
FOSTER POST OFFICE (FORMER)



Foster Post Office (former)



image41

Location

9 MAIN STREET, FOSTER, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO38

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

What is significant?

The former Foster Post Office, designed by C.E. Couchman and constructed by W. Davies in 1891, now relocated to the Foster Museum, 9 Main Street, Foster. The building now forms part of the South Gippsland Historical Society complex, which includes a collection of historic buildings and objects from Foster and the surrounding districts.

The former Foster Post Office is a single storey weatherboard building with a hip and valley corrugated iron roof. It has a transverse half hip roof projection to the side and a projecting gable bay to the front. A skillion extends

from the rear of the unequal gables and a side post verandah set behind the projecting half hip probably included the original residence. The front of the building has verandahs in front of and beside the projecting bay. Other notable elements include:

- Bracketed eaves with the brackets checked into the gutter board.
- Mitred verandah to the projecting bay. (with non-original posts and balustrade)
- Inset verandah to the front elevation with paired posts.
- Original verandah posts on the side verandah.
- Three part and paired double hung windows and substantial door frame to the front elevation.
- Bracketed and stepped gable and half gable ends with circular vents.
- Projecting box bay with eaves frieze to the half gable end.

How is it significant?

The former Foster Post Office is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, it was the first Post Office constructed by the Public Works Department in the Shire and is now one of the oldest buildings in Foster. Although it is no longer used for its original purpose and has been moved to a different site, it remains important for its ability to illustrate the early importance of Foster as a local commercial centre following the 'gold rush' to this area. (AHC criteria - A.4 and D.2)

The Post Office is a locally rare example of a well resolved transitional Victorian-Federation Government building with notable detailing not found on other public buildings in the Shire. (AHC criteria - B.2 and E.1)

Socially, the Post Office was significant as a place of local gathering and social intercourse at a time when postal business was the principal form of communication. (AHC criterion - G.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1891, 1891, 1891,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department, CE Couchman,
Other Names	Former Foster Post Office, Foster Historical Society Museum, Foster Museum,
Hermes Number	30602
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former Foster Post Office is a single storey weatherboard building with a hip and valley corrugated iron roof. It has a transverse half hip roof projection to the side and a projecting gable bay to the front. A skillion extends from the rear of the unequal gables and a side post verandah set behind the projecting half hip probably included the original residence. The front of the building has verandahs in front of and beside the projecting bay. Other notable elements include:

- Bracketed eaves with the brackets checked into the gutter board.
- Mitred verandah to the projecting bay. (with non-original posts and balustrade) - Inset verandah to the front elevation with paired posts.
- Original verandah posts on the side verandah.
- Three part and paired double hung windows and substantial door frame to the front elevation.
- Bracketed and stepped gable and half gable ends with circular vents.
- Projecting box bay with eaves frieze to the half gable end.

The fact that the building has been relocated is apparent in its siting distant from the street, its orientation, modifications to the detail and the lack of chimneys. The design once included elaborate barge boards to the

projecting gable, which can be seen in an early photograph but have now been removed. A post office constructed at the same time at Walhalla retains similar decoration.

The building now forms part of the South Gippsland Historical Society complex, which includes a collection of historic buildings and objects from Foster and the surrounding districts. Among these is the former Agnes State School, which is described in a separate citation.

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/>