

# LAW COURTS



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1 law courts bendigo front corner elevation 1994



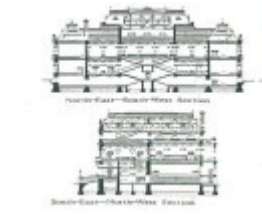
law courts bendigo entrance gates jan1999



law courts bendigo facade detail jul1984



Bendigo Law Courts historic drawings



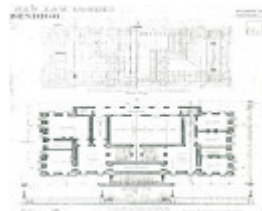
Bendigo Law Courts historic drawings



Bendigo Law Courts historic drawings



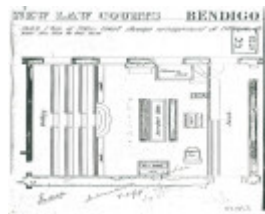
Bendigo Law Courts historic drawings



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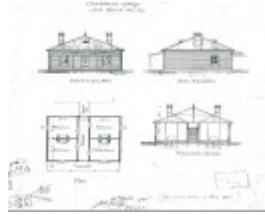
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## Location

77-85 PALL MALL BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1466

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO227

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 13, 2000

What is significant?

The Bendigo Law Courts building was designed by the Victorian Public Works architect George W. Watson in the Victorian Second Empire style and built in 1892-96 by contractors McCulloch and McAlpine. Reminiscent of an Italianate palazzo, the exterior of this extravagant stuccoed masonry building with bluestone base features mansard roofs, dormer windows, and facades with arcuated systems of openings, superimposed piers and Corinthian pilasters. The courts and vestibules are flanked on either side by rooms for the jury, judge, witnesses, barristers, prisoners, sheriff, and other court officials. Access for the judge and prisoners is from the rear. The public enter through grand vestibules on either side of a central stone staircase which leads to the Supreme Court on the first floor. The major visual alteration to the building occurred during the 1950s when the central statuary group and flanking urns were removed from the upper parapet due to deterioration of the cement and wrought iron dowels. Today, the building continues its original function, and houses Magistrates, County and Supreme Courts. It is a dominant feature of Bendigo's historic precinct of public buildings designed in similar style, among which is the Bendigo Post Office which Watson designed ten years before the Law Courts.

How is it significant?

The Bendigo Law Courts building is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The 1896 Bendigo Law Courts building is historically significant as a major work of the Victorian Public Works Department and of architect George W. Watson (1850-1915), who was Chief Architect in the Department between 1910 and 1915. It is also historically important for its continuous association with the legal process in one of Victoria's biggest inland centres over the past 100 years. Bendigo Law Courts is historically important for the physical exuberance and magnificence of the building which illustrates Bendigo's transition from mining town to a prosperous, permanent metropolis built on the wealth of gold. The building is also historically important for housing an extensive collection of nineteenth and early twentieth century furniture and fittings, much of which has been identified as part of the original building.

Bendigo Law Courts is architecturally significant for its rarity in Victoria as an example of the French Second Empire style of architecture applied to a building used exclusively for the administration of justice. Of ten justice buildings erected in this style in Victoria between 1875 and 1896, Bendigo Law Courts is the only one of these that was not combined with other buildings (e.g., post offices, municipal offices, and police stations).

Bendigo Law Courts is aesthetically significant for its high qualities of design and construction, which are reflected in the building's innovative planning, axial expression, carefully proportioned hierarchical spatial arrangement, internal decoration, fittings and refined detailing.

## 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	1892,
Architect/Designer	Watson, George W.,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	BENDIGO LAW COURTS,
Hermes Number	131
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings  
Bendigo City  
Law Courts, Pall Mall, Bendigo.  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p3087]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

*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/>*