

FORMER POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE



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2008



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1 former police station &
court house cnr greville street
prahran front view oct1982



h00542 former police station
and court house greville
street prahran she project
2004



h00542 plan h0542

Location

170 GREVILLE STREET PRAHRAN, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0542

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO47

VHR Registration

June 22, 1983

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 17, 1999

What is significant?

The Former Police Station and Court House in Greville Street, Prahran, was erected c.1886 to a design by Public Works Department architect, Charles Gilchrist. The contractors were Furneau, Besley and Angel. The building is constructed of brick on a basalt plinth and is clad externally on its major facades with Barrabool sandstone and trimmed with Waurin limestone. The roof is clad with slate and has an iron balustrade railing to the ridge.

How is it significant?

The Former Police Station and Court House in Greville Street, Prahran is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Police Station and Court House in Greville Street, Prahran is of architectural significance as an outstanding example of Gothic Revival public architecture and an important work of the prominent Public Works Department architect, Charles Gilchrist. The Gothic Revival style, with its connotations of religious virtue, was well suited to buildings that represented the institutions of law and order, and was a popular style in a late-19th century Melbourne keen to emphasise solidity and civilisation. The finely detailed and well-proportioned building is a rare combination of public utilities and, being situated on a dominant corner position, is of streetscape importance in the Prahran Town Hall precinct.

The Former Police Station and Court House in Greville Street, Prahran, is of historical significance as an illustration of the process of suburban consolidation in Melbourne in the late 19th-century. The Police Station and Court House, together with the Prahran Town Hall and other buildings, form a precinct of substantial 19th century public buildings, emphasising the extent to which Prahran (especially around Chapel Street and the Railway Station) had been consolidated as a prosperous and populous suburb. The Police Station and Court House are also a reminder that the 19th century city was far from being an idyllic, trouble-free place, and that the expansion of settlement everywhere needed to be accompanied by the expansion of the institutions of law and order.

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	1886,
Architect/Designer	Gilchrist, Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	958
Property Number	

History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Early in 1885 Henry Bastow, having previously been Chief Architect of the State Schools Division, became Senior Architect of the PWD. His appointment has been said to have opened up a period at the PWD called the 'battle of architectural styles'. Under the stewardship of William Wardell the PWD had followed a determinedly restrained classical style. The Gothic style had been eschewed. Its reappearance at the Prahran Police Station and Court House may have been influenced by its famous use at the Law Courts in London by George Street, 1874-82. However the use of the Gothic remained relatively rare at the PWD during this period and was reserved generally for schools.

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 542 Former Police Station and Courthouse. Cnr. Greville and Macquarie Streets, Prahran (to the extent of the whole of the building and land contained in allotment 41A, Parish of Prahran, County of Bourke).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 55 22 June 1983 p.1735]

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/>