HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BALMORAL COURTHOUSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 35 Glendinning Street BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 090   **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

PRECINCT: Balmoral

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: none   **SECTION:** none

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388J 10; VicRoads 227 T3; located in Glendinning Street on the south-east side of Balmoral adjacent to the Police Station. Located on Police Reserve Gaz. 72.2007.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State

Balmoral Couthouse (former), Balmoral.

Image Date: 09/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all the land in the reservation.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The building is a typical small single storey timber court house with a courtroom and an office on the west side. The building is therefore asymmetrical but still has a notionally Palladian form. It is built of framed timber clad with weatherboards. There is a skillion timber bracketed verandah across the façade. High level windows light the main chamber and there is a back to back fireplace between the courtroom and the office. The office is lit by a standard double hung sash window with a sun shade on the street frontage. The main chamber is roofed with a vaulted ceiling and exposed trusses. The original corrugated iron roofing material may survive. The verandah floor has been replaced.

The interior, which is lined with beaded timber boards, still contains the bench, clock, bar table, witness box, rail and seat. In the office the bookcase, table and washstand remain.

HISTORY:

In the later nineteenth century, Balmoral was a small postal and telegraph town on the Glenelg River, in the rich western district pastoral region. It showed little population growth; a population of 200 in 1880 had reached only 300 in the early 20th century. Together with the Mechanics Institute, a State School and three churches, the courthouse played an important role in this small rural community. The first courthouse at Balmoral, of which no trace survives, was described by the Hamilton Spectator as 'a miserable tumbledown shed' (Challinger, 36). Most of the cases heard were for drunkenness.

The present courthouse was designed by Alfred T Snow and built by the Public Works Department. Work started in January 1877 and it was ready for use by July. The courthouse was closed in November 1981 and the courthouse is now home to the Balmoral Historical Society.

Earlier examples of this style were built at Bright (1861), Jamieson (1863), Smythesdale (1866), Lilydale (1874) and Steiglitz (1874) but the Balmoral courthouse is one of two known courthouses in this group built in timber. The identical one is at Edenhope. The other is at Harrow but has been altered since its sale.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme: 7 Governing
7.6 Administering Australia
7.6.4 Dispensing justice

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.5 Forming Associations
8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories

CONDITION:

The building is in good condition

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?
The Balmoral Court house was designed by Alfred T Snow and built by the Public Works Department in 1876. It is a weatherboard building with a gabled roof of corrugated galvanized iron and consists of a courtroom and an adjacent office to the west. A wooden verandah is attached to the front. The interior, which is lined with beaded timber boards, still contains the bench, clock, bar table, witness box, rail and seat. In the office the bookcase, table and washstand remain. Earlier examples of this style were built at Bright (1861), Jamieson (1863), Smythesdale (1866), Lilydale (1874) and Steiglitz (1874) but the Balmoral courthouse is one of two

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How is it significant?
The Courthouse, 35 Glendinning Street, Balmoral is of historic and architectural significance to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?
The Courthouse, 35 Glendinning Street, Balmoral is of historic significance as an expression of law and order within the township and its hinterland from the 1850s until the late twentieth century when the courthouse closed. It has assumed another role as the Balmoral Historical Society rooms. The building is of architectural significance as a product of the Public Works Department and for demonstrating its use of standard designs for public buildings.

COMPARISON:

0004 Coleraine Courthouse, 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine
0347 Courthouse (Former), Martin St, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh   **ASSESSMENT DATE:** 29-Oct-01

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR ☑ Include in RNE ☑ Include in Local Planning Scheme ☑

No Recommendations for Inclusions ☐

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Lyall Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	
Michael Challinger	Historic Courthouses of Victoria	2001	36
Trethowan, Bruce	The Public Works Department 1851 - 1900 An Architectural History, Research Report	1975	