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## FORMER SUPREME COURT



FORMER SUPREME COURT SOHE 2008



1 former supreme court now bendigo secondary college  
bendigo side entrance  
jul1984



former supreme court now bendigo secondary college  
bendigo entrance jul1984



former supreme court now bendigo secondary college  
bendigo window detail  
sep1993



former supreme court now bendigo secondary college  
bendigo side view sep1993

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### Location

10-20 GAOL ROAD BENDIGO, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1465

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO141

## 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 - July 15, 2024

### What is significant?

The former Supreme Court, Bendigo was constructed in 1857-58 by the Public Works Department for the Crown Law Department, necessitated by the decision to hold circuit court sessions in Bendigo. It was built on Camp Hill where an area had been set aside for police purposes in 1852, providing the base for military and police presence during the goldrushes in the 1850s. It was used as the Supreme Court until 1895, when court activity was transferred to a new building in Pall Mall. In 1907 it was acquired by the Education Department and used as a Continuation School until its conversion for use by the Bendigo Teachers College in 1927. The depression forced the closure of this college in the early 1930s and it remained vacant until it was taken over by the Bendigo Girls High School of Domestic Art in 1937. It was used for this purpose until the Domestic Art School moved to new premises in 1959. The building was then used by Bendigo High School and remains part of the Bendigo Senior Secondary College campus.

Alterations to the original building were made over a period of time, the first in 1860-61 when it appears that three new rooms were added to the rear of the building and rooms were re-distributed as they had become inadequate and unsuitable. By 1865 it was reported that the condition of the building had deteriorated to a dangerous extent, resulting in the removal and rebuilding of part of the court house building. Internal changes were made in 1907 and in 1928 extensive alterations were made, including the remodelling of the front porch from a small square porch to a larger arcaded porch across the two storey central section, and the removal of some single storey rooms from three sides at the rear of the court room. New classrooms replaced these rooms.

The original sandstone building consisted of a two storey central courtroom, which is still visible above later classrooms, with single storey rooms either side. Designed in a very simple Italianate style, subsequent alterations have not been unsympathetic.

### How is it significant?

The former Supreme Court, Bendigo is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The former Supreme Court building is of architectural significance as a simply conceived Italianate design as applied to a government building. Decoration is limited to smooth quoining which emphasises corners and window openings, and contrasts with the textured surface of the main building. Subsequent alterations have been sympathetic to the original concept and additions have been restricted to the rear of the building.

The former Supreme Court building is of historical significance as the earlier of only two buildings remaining from the Government Camp, which once served as the administrative centre of the Bendigo goldfields. As the oldest government building on the Bendigo goldfields, its importance lies in its place in the development of one of the most significant goldmining areas in Victoria into an important regional centre.

It is also of historical significance as an early surviving building which was specifically constructed to accommodate the Supreme Court in Victoria, when it was decided to extend the circuit court to Bendigo in 1857. The provision of this facility was indicative of Bendigo becoming an established regional centre.

## 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:

**General Conditions: 1.** All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. **General Conditions: 2.** Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. **Note:** All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

**General Conditions: 3.** If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions: 4.** Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions: 5.** Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works :** **Note:** Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1857,
Architect/Designer	White, Samuel,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	FORMER SUPREME COURT, BENDIGO, HIGH SCHOOL, Bendigo Senior Secondary College,
Hermes Number	137
Property Number	

## History

The former Supreme Court, Bendigo was constructed in 1857-58 by the Public Works Department for the Crown Law Department, necessitated by the decision to hold circuit court sessions in Bendigo. It was built on Camp Hill where an area had been set aside for police purposes in 1852, providing the base for military and police presence during the goldrushes in the 1850s. It was used as the Supreme Court until 1895, when court activity was transferred to a new building in Pall Mall. In 1907 it was acquired by the Education Department and used as a Continuation School until its conversion for use by the Bendigo Teachers' College in 1927. The depression forced the closure of this college in the early 1930s and it remained vacant until it was taken over by the Bendigo Girls' High School of Domestic Art in 1937. It was used for this purpose until the Domestic Art School moved to new premises in 1959. The building was then used by Bendigo High School and remains part of the Bendigo Senior Secondary College campus.

**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

National Trust file no. 3161, research into former Supreme Court, C. Kellaway, 1976

L. J. Blake. *Vision and Realisation. A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria.* Melbourne 1973

D. G. Horsfall. *Bendigo Law Courts.* 1996

## Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

Bendigo City

Former Supreme Court (now High School), Rosalind Park, 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/>*