

NAME: *National Trust Museum (former Mount Gambier Court House)* **PLACE NO.:** 10240

Address: 42 Bay Road, Mount Gambier

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

This building functioned as the Court House for Mount Gambier from 1865 until 1975 when a new Court House across Bay Road was opened. The original Court House was extended several times, including the side wings in 1877 and the front verandah in 1888. Later additions were added in 1936 and then in 2000. A Conservation Management Plan was undertaken in 2002, and conservation works have occurred since then to remove paint from the exterior. These works received a Heritage Award. The interior works to the building won an Edmund Wright Heritage Award in 2005.

The former Mount Gambier Court House is a registered place on the Register of the National Estate (ID No: 8180).

Statement of Heritage Value:

Constructed in 1865, this is the first purpose built Court House in Mount Gambier and is indicative of the spread of the official functions of State Government throughout the South East. The Court House was designed by George Thomas Light, the assistant colonial architect at the time, under Architect-in-Chief William Hanson.

Relevant Criteria (Under Section 16 of the Heritage Act 1993):

- (a) *It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history;* as it is an important example of the extension of the authority of Government through the construction of major buildings for the provision of Government services, and it reinforces the extension of the judicial system throughout the State.
- (b) *It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance:* The Mount Gambier Court House is one of the oldest and least altered public buildings within Mount Gambier and the South East of South Australia.
- (e) *It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics:* The Mount Gambier Court House is an excellent example of Classical Revival buildings which are loosely termed 'Colonial' and constructed during the 1850 and 1860s in South Australia. As such it is an important example of the output of the Colonial Architect's Office at the time of extension of Government services into the country areas. Its formal design and plan reflect the seriousness of the function of the building itself. It is presumed to be the specific design work of George Thomas Light, Assistant Government Architect during the 1850s and 1860s.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the former Mount Gambier Court House at 42 Bay Road, Mount Gambier remain as an entry in the State Heritage Register.

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SITE RECORD:

FORMER NAME:	<i>Mount Gambier Court House</i>
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	<i>Two storey stone building with verandah</i>
DATE OF COMPLETION:	<i>1863</i>
REGISTER STATUS:	Description: <i>Confirmed</i> Date: <i>26 November 1981</i>
CURRENT USE:	Description: <i>Museum</i> Dates: <i>1975 - present</i>
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: <i>Court House</i> Dates: <i>1864-1974</i>
ARCHITECT:	Name: <i>George Thomas Light</i> Dates: <i>1863</i>
BUILDER:	Name: <i>Charles Farr</i> Dates: <i>1865</i>
SUBJECT INDEXING:	Group: Category:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: <i>City of Mount Gambier</i>
LOCATION:	Street No.: <i>42</i> Street Name: <i>Bay Road</i> Town/Suburb: <i>Mount Gambier</i> Post Code: <i>5290</i> Region No.: Region Name:
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type: <i>Certificate</i> Volume: <i>5758</i> Folio: <i>611</i> Lot No.: <i>423</i> Section: <i>882</i> Hundred:
AMG REFERENCE:	Zone: <i>54</i> Northing: <i>5812602</i> Easting: <i>480446</i> Map Sheet No.: <i>7022</i> Map Scale: <i>1:100,000</i>
OWNER *:	Name: Address: Town/Suburb: Post Code:
PHOTOGRAPH:	Film No.: <i>Digital</i>

NAME: *National Trust Museum (former Mount Gambier Court House)* **PLACE NO.:** 10240



