
COLERAINE COURTHOUSE (FORMER)



23053 Courthouse memorial
Whyte St Coleraine 1481

Location

78 Whyte Street COLERAINE, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Coleraine Courthouse, located at 78 Whyte Street, in the centre of Coleraine is a substantial single storey, symmetrical, face brick building designed and built by the Public Works Department in 1871. Like its immediate neighbor, the Post Office, it was a standard PWD design. It includes a central courtroom, adjacent offices and high level fenestration typical of judicial buildings. Beyond an open courtyard facing Whyte Street, now with a war memorial, there is a simple timber verandah. Many of the original furnishings and furniture survive, including the magistrates bench, the witness box, shelving used by the clerk of the court, the pews and the original mallet. The building retains a very high degree of integrity and is in good condition.

How is it significant?

The former Coleraine Courthouse is of architectural and historical significance to the community of Coleraine and

Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Coleraine Courthouse is of architectural significance as one of only two brick courthouses in the study area, and as a typical example of the Public Works Department oeuvre. The intactness of its nineteenth century interiors, including a complete set of timber courthouse furniture, provides an accurate interpretation of its former use as a practicing court. It has further architectural significance as one of a group of substantial civic structures in Whyte Street which form a focus for the Coleraine community.

The former Coleraine Courthouse is of historical significance because it was the location for the administration of justice for the district for over a century. The forecourt, containing the town's war memorial, is an important civic ceremonial space. Located in a prominent position next to the post office, the Coleraine Courthouse has further historical significance as a landmark site, and is one of a group of buildings forming the focus of the town.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1870,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	COLERAINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
Hermes Number	23053
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The building is a typical single storey court house with a central room and offices at the rear on both sides. The building is symmetrical and has a notionally Palladian form and the usual Italianate style. It is built of face brick, probably for economy rather than any aesthetic consideration, on a bluestone plinth. There is a skillion timber verandah across the facade. High level windows light the main chamber and there are fireplaces on both sides with marble mantles. These are back to back with corner fireplaces in the offices. A door on the western side of the main chamber provided prisoners with access to the dock. The main chamber is roofed with a vaulted ceiling and exposed trusses. The original roofing material including on the verandah has been replaced by terra cotta tiles. The verandah floor has been replaced with concrete.

The bench for the magistrate, the witness box and other fittings, as well as loose furniture survive.

A war memorial has been constructed in the forecourt.

Physical Conditions

The building and its contents are in very good condition.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme: 7 Governing
7.6 Administering Australia
7.6.4 Dispensing justice

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.5 Forming Associations
8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories

Usage/Former Usage

Historical Society offices

Integrity

High degree of integrity, externally and internally

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/>