

# WOODEND COURT HOUSE



WOODEND COURT HOUSE  
SOHE 2008

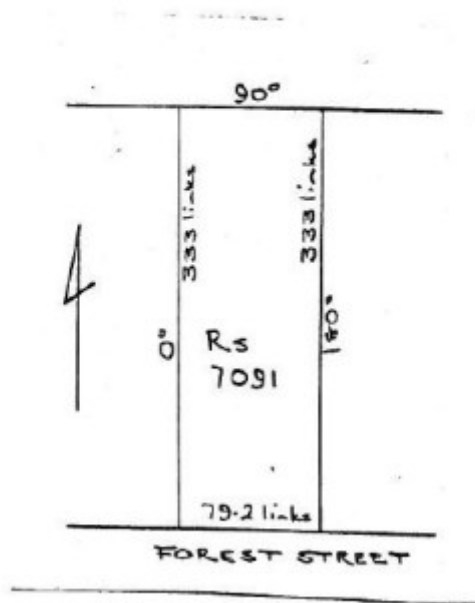


WOODEND COURT HOUSE  
SOHE 2008



1 woodend court house forest  
street woodend side view

## EXTENT OF DESIGNATION (SUMMARY)



H1489 H1489 plan

## Location

43 FOREST STREET WOODEND, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1489

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO78

## VHR Registration

February 10, 1988

## Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 18, 2024

### What is significant?

The Former Court House, erected in 1870, was the second court house to be erected in Woodend, designed by H.A. Williams of the Public Works Department and built by Grant and Johnson. The original two-roomed court house is constructed of brick (currently over-painted) on bluestone footings, and has both hipped gabled slate roofs. The building was extended in 1885 by the addition of a second office to the rear of the first office and a porch. The facade of the building is characterised by simple decorative brickwork around the gable and distinctive timber lattice friezes and timber brackets to the verandah. The interior finish of the courtroom is plastered brickwork lined out to simulate stone facing. The ceiling is constructed of varnished pine boards on exposed trusses, also varnished. The bench, dock, clerk's desk, witness box, rail, seat and washstands remain in the courtroom and there is a cast iron fender under the bench. The clerk's office is plastered brickwork with a ceiling of varnished lining boards. The slate fireplace surround has been painted black. In the Magistrate's office the walls are again plastered brickwork while the ceiling is fibrous plaster. There is a timber fireplace surround.

The last court of petty sessions was held there in 1964 and the last coroner's court hearing in the 1970s. The building has since been occupied by the Woodend and District Historical Society.

### How is it significant?

The Former Woodend Court House is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

The Former Woodend Court House is historically significant for demonstrating the spread of law and order across the state, which is indicative of the progress of Victoria's development.

The former Woodend Court House is architecturally significant as a substantially intact example of a typical nineteenth century court house in the popular timber verandahed style.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project - 2003]*

## 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. **General Conditions: 2.** Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. **Note:** All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

**General Conditions: 3.** If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions: 4.** Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions: 5.** Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works :** **Note:** Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1870,
Architect/Designer	Williams, Henry A,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,

Other Names                WOODEND COURTHOUSE,  
Hermes Number            1236  
Property Number

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## History

The Former Court House, erected in 1870, was the second court house to be erected in Woodend, designed by H.A. Williams of the Public Works Department and built by Grant and Johnson. The original two-roomed court house is constructed of brick (currently over-painted) on bluestone footings, and has both hipped gabled slate roofs. The building was extended in 1885 by the addition of a second office to the rear of the first office and a porch. The facade of the building is characterised by simple decorative brickwork around the gable and distinctive timber lattice friezes and timber brackets to the verandah. The interior finish of the courtroom is plastered brickwork lined out to simulate stone facing. The ceiling is constructed of varnished pine boards on exposed trusses, also varnished. The bench, dock, clerk's desk, witness box, rail, seat and washstands remain in the courtroom and there is a cast iron fender under the bench. The clerk's office is plastered brickwork with a ceiling of varnished lining boards. The slate fireplace surround has been painted black. In the Magistrate's office the walls are again plastered brickwork while the ceiling is fibrous plaster. There is a timber fireplace surround.

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The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2003. Sources were as follows:

Frances O'Neill, Court House Survey  
Report to the Minister for Planning and Environment, GBR 470

## Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings  
Court House, Forest Street, Woodend (the whole of the building contained in Court House Reserve Rs. 7091).  
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p.3092]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

*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/>*