Views of the exterior of the former Mount Gambier Court House

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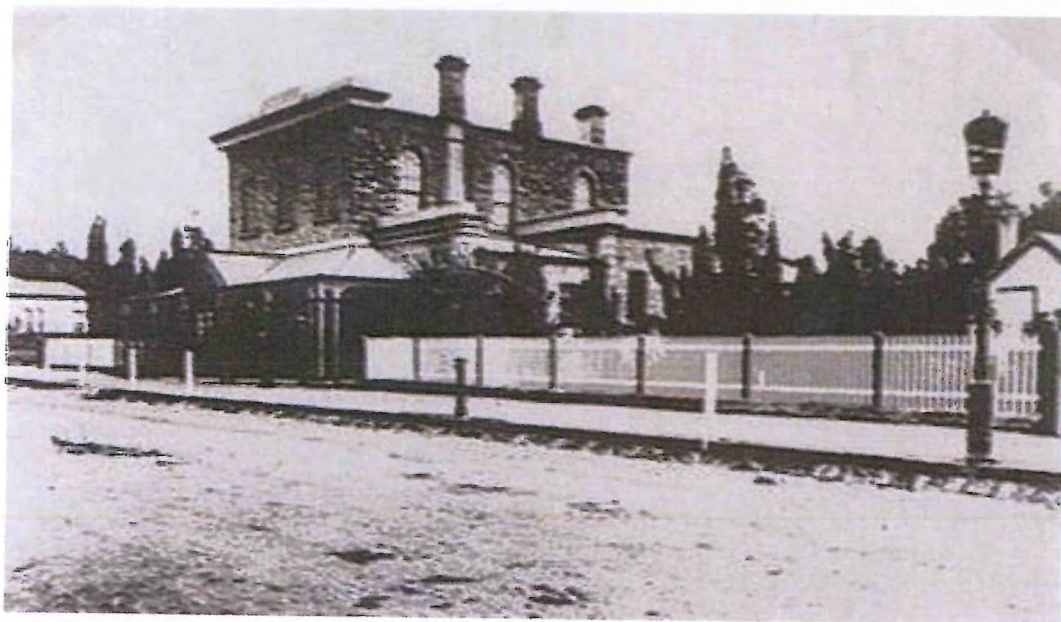


Views of the interior of the former Mount Gambier Court House

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View of the Court House in 1870
(Source: SLSA B46434)



View of the Court House in 1902
(Source: SLSA B38841)

COURT HOUSE**42a BAY ROAD, cnr O'Halloran Terrace**

Mt
Gambier
Place
p. 122
includes
four

C.T: 4202/423 (Lot 423 Section 882)

HERITAGE LISTINGS: State Heritage Register, Register of the National Estate

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE: Constructed in 1865, this is the first separate Court House in Mount Gambier and is indicative of the spread of the official functions of State Government throughout the south east. The design has been attributed to William Hanson, head of the Engineering and Architects Department of the time.

RECOMMENDATION: Retain in the State Heritage Register.

ASSESSMENT:

This building functioned as Court House from 1865 until 1975 when the new Court House across Bay Road was opened. The building was extended several times, including the side wings in 1877 and the front verandah in 1880. Modern addition was added to the building in 1936. The building has been used by the National Trust since 1975 and currently functions as a education facility where mock trials are held to give an indication of the original function of the building. The associated dolomite gutter and kerbing to the road is also intact and has been entered in the State Heritage Register.

COURT HOUSE**42a BAY ROAD, cnr O'Halloran Terrace (cont)**

Site Record

Educational Building - former Court House
 Bay Road
 Mount Gambier SA 5290

Location	Bay Road, (cnr O'Halloran Terrace), Mount Gambier
Description	Two storey lime stone Court House with single storey side extensions
Boundary	Building fronts Bay Road with verandah across footpath
Land Description	CT 4202/423
Local Government	City of Mount Gambier
Owner	National Trust of South Australia (lease from SA Government)
Use	National Trust offices and educational facilities
Condition	Generally sound
Other Assessments	Mount Gambier Heritage Society, Mount Gambier Heritage Walks No. 3 - Templar Terrace Heritage Survey of the South East, Region 6, 1984
Heritage Status	State Heritage Register

South Australian
Heritage Act 1978-80:

HERITAGE SURVEY ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

REGION 6 :
SOUTH EAST

Item No. : MTG:012
ITEM NAME: National Trust Museum
Former or other names: Court House

LOCATION:

Address: Cnr. O'Halloran Tce. &
Bay Rd., Mount Gambier

Allotment:

Section : 882
Hundred : Blanche
County : Grey
L.G.A. : Mount Gambier

S.H.P. Region: 6

A.M.G., Ref. Z: 54 N: 5812450
E: 480300

TYPE OF ITEM:

Description: Court House

Subject: 3.05

Period: 1860-1880

Date: 1864-65

Condition: Well Kept

Architect: Col. Arch. - William Hanson

Builder: Charles Farr, Adelaide

STATUS State Heritage List: Registered

National Estate : Listed

National Trust : Classified

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

RECOMMENDATION: State

Description:

Partially two-storeyed dolomite stone building with bevelled quoins. Six paned double hung windows, some semi-circular arched. Three front upstairs windows filled in. Hipped galvanized iron roof with dressed chimneys and parapet copings. Concave verandah, gabled at entrance.

