

# NEWSTEAD COURT HOUSE



NEWSTEAD COURT HOUSE SOHE 2008



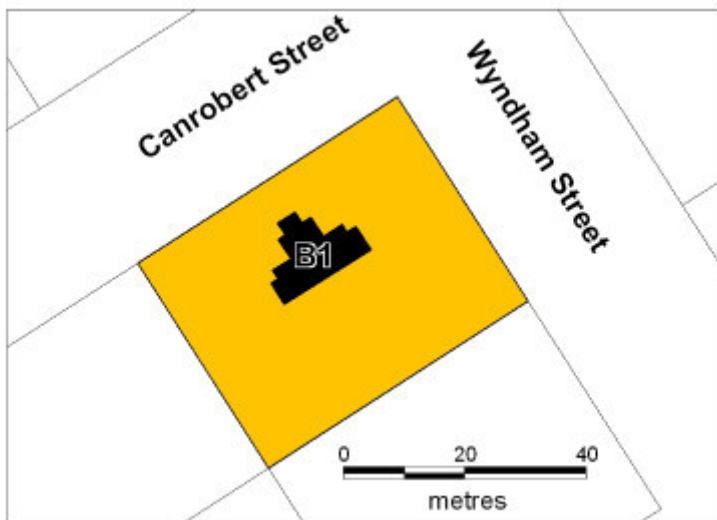
1 newstead court house canrobert street newstead front view sep 97



newstead court house canrobert street newstead front elevation sep 97



newstead court house canrobert street newstead side view sep 97



newstead courthouse plan

## Location

2 CANROBERT STREET NEWSTEAD, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Municipality**

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## **Level of significance**

Registered

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

H1705

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO959

## **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

## **Amendment to Registration**

June 25, 1998

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - May 27, 1999

The Newstead Courthouse was designed in 1863 by John James Clark, a prominent architect in the Public Works Department who had designed the Treasury building in 1858. It was one of a number of small courthouses built in rural areas in the early 1860s. By this time William Wardell had put in place austerity measures in the Public Works Department, and this is reflected in the simplicity of Newstead Courthouse. The courthouse provided facilities for a Court of Petty Sessions and Magistrates Court. The Newstead Courthouse is built of local orange brick on a brown field granite base, with slate gabled roofs with narrow eaves. All windows have flattened segmental arches in contrasting cream brick, and granite sills. The front gable is adorned with a circular vent ringed with cream brick. Corbelled cream brick banding surrounds the courtroom under eaves level. The central gabled courtroom is serviced by a side entered front porch with flattened gable roof. In turn the two flanking gabled offices with access to the courtroom have skillion roofed entry porches. The front and side porches are unified by the use of grouped slit windows, and by the application of scalloped board valances to the barges. The functional hierarchy of differently scaled spaces manifests in a stepped effect in the facade. While the scale is almost domestic, the symmetry maintains formality. The two low and substantial chimneys between the side rooms and the courtroom serve to anchor the composition. The courtroom itself is lit by low silled side windows at the front of the courthouse, and three high slit windows in the south facing back gable end.

The Newstead Courthouse is of architectural and aesthetic importance to the State of Victoria.

The Newstead Courthouse is a fine example of small courthouses designed by the Public Works Department in the 1850s and 1860s, and of 1860s austere Public Works architecture in general. It is one of the best of the

extant smaller works by Public Works Architect John James Clark. Newstead Courthouse is the most accomplished example of early Victorian Free Classical courthouses with projected side entry and gabled roof. Rutherglen Courthouse was originally identical but was added to and altered c1905. Most other small courthouses of the period are taller, with string courses and side clerestory windows, and with the long axis of the courtroom emphasised.

The Newstead Courthouse is of architectural and aesthetic importance for the quality of its design and execution. The design is a particularly pleasing and legible composition based on a simple functional hierarchy. It is finely suited to its rural locale in its informality, low scale, strong cross axis, and use of local orange bricks and field granite.

## 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:

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### General Conditions:

1. All permit 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

- \* 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.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.

#### Interior

- \* Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Construction dates	1863,
Architect/Designer	Clark, John James,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	876
Property Number	

---

## History

### Contextual History:History of Place:

The Newstead Courthouse was designed by John James Clarke who was the most prominent designer in the public Works Department in the period from separation up until 1878. Clarke had been employed as a draughtsman from 1852, had designed the Treasury building in 1858, The late 1850s had seen a furious activity in the provision of public buildings to the goldfields. Though this activity slowed after 1860, quite a number of small courthouses were built in rural areas in the early 1860s. By this time William Wardell had put in place austerity measures in the Public Works Department, and this is reflected in the simplicity of Newstead Courthouse. The size of the Newstead building was also in proportion to the scale of matters being dealt with in a Court of Petty Sessions/Magistrates Court.

### COMPARISON:

Said by Bruce Trethowan to "epitomise the architecture of the Public Works Department before 1880". Grouped in the Courthouses in Victoria Survey among early Victorian Free Classical courthouses with projected side entry and gabled roof. In this group Yea and Vaughan have been demolished, Rutherglen was added to and altered c1905. Whittlesea Courthouse is of very similar scale and planning, but has a narrow gabled porch with side entrance, and the side gables do not have entry porches. A number of other courthouses of similar size and period are grouped by their projected front entries and gabled roofs, but generally have much taller courtrooms, clerestory windows, and string courses in the brickwork, were built in the same period. Newstead is unusual for a

small courthouse in that its massing is stronger along the side axis than the axis down courtroom.

## **Extent of Registration**

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1705 in the category described as a Heritage place:

Newstead Courthouse, corner Canrobert and Wyndham Streets, Newstead, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

### EXTENT:

1. All the building known as Newstead Courthouse, being the building marked B1 on diagram 602099 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land marked L1 on diagram 602099 held by the Executive Director, being all the land known as the Court House Reserve, part of Crown Allotment 31, Section 2, Parish of Newstead, Government Gazette 65.1939.

Dated 4 June 1998.

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G25 25 June 1998 pp.1631-1632]

*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/>*