

# ARARAT COURT HOUSE



ARARAT COURT HOUSE  
SOHE 2008



ararat court house front view  
jun1984



ararat court house entrance  
detail jun1984



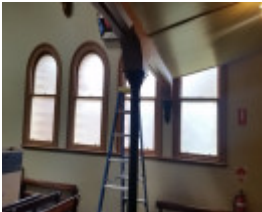
ararat court house side view  
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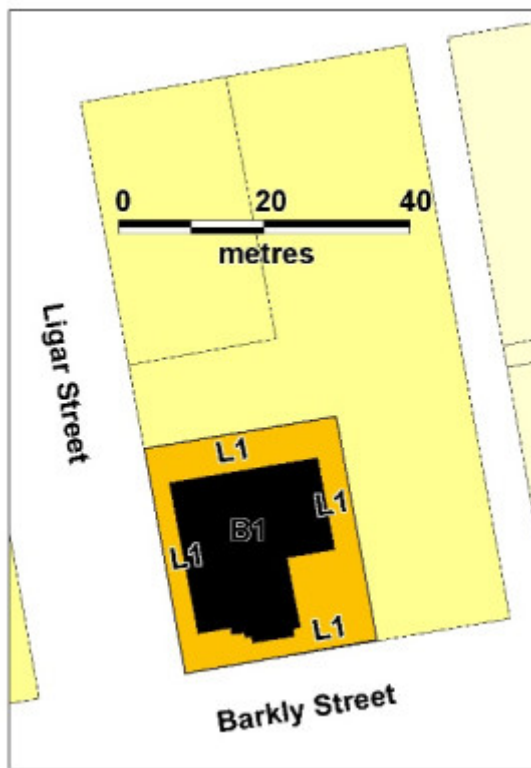
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H01657 ararat court house plan

**Location**

63-75 BARKLY STREET ARARAT, ARARAT RURAL CITY

**Municipality**

ARARAT RURAL CITY

**Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1657

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO7

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

September 12, 2002

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - September 12, 2002

What is significant?

Completed in 1866-67, Ararat Court House is a small, symmetrical brick building designed by Public Works Department architect Gustav Joachimi in the Victorian Free Classical style with a recessed entry and gabled roof. As with other examples of this style, the vestibule to the court house features a semi-circular brick partition wall with double-entry into the court room. The front exterior, characterised by two Romanesque arches below a circular vent in the gable pediment, also features dichromatic brick patterning, bracketed eaves, and brick machicolations to the gable. Internally, the court house has a simple cruciform plan with a central court room flanked by offices at the sides and rear. The original ground plan shows the building dominated by the courtroom with a large office at rear for the judge, and similarly sized offices adjoining this space on both sides. In 1873 a jury room was added to the rear of the western office wing and a new jury box was built in the court room by contractor T. Walker. Major alterations and additions were undertaken by Thomas Corley in 1879-80, when the court room was extended into the space formerly used as a judge's room. A new judge's room was built at the rear, and a sheriff's office was added as an extension to the eastern office wing. During these alterations a first floor gallery was also added to the building and a lantern was installed on the roof of the court room. In 1908-09 Robert Ludbrook built an office for the Department of Crown Lands and Survey by extending the western office wing almost to the line of the facade. During the 1950s the building was re-roofed with terra cotta tiles, and around 1960 the original prisoner's cell was converted to two toilets and a cleaner's room. The building, still serving its original purpose as a court, retains early fittings and the front facade is notable for its high degree of intactness.

How is it significant?

Ararat Court House is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Ararat Court House is historically significant as a record of the progress of the once major goldfield town of Ararat in central Victoria. A Court of Mines, established at Ararat in 1857, operated from a temporary wooden building

until 1859, when Ararat was declared a General Sessions District and a basalt court house was erected in Vincent Street. This court house was succeeded by the present building which reflects Ararat's status as a site for Supreme Court sittings after 1860 (until 1909). The building is historically important for its internal plan which incorporated an assessor's room, a hallmark of the Court of Mines era. It is also historically important as a fine, relatively intact example of the work of Public Works Architect Gustav Joachimi who designed three other court houses in the 1860s, powder magazines at Bendigo (1863) and Smythesdale (1866), the gold office at Avoca (1860), the warden's office at Wood's Point (1864), and who also worked extensively on Victorian prison buildings, notably at Pentridge (1858) and Beechworth (1858-64).

The building is architecturally important as a distinctive example of a Victorian Free Classical court house. The building, with its semi-circular recessed entrance vestibule and double-arched entry to the court room, is architecturally similar to other examples at Maldon (1860), Beaufort (1864), St Arnaud (1866), and Peshurst (1877), but Ararat is unusual for the striking dichromatic brickwork on its facade and the machicolation motifs to its gable. Within the group of Victorian Free Classical court houses with recessed entry and gabled roof, Ararat Court House is architecturally significant as one of the more successful and aesthetically pleasing buildings in terms of its proportions, decoration, detailing, and effective use of a prominent corner site. The building's tapered basalt plinth suggests solidity and solemnity in striking contrast with the almost gaudy brickwork above, yet the overall impact is essentially clear and simple. In particular, the proportional relationship of arcade height to gable height and circular vent size is well-balanced and resolved, and although later alterations have significantly enlarged the building and used a different brick, this work has repeated the original fenestration and has successfully maintained the original design intent.

## 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.

2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Exterior

- \* All repair and maintenance works specifically recommended in the Schedule of Works, pages 35-36 of the Conservation Management Plan (Robert Sands, 1996), provided that major works are carried out under the direction of an appropriately experienced conservation practitioner.
- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \* Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- \* Regular garden maintenance.

#### Interior

- \* All repair and maintenance works specifically recommended in the Schedule of Works, pages 35-36 of the Conservation Management Plan (Robert Sands, 1996), provided that major works are carried out under the direction of an appropriately experienced conservation practitioner.
- \* Installation of a Duress alarm system provided that existing wiring conduits, where possible, will be utilised and that installation will be carried out in places with the minimal visual impact and will avoid any decorative elements.
- \* Installation of single cylinder deadlocks to the exit door from the court room to the magistrate's chambers and to all doors opening to the magistrate's chambers providing that no original door hardware is removed.

#### **Court room:**

- \* Painting of previously painted walls and ceiling of the court room in colour schemes consistent with the original scheme provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative schemes.
- \* Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, and skirtings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors and exit signs.

#### **Other rooms, offices and service areas:**

- \* All interior alterations are permit exempt, excluding structural alterations, provided that such work has no effect on the exterior of the building.

Construction dates	1866,
Architect/Designer	Joachimi, Gustav,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	24
Property Number	

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## Extent of Registration

Ararat Court House, 63-75 Barkly Street,  
Ararat, Ararat Rural City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the building known as Ararat Court House marked B1 on Diagram 1657 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 1657 held by the Executive Director being part of the land described in Police Reserve C82491.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G37 12 September 2002 pp.2438-2439]

*[For practical purposes the curtilage is taken to be 3.5m from the east face of B1 and 5.0m from the north face of B1. Patrick Miller, Registrar, 27 February 2009]*

*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/>*