Built soon after the establishment of Mount Gambier's Circuit Court (1862), which occurred partly in answer to citizens' complaints of the inconvenience of travelling to Adelaide for court proceedings. Enlarged within a year of opening.

Report Text:

REFERENCES: L. Hill, "Mount Gambier, the City around a Cave" pp. 140, 141
S. Game, "National Estate Study: Mount Gambier" p. 56

Verbal: Les Hill

PHOTOGRAPHS:

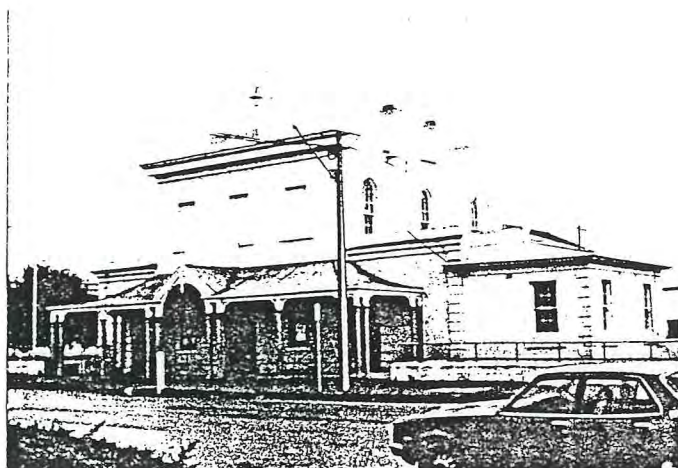
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Archival No:

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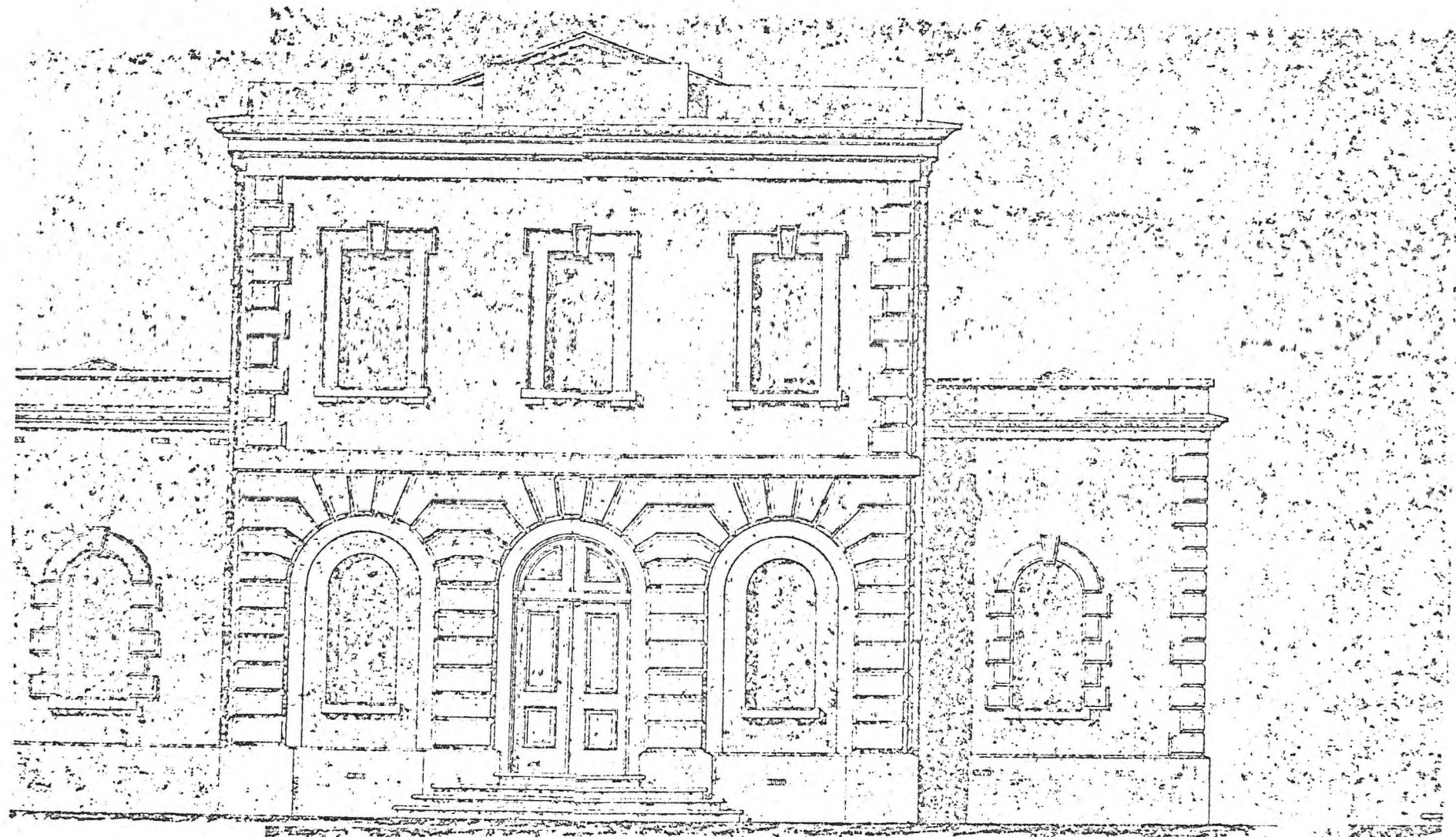


