
HO76 - Former Melton Courthouse



Former Melton Courthouse



Melton Court House

Location

323-329 High Street MELTON, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO76

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former Melton Court House (now the Melton Tourist Information Centre), 323-329 High Street, Melton, is significant as the only surviving brick example of a Federation styled court house building in Victoria. Built in 1892 at a cost of £857.11.0 by building contractors, Brooke and Brundell to a design by the Public Works Department Architect, Samuel E. Bindley, the former court house is predominantly intact.

The former Melton Court House is architecturally significant at a STATE level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style which are rare for a late nineteenth century court house building.

These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the elevated gable roof form (comprising the court room) and the skillion verandah with gable entrance portico that projects towards the front. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, slate roof cladding, two face brick and multi-corbelled chimneys, modest eaves, three small horizontally-proportioned, flat-arched, timber framed 3-paned clerestorey windows with cream brick voussoirs in the court room gable end, decorative gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening supported by timber brackets) in the court room and verandah gable ends, decorative timber gable bargeboards, turned timber verandah posts, decorative timber verandah brackets, framed turned timber fretwork valance in the verandah gable (and the framing only in the remainder of the verandah), flat-arched timber framed double hung windows with cream brick voussoirs and the timber framed doorway with transom above.

The former Melton Court House is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1). It is one of only two early buildings remaining in Melton's main shopping street, and the only nineteenth century building in the street. Its design and construction quality express the historical role of government in the community, in particular in regard to law and order and the administration of justice.

Overall, the former Melton Court House is of STATE significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1892,
Other Names	323-329 High Street, Melton, Melton Court House, Melton Tourist Information Centre.,
Hermes Number	30105
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The former Melton Court House, 323-329 High Street, Melton, has an open setting and is situated adjacent to (forward of) a local supermarket. The site is bound by introduced timber picket fences (approximately 1200 mm high) and there is a row of young exotic trees along the side.

The asymmetrical, single storey, red brick, Federation styled former court house building is characterised by a gable roof form that traverses the site, together with an elevated gable roof form (comprising the court room) and a skillion verandah with gable entrance portico that projects towards the front. These roof forms are clad in slate tiles. Two early face brick and multi-corbelled chimneys adorn the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

An early feature of the design is the prominent front court room gable. It has three small horizontally-proportioned, flat-arched, timber framed 3-paned clerestorey windows with cream brick voussoirs, above which is a decorative gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening) supported by timber brackets. The gable end also has decorative (geometric pattern) timber bargeboards.

The decorative gable infill and timber bargeboards are also reflected on the verandah gable. The verandah is supported by turned timber posts and has decorative timber brackets and a framed turned timber fretwork valance in the verandah gable. The turned fretwork is missing from the remainder of the verandah valance.

Other early features of the design include the flat-arched timber framed double hung windows with cream brick voussoirs and the timber framed doorway with transom above.

Internally the characteristic courtroom fittings and furnishings including the bench, dock, and seating has been removed as part of its conversion to the Melton Tourist Office.

Historical Australian Themes

Melton Historical Themes: 'Community'

Integrity

Integrity - High

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

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/>