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# Windsor Post Office

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## Location

172 Peel Street WINDSOR, Stonnington City

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO94

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

A finely detailed and refreshingly innovative example of Edwardian Free Style design with Arts and Crafts leaning, the Windsor Post Office and Telephone Exchange was erected in 1907-08 to the design of H J MacKenna of the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs. The reinforced concrete frame which carries much of the structure was designed by John Monash and is an early example of the use of this technique in Australian building. The compact Peel Street facade is of red brick incorporating string courses of rockfaced freestone with mullions and transoms of ashlar and leadlight windows. The surviving stained glass is worthy of particular note as intact examples in the post offices are now rare. In its expression of materials, window design and broad elevational composition, it may be compared with the Arts and Crafts work of William Lethaby: comparison may also be made with the Free Style designs of Leonard Stokes, including a number of telephone exchanges. With the exceptions of the chimney in the gable end and a small proportion of the leadlight, the building appears to be remarkably intact externally. This is enhanced by the survival of the wrought iron front fence and the unpainted brick and stonework.

Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Stonnington - Prahran Conservation Study Identification of Buildings & Areas of Major Significance, Nigel Lewis & Associates, 1983; Stonnington - City of Stonnington - Heritage Precincts - Intact Shop Fronts Survey 2012, Context P/L, 2012;

Construction dates 1907,  
Other Names 172 Peel Street, Windsor,  
Hermes Number 30679  
Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

The two-storey post and telegraph office in Peel Street was erected in 1907-8 to the design of Public Works Department architect **H.J. McKennal** by the contractor Donald A. Swanson. The resulting red brick building is highly unusual in form with a protruding polygonal section and an arched entrance in the receding section. Sections of exposed eaves alternate with parapeted sections and courses of stonework contrast with alternate sections of red brickwork. The arched entrance is emphasised and framed by pilasters and an entablature over which includes a decorative festoon. Elaborate stained glasswork is a feature of the otherwise plain rectangular window openings.

## Local Historical Themes

4.6.2 Establishing telegraph and telephone networks 7.1 Serving local communities

## Shopfront

Intact features: Former post office, custom made leadlight windows and highlight to door, also wrought-iron fence.

*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/>*