MR. GAMBIER

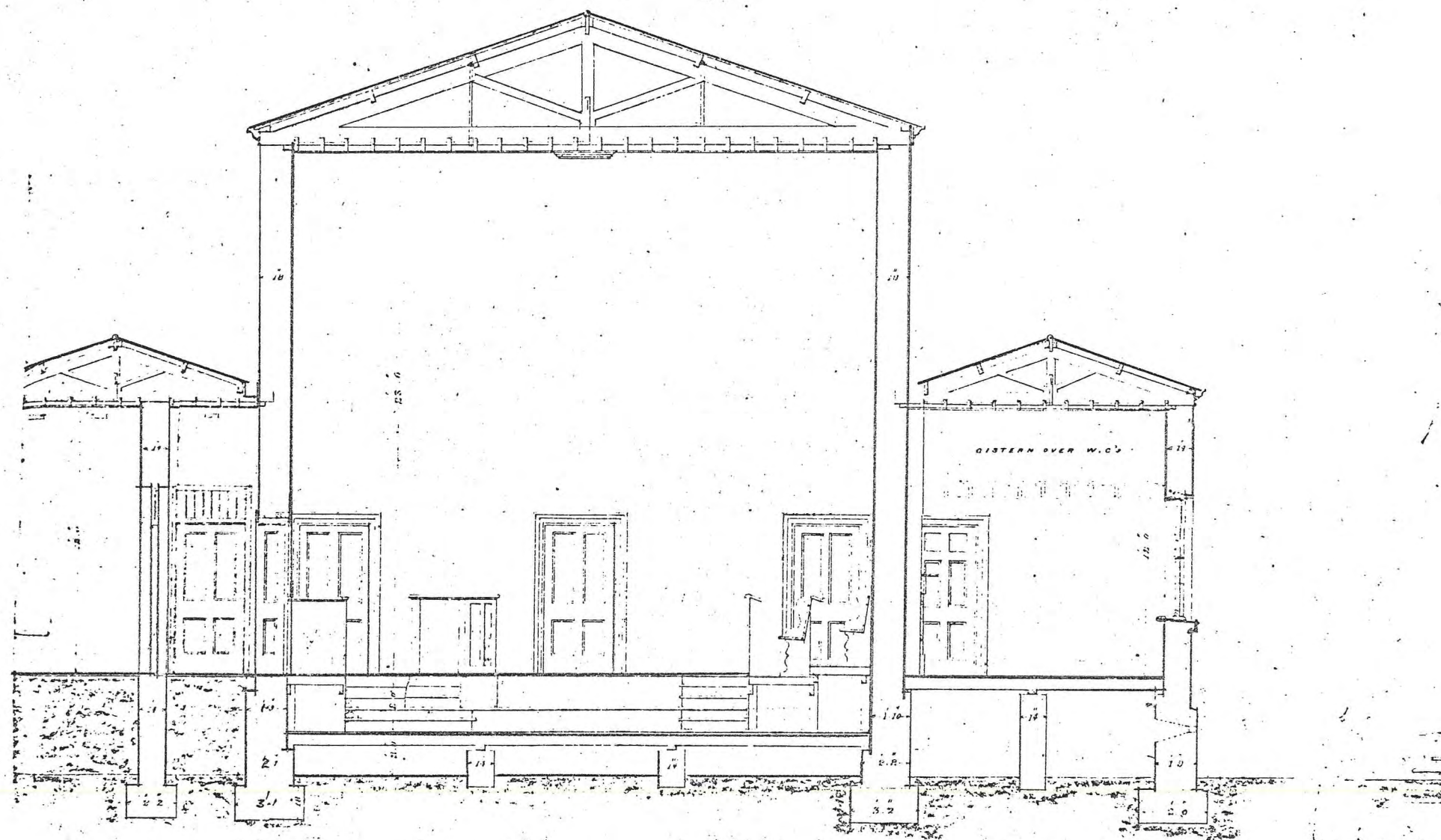
COURT HOUSE

1864

CLASSIFIED



FRONT ELEVATION
MT. GAMBIER
COURT H.



