

CITY OF GEELONG WEST

URBAN CONSERVATION STUDY: BUILDING IDENTIFICATION FORM.

BUILDING ADDRESS 153a Pakington Street Type library Original Use court house

PRESENT BUILDING TITLE Geelong West Municipal Library

EXISTING DESIGNATION	HBR	GBR	NER	GRPS	NATIONAL TRUST	
					Classified	Recorded
Reg.No.	-	-	-	748	-	-

CONSERVATION AREA Name Pakington Street Commercial

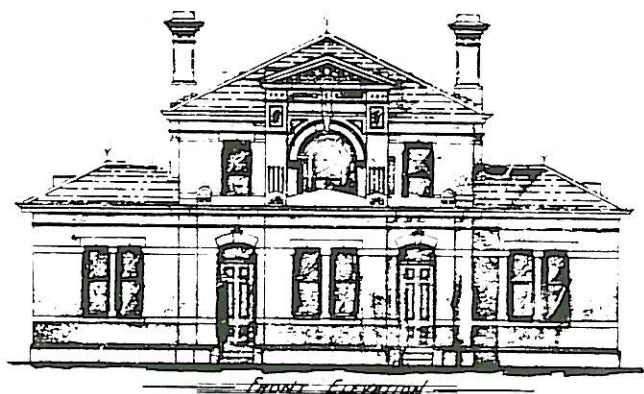
Survey Date 7.3.86

Neg. File 003.003.

PERIOD

pre 1860	<input type="checkbox"/>
1860 - 1879	<input type="checkbox"/>
1880 - 1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1900 - 1919	<input type="checkbox"/>
1920 - 1939	<input type="checkbox"/>
post 1940	<input type="checkbox"/>

GEELONG WEST



MATERIALS Polychrome
 walls brick roof slate

CONSTRUCTION DATE 1889 source plans. Brownhill

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

original materials <i>(some)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	early paint colour scheme or original unpainted finish <i>(rear)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ornamental wall detailing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
original doors, windows, hoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	intact verandah / porch structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	original parapet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
original roof form and finish	<input type="checkbox"/>	original chimneys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	eaves, roof or gable decoration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
intact verandah decoration	<input type="checkbox"/>	early fence	<input type="checkbox"/>	early garden	<input type="checkbox"/>
other prominent contributing elevations	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

INTEGRITY RATING excellent good fair poor

LORRAINE HUDDLE LOUISE HONMAN RICHARD AITKEN
 Architectural & Conservation Consultants

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BUILDING ADDRESS

COURT HOUSE, (FORMER) PAKINGTON STREET.

HISTORY

The Geelong West Court House was opened for business on the 27 June 1889. It fulfilled this function for fifty years after which it was acquired by the Geelong West City Council for use as a library. After alterations and renovations the library was opened in March 1939.

DESCRIPTION

The lower section of the Court House was grossly defaced when alterations and additions were carried out. At least some of this occurred in 1939 when the building was altered for use as a library. However some of the additions have occurred later and this includes the Pakington Street verandah. As the original drawings show (see accompanying reduced microfilm copy) the building has great architectural merit at least equal to that of the Post Office on the opposite side of Pakington Street. (built 1886). Indeed, it was designed by the same architect, G.B.H. Austin. Austin commenced work in the Public Works Department in 1860 as a Draftsman of the State Schools Division. He became Assistant Architect (2nd Grade) of the Western Division.

The style is very similar to the Geelong West Post Office. This is particularly noticeable in the use of dark-red face brickwork, cement render mouldings, and the fine window and door joinery and enframements. Similar materials were used on the chimneys however the detailing is different on each building. In both cases the hipped roof has been clad in slate. Noticeable differences include the symmetry of the design, and the prominent round arched window above the entrance to the Court Room which is surmounted by a pediment. These important civic buildings were designed to compliment each other.

The upper level appears to be intact and its integrity is similar to that of the Post Office. Now one hundred years old the Post Office is in excellent condition and has an excellent degree of integrity.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Court House has very important historical associations with Geelong West's civic development and it is one of the few buildings in the Pakington Street Commercial Area which has such fine architectural style. Built in 1889 to the drawings of Public Works Architect, G.B.H. Austin it has been designed to compliment the 1886 Post Office opposite. It is of local significance.

POLICY/RECOMMENDATIONS

G.R.P.S.

Removal of the unsympathetic additions, and restoration to the design shown in the original drawings is highly recommended.

REFERENCES

- P.W.D. Plan room; Drawing No. 1. New Court House, Geelong West, G.B.H.A., 1.12.87.
Bruce Trethowan, 'The Public Works Department of Victoria. 1851-1900. An Architectural History', Research Report, School of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1975. Vol.2, p.113.
W.R. Brownhill, A History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Melbourne, 1955, p.109.