
POST OFFICE (FORMER)



23281 Post Office
Branxholme 0471



23281 Post Office Brown St
Former Branxholme 0561

Location

Brown Street, BRANXHOLME VIC 3302 - Property No 7050

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 11, 2003

What is significant?

The surviving former post office and its attached residence in Brown Street, Branxholme is only one of the many places in the township that have served this function. A conventional single-storey weatherboard structure, it was built by Alex Black of Macarthur in 1930. The post boxes were located under the small verandah. The first postmaster was Jabez Best. Other members of his family followed him and this became a pattern with the post office throughout its history. The Kemp and Gough families were typical. Other important postmasters and postmistresses were: Claire Allen, Frank Lott, Andrew Bell, Stephen Murtagh, William Hogan, and Patrick Nash. The post office also provided a savings bank opened in 1873, a telegraph service, initiated when it was located at the railway station in early 1880s, and from 1904 a telephone exchange. The manual exchange located in the 1930s post office was not automated until 1971. The post office was closed recently and the service is now provided from the nearby Junction hotel. The buildings remain in good condition but their integrity has been compromised by the relocation of the post boxes.

How is it significant?

The former Branxholme post office is of historical significance to the township of Branxholme and to the southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Branxholme post office is of historical significance as the best surviving reminder of the critically important communications service provided by the post office and its many staff to the community for nearly 150 years.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1930,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	OLD POST OFFICE,
Hermes Number	23281
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The building is in fair condition

Physical Description 1

Single storey timber shop and dwelling. The house is symmetrical about the front door. The walls are weatherboard, the hipped roof is corrugated iron. A gable projects over the 'shop' located on the west side of the building. A verandah, partly enclosed, is in front of the shop which was the purpose built post office. The post boxes have been relocated to the nearby Junction Hotel.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.7 Establishing communications

3.7.1 Establishing postal services

3.7.2 Developing electrical means of communication

Usage/Former Usage

Residence

Integrity

low degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

The Best family

Thomas Matthew Penrose

The Kemp family

Miss Claire Allen

Frank Lott
The Gough family
Andrew Bell
Stephen Charles Murtagh
William Leslie Hogan
Patrick Nash

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>