
LEONGATHA COURT HOUSE (FORMER)



Leongatha Court House

Location

2 MCCARTIN STREET, LEONGATHA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO70

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Leongatha Court House, constructed by Frogley & Smith in 1912 at 2 McCartin Street, Leongatha.

Why is it significant?

The former Leongatha Court House, 2 McCartin Street, Leongatha is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Historically & Socially, it was the first permanent Court building to be constructed in Leongatha and only the third in the Shire. It is therefore highly important in demonstrating the development of public institutions in the Shire and the growing importance of Leongatha as a commercial and civic centre in the Shire in the early part of the 20th Century. (AHC criteria - A.4 and D.2)

Aesthetically, it is a notable example in the Shire of Federation Freestyle design by the Public Works Department and is an integral part of the highly important group of civic buildings that are an essential part of the historic character of Leongatha. (AHC criterion - E.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1912,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department,
Hermes Number	30792
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Leongatha Courthouse is a characteristic brick and render Federation design with a corrugated iron roof, which was reproduced at Cobram and Kyabram in the north of the state. It is based on a high hip roofed courtroom lit by windows in the upper wall above the ancillary rooms for the clerk and magistrate and the prisoners' holding room, also under hip roofs and located at the east and rear sides. At the front the entry projects forward under a mitred hip with segmentally arched parapets. A rendered battered portal at the front contains three double hung windows surmounted by a sign panel bearing the date of construction. Projecting centrally above the front of the hip roof is a Dutch gable parapet flanked by brick piers and bearing an oval label at the pediment above the Court House sign in slim raised letters at the eaves level. Other notable elements include:

- Wide eaves with exposed rafters.
- Various entries at side front and rear reflecting the pattern of use of the building, ie. entries for access to the clerk of courts out of sitting hours, the magistrate and the prisoners.
- The use of roughcast panels in the parapets and upper body of the courtroom highlighting the red brick walls and piers.
- The distinct architectural expression of function and hierarchy of the spaces.
- Double hung windows with rendered sills as a band between piers.

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/>