

SOUTH MELBOURNE COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION



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AND POLICE STATION SOHE 2008



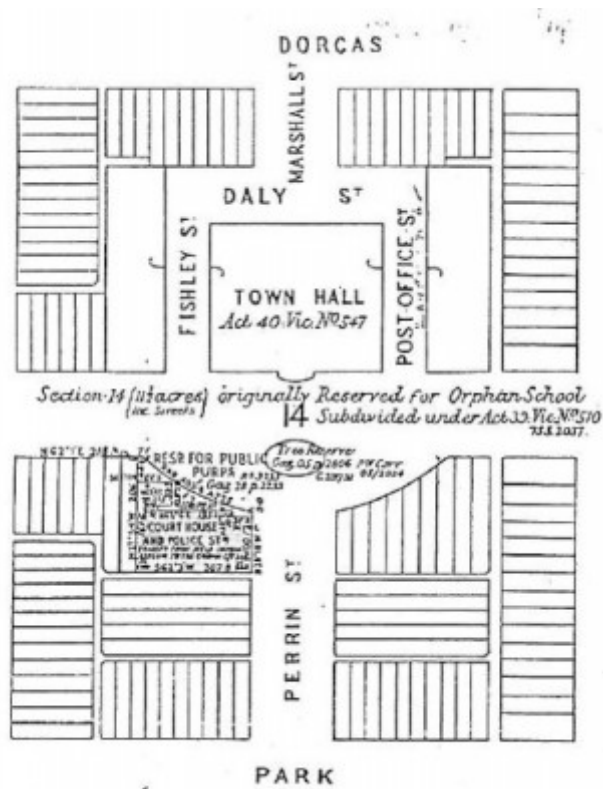
1 south melbourne court house &
police station bank street south
melbourne front view



h01486 south melbourne court house
and police station entry she project 2004



h01486 south melbourne court house
and police station rear she project 2004



H1486 plan

Location

209-213 BANK STREET SOUTH MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Municipality

PORT PHILLIP CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1486

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO59

VHR Registration

November 1, 1989

Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

The Emerald Hill Police Station and Watch-house was operating from the municipal block on the corner of Coventry and Cecil streets by 1856, however with the completion of the town hall in 1880 the courthouse and police station, including five cells, was accommodated at the north-east corner of the building. With space being a problem, land was purchased for new law enforcement buildings on the southern side of Bank Street on the corner with Perrins Street. In 1928 construction began on two adjoining buildings, under the chief architect of the Public Works Department, E Evan Smith. In that year Smith also advertised for tenders to model a royal arms in a panel over the court house door. The Court House and Police Station remain substantially intact as designed in 1928. Both buildings are in the Spanish Mission idiom, a style popular during the 1920s rarely used for public buildings.

The Police Station is a long hip-roofed two-storeyed structure dominated by an arcaded loggia at second floor level and a terracotta pantile roof with a wide bracketed eave. Its planar rendered walls are ornamented with a projecting balcony set on hammer beams, wrought iron balustrade and gates and the original bossed rainwater heads. The window and door joinery remains intact; the entrance retains its multi-paned bevelled glazing to both the doors and the semi-circular fanlight above.

The Courthouse stands adjacent to the Police Station, drawing on the same Spanish Mission references, yet applying them to quite different effect. It is a hall-like gabled structure, the planar render facade of which is surmounted by a bold semi-circular parapet, flanked by scroll-like cappings. The facade is further embellished, and the building's use alluded to, by the royal coat of arms set into the render, while the entrance is framed by a simple architrave with a blind Italianate balustrade above. The Courthouse retains the original elegant leadlight fanlights above its entrance doors, large round-headed multi-paned windows to the east facade, its terracotta pantile roof, and the fleche to the ridge of the roof, decorated by twisted columns typical of the Spanish mission. Internally it is substantially intact, with polished joinery to the entrance airlock, lobby and benches within the court room itself, and a simple ceiling with strapped plasterwork typical of the period. The police station and court house are important examples of the Spanish mission style as applied to public buildings. They are also important examples of Public Works Department architecture.

Construction dates	1928,
Architect/Designer	Smith, Edwin Evan,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	1032
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

South Melbourne Court House and Police Station, 209, 211-213 Bank Street, South Melbourne, to the extent of

the Court House and Police Station Buildings which are located on unreserved Crown Land Crown Allotment 3, Section 14, Parish of Melbourne South, included in Appendix A.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G43 1 November 1989 pp.3075-3076]

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/>