

Berrima Court House

The site for Berrima Court House was chosen by Governor Bourke on a visit in 1834. However, difficulties with the original architect and contractors meant that little was achieved before the appointment of Mortimer Lewis as government architect in 1935.

A foundation stone was laid by Governor Bourke in March 1835, and instructions given to quarrying sandstone at Church Hill. It took 3 years for the building to be completed. This Court House was the first Court House to use the Jury of your Peers system.

Peet investigated the Berrima Court House on 18 June, 2011 after attending a Spirit Photography course, run by Andrea Kaldy.

The old world charm of the Berrima Court House would be appealing to anyone. Seeing the modern 'gift shop', with mugs, t-shirts and home made soaps is in direct contrast to the Victorian architecture. The fact that it is directly opposite a female gaol, which was still operational at the time of the course, added a certain ambience to the evening.

ACOM Ghost Tours took us through the relatively small building, combining a ghost tour with a paranormal investigation. When in the main court room, anyone would shiver at the mannequins set up to act as jury, judge and accused.

Peet felt that there was a definite presence at Berrima Court House, and the EVPs she captured also attest to this fact.