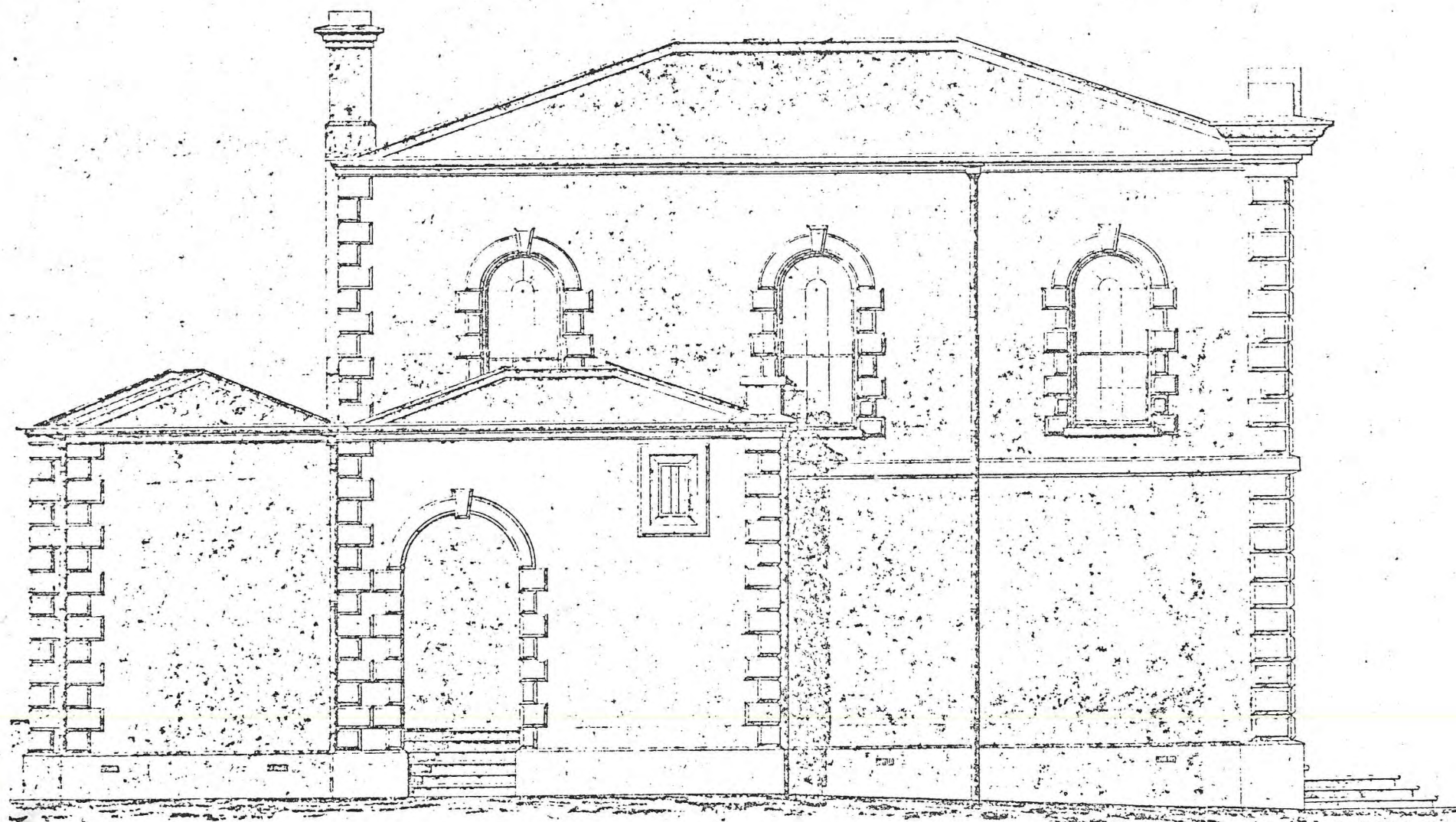
SECTION A.B.
MT. GAMBIER COURT H.
1863



