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**Old Courthouse, Tasman Street**

no date

<b>Use</b>	Empty at present	<b>Historic Value</b>	2 out of 5
<b>Materials</b>	Timber, corrugated iron roof	<b>Architectural Value</b>	2 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered</b>	Category II Register Number 4953	<b>Technical Value</b>	1 out of 2
<b>Valuation No</b>	11970-285-00	<b>Symbolic Value</b>	1 out of 3
<b>Legal Description</b>	Sec 9 Blk XXXI Town of Opunake	<b>Rarity</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Overall Cultural Heritage Value</b>	7 out of 20
<b>Reference</b>	T6		

**Description**

The old courthouse is sheathed in timber weatherboards and has a corrugated iron roof. The front porch is a more recent addition.

**History**

The building was Opunake's original courthouse and the opening was officiated by Sir Joseph Ward. The exact date of construction is not known, but a photograph taken in 1901 shows the building with hitching rail and gas lamps. For many years after the court ceased to operate in Opunake, the Medical Centre occupied the premises. Much of the interior of the courthouse has been moved to Pioneer Village in Stratford. The building is unoccupied at present.

**Architect**

Not known but could be Government Architect John Campbell.

*"John Campbell [born Glasgow 1857, died 1942], government architect built Parliament Buildings, Government House, the Public Trust in Wellington, the Dunedin Gaol and the Law Courts that set Edwardian Baroque as the official government style of the time for such as the Wellington and Auckland chief post offices and dozens of local post offices such as Ponsonby, the deceased one at Bulls and another at Cambridge."* (McGill and Sheenan, 1997)

**Builder**

Builder unknown but built for the Justice Department.

**Sources**

McGill, D (Text) and Sheehan, G (Photographs) (1997) *Landmarks – Notable Historic Buildings of New Zealand*, Godwit Printing; Auckland  
New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register

**Date**

January 2000

Minor amendment made November 2002.