

Heritage Overlay No.: 076
Citation No.: 210
Place: Former Melton Courthouse

Other Names of Place: Melton Court House, Melton Tourist Information Centre.
Location: 323-329 High Street, Melton
Critical Dates: Constructed 1892.
Existing Heritage Listings: None
Recommended Level of Significance: STATE



Statement of Significance:

The former Melton Court House (now the Melton Tourist Information Centre), 323-329 High Street, Melton, is significant as the only surviving brick example of a Federation styled court house building in Victoria. Built in 1892 at a cost of £857.11.0 by building contractors, Brooke and Brundell to a design by the Public Works Department Architect, Samuel E. Bindley, the former court house is predominantly intact.

The former Melton Court House is architecturally significant at a STATE level (AHC D.2, E.1). It demonstrates original design qualities of a Federation style which are rare for a late nineteenth century court house building. These qualities include the gable roof form that traverses the site, together with the elevated gable roof form (comprising the court room) and the skillion verandah with gable entrance portico that projects towards the front. Other intact or

appropriate qualities include the asymmetrical composition, single storey height, face brick wall construction, slate roof cladding, two face brick and multi-corbelled chimneys, modest eaves, three small horizontally-proportioned, flat-arched, timber framed 3-paned clerestorey windows with cream brick voussoirs in the court room gable end, decorative gable infill (stuccoed panelling and timber battening supported by timber brackets) in the court room and verandah gable ends, decorative timber gable bargeboards, turned timber verandah posts, decorative timber verandah brackets, framed turned timber fretwork valance in the verandah gable (and the framing only in the remainder of the verandah), flat-arched timber framed double hung windows with cream brick voussoirs and the timber framed doorway with transom above.

The former Melton Court House is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A.4, H.1). It is one of only two early buildings remaining in Melton's main shopping street, and the only nineteenth century building in the street. Its design and construction quality express the historical role of government in the community, in particular in regard to law and order and the administration of justice.

Overall, the former Melton Court House is of STATE significance.