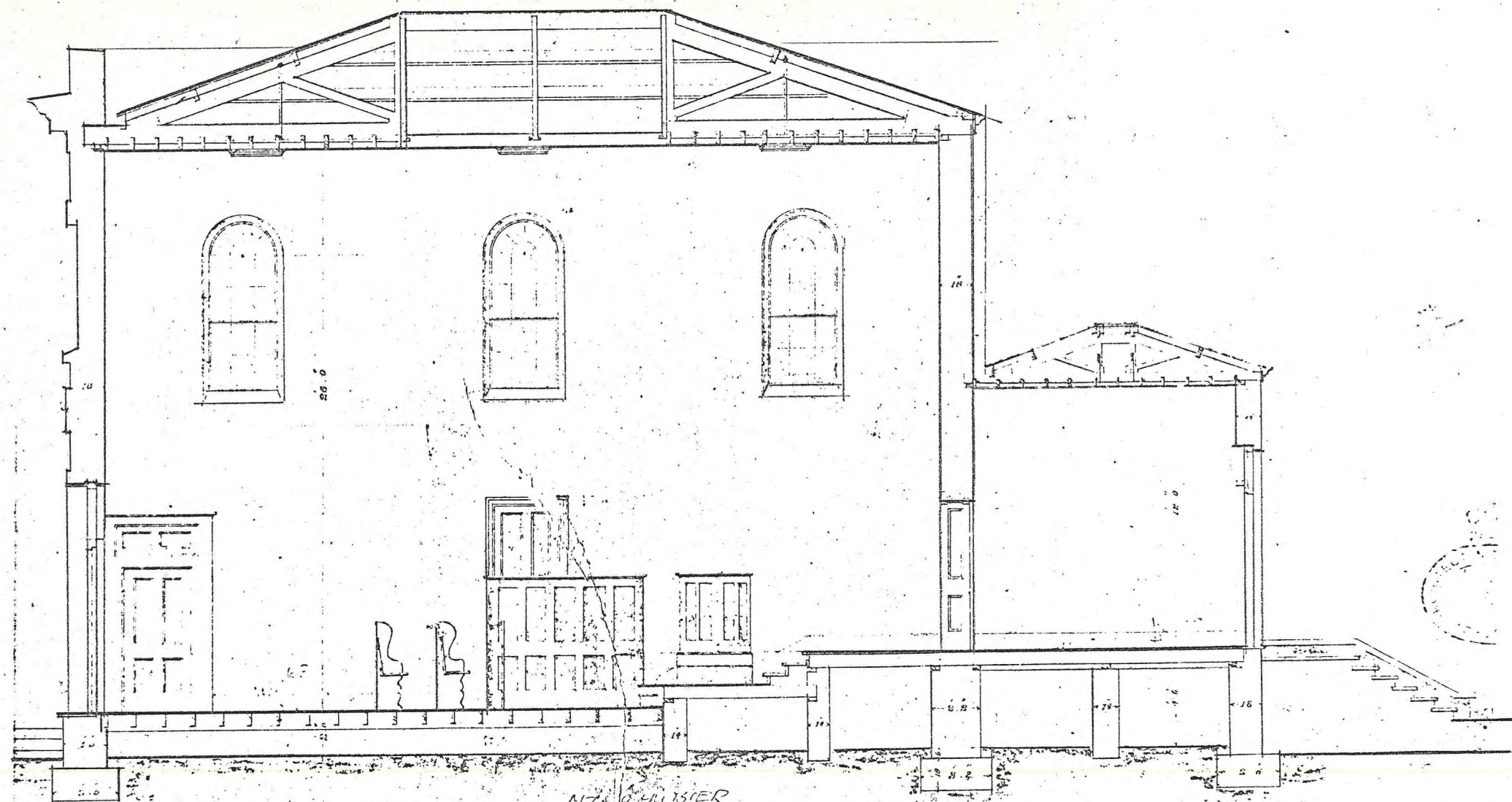
BACK ELEVATION
MT. GAMBIER
COURT. H.

