is concealed, and that the work is done in a manner which does not alter building fabric.
- Installation of plant within the roof space, providing that it does not impact on the external appearance of the building or involve structural changes.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.

### *Landscape/outdoor areas*

#### Hard landscaping and services

- Subsurface works to existing watering and drainage systems.
- Like for like repair and maintenance of existing hard landscaping including paving and footpaths, where the materials and form are unchanged.
- Maintenance, repair or replacement of all existing boundary fences, provided the scale of the replacement fences remains the same.

#### Gardening

- The processes of gardening including mowing, fertilising, removal of dead or diseased plants, disease and weed control and maintenance to care for existing plants.

### *Services*

- Replacement of electrical, communications, gas, hydraulic, stormwater, fire and essential services where they utilise existing conduits, penetrations and do not result in damage or removal of significant fabric, and do not alter the external appearance of the place.

- Replacement or upgrade of below ground services, provided works do not result in damage or removal of significant fabric, and do not alter the external appearance of the place.

#### *1960s toilet block and garage*

All works within the footprint of the 1960s toilet block and garage, provided they do not alter the external appearance of the buildings.

Construction dates	1886,
Architect/Designer	Brown, John Russell,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,
Other Names	COURT HOUSE,
Hermes Number	1171
Property Number	

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## **Extent of Registration**

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1488

Category: Registered Place, Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place

Place: Traralgon Court House

Location: 161–165 Franklin Street, Traralgon

Municipality: Latrobe City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1488 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 1D Section 2 Parish of Traralgon including the registered objects integral to the place which are listed in the inventory held by the Executive Director, being the judge's bench and platform, clerk's desk, jury box, witness stand, prisoner's dock, public seats and porch.

Dated 18 August 2022

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

*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/>*