

**Place name** Sale Court House

**Survey Date:** 4/07/2004

**Other name-**

**Id:** 1007

**Street** 79 to 87 Foster Street

**Last Update** 4/10/2004

**Locality** Sale

**Postcode**

**Official Locality**

**Property No**

**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire

**Precinct:** Precinct - Sale Town Centre

**Easting**

**Northing**

**Map**

**Workshop number**

**Workshop votes**

**Field survey number**

**Community priority**

**Designer**

**Builder**

**Ownership** Crown

**Built Date**

**Change Date**

**Description** The Sale Court House with its two entrances fronting Foster Street has been described as an example of the Victorian Free Classical style in a survey of court houses in Victoria (1). Built in two main stages, the complex consists of two classical facades with dominant pediments joined by flat roofed wings.

The earlier building is slightly smaller in scale, apparently single storey as viewed from the street, with side windows revealing a second storey. The entrance is marked by three classical shafted arches with an moulded course above. Mock machicolation is highlighted with contrasting paintwork below the gable and above a circular vent.

The Supreme Court has a more elaborate facade, with exotic motifs which are echoed in the wall sections which connect the two buildings. Overhanging eaves have decorative bargeboard and finial, shading the tympanum. The upper storey has exotic detail in the pilasters which is repeated in the pillars forming the colonnade at street level. A high degree of detail in the entablature which divides the two storeys is continued in a different style in the parapets of the adjoining wings. Two entrances either side of the colonnade and the rendered corbel blocks are decorated with motifs reminiscent of Egyptian architecture and represent an unusual divergence from the common classical ornamentation. Paint finishes in the complex serve to highlight these details.

**Condition & Integrity:** Externally the two early court houses in this complex are in excellent condition and intact. The buildings have recently been restored to serve contemporary court uses with the addition of a wing to the rear which does not impact on the appearance of the courts from the main entrance off Foster Street.

Place type: Public

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Building	Victorian	Rendered Masonry	Slate

**Condition** Excellent

**Integrity** Intact

None apparent

Public

Building

**History** The first part of the Court House complex was built in 1863 as the magistrates court. Constructed in brick with bluestone foundations, additions were made in 1874. The architect for the project, J.J.Clark, was government draftsman and later architect from 1852 to 1879. Clark worked on the Government house, Treasury and Royal Mint in Melbourne, the Supreme Court and Customs House in Geelong, the Hospitals for the insane at Kew and Beechworth, and the chapel and new wings at Pentridge. His non-government commissions include the City Baths, Melbourne, National Mutual Buildings, Ballarat and the Melbourne Hospital.(1)

The Sale Court House is comparable in style to court houses in Inglewood, Talbot, Eaglehawk and Port Fairy.(1)  
The original stockade was part of the court house complex at this site.(2)

In 1889, a larger court house, the Supreme Court, was built in brick with concrete footings. It is believed that the earlier court house was rendered at this time, to match the new building. (1)

In 1920 further alterations and additions occurred, internally and externally, in the style of the later court house.

Toilet facilities were built in 1976 and in 1986 new additions for the family court were added to the rear of the complex.(1)

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO83		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	H1484		Listed

**National Estate**

**Research Required**

**Recommendations**

**Fieldwork priority?**

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed & protected      **Stage 2 priority**      No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** State significance      **Final Recommendation**

**Statement of significance** The Sale Court House complex is a significant part of the heritage of Sale and Victoria for its ability to demonstrate the sequential development of the site over time to serve the function of the courts. The nineteenth century buildings are very intact and of high architectural integrity, demonstrating the use of classical design with exotic ornamentation and displaying a high degree of craftsmanship in the finishes. The complex provides an important historic landmark in the street.(A.4, E.1, F.1)

**Extent of designation**

**Informant**

**Notes**

**Follow up**

**Bibliography** Sale Heritage Study  
 (1) Historic Buildings Branch, 'Court Houses in Victoria: a Survey'.  
 (2) Information from Peter Synan.  
 Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review

Foster Street 0079, ID 1007.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



Update Foster Street 0079-0087, ID 1007.jpg

Kristy Crawford

6/02/2007



Update Foster Street 0079-0087, ID 1007ii.jpg.jpg

Meredith Fletcher

1/01/2005