Witness: G. C. Light
Oct. 29th 1863



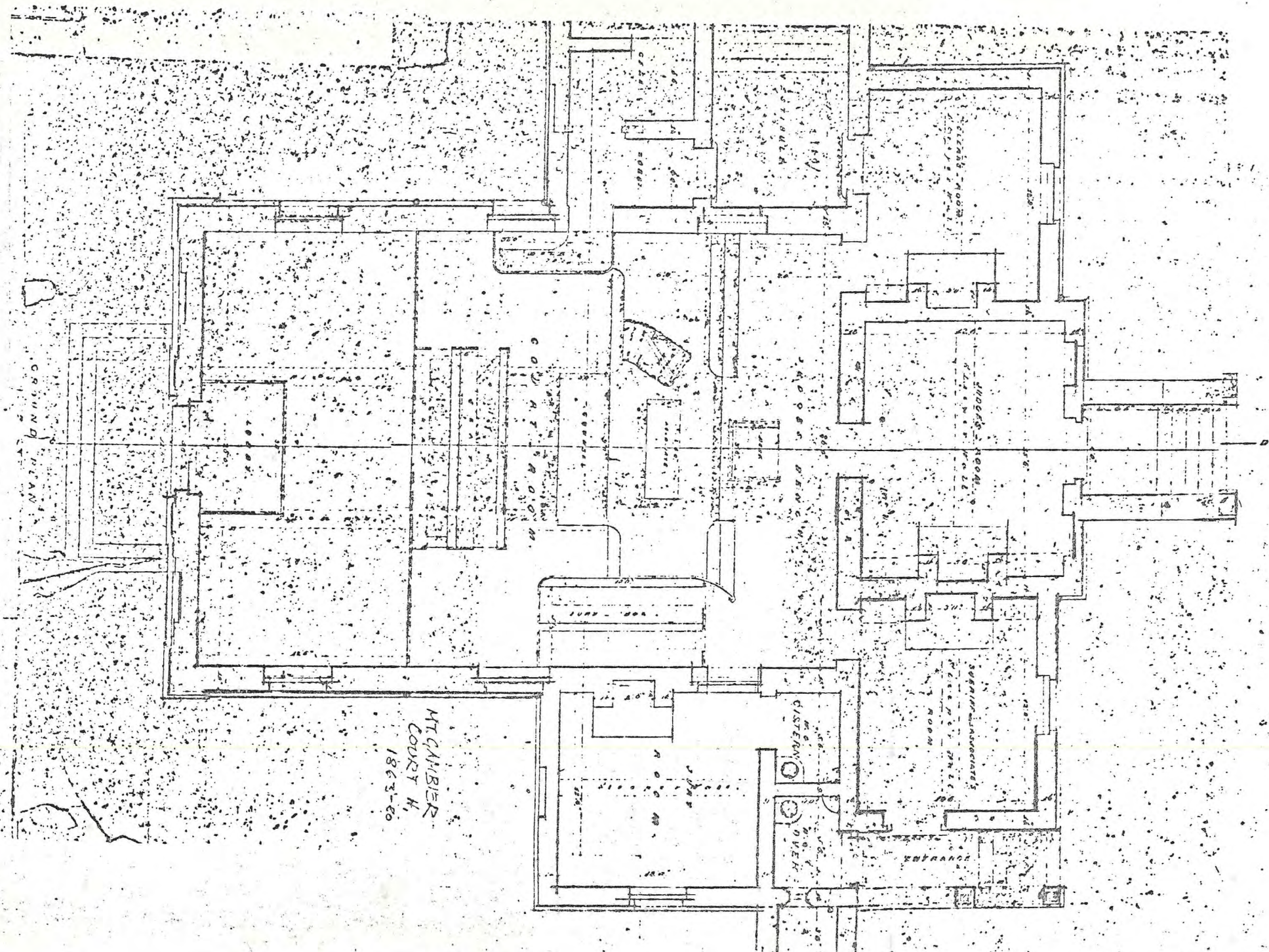


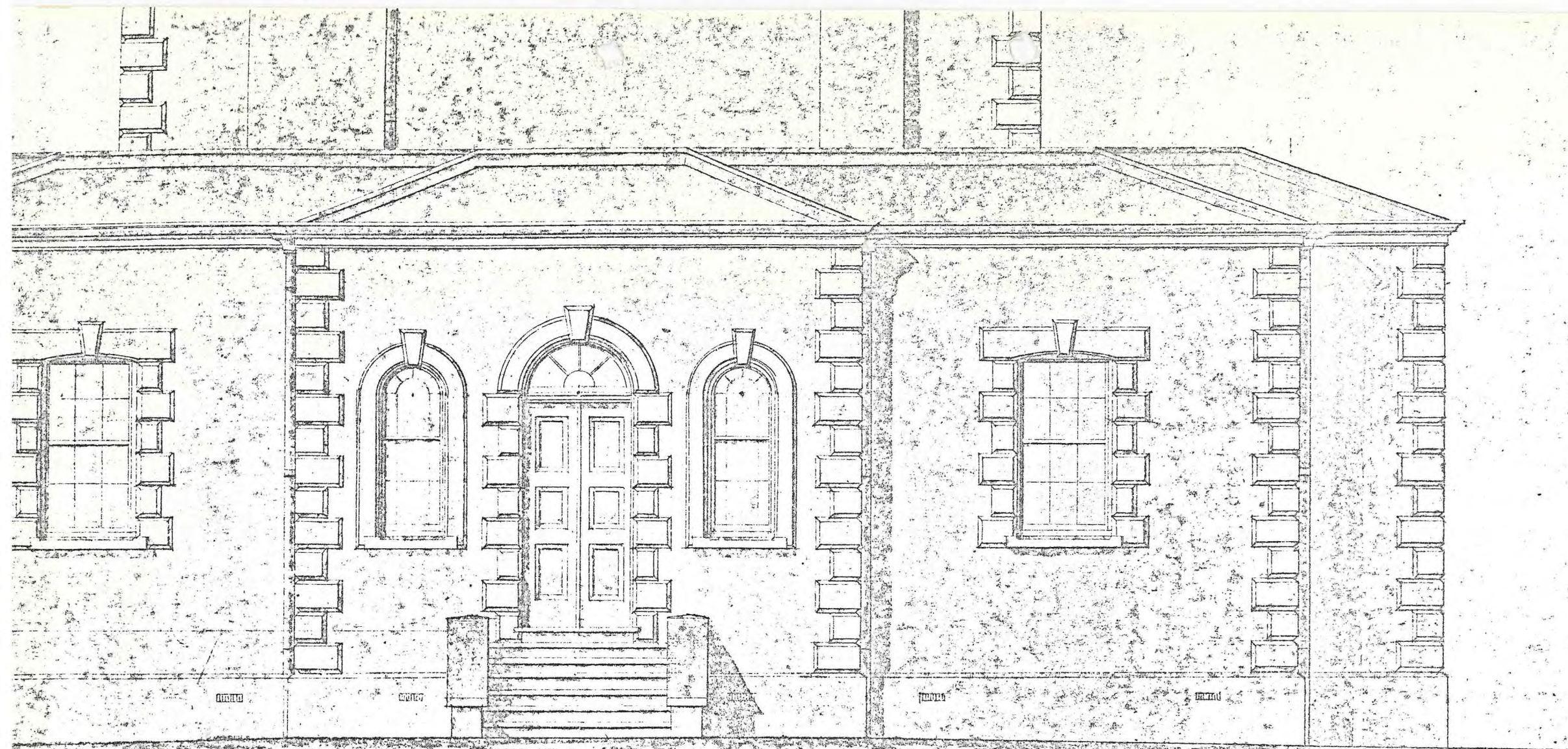
SIDE ELEVATION
MT. GAMBER COURT H.
1863



MT. CANBY COURT H.
SECTION C.D.

MT. CANBY COURT H.
1863.





BACK ELEVATION

50 FEET.

Witness { *G. J. Light*
Oct. 29th 1863.





FILM 54
NO 10

FORMER COURT HOUSE AND STONE
STREET CURBING

MOUNT GAMBIER
22-2-79



FILM 54
NO 9

FORMER COURT HOUSE
FROM SOUTH EAST

MOUNT GAMBIER
22-2-79