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# LEONGATHA POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE



Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office

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## Location

4 MCCARTIN STREET, LEONGATHA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO71

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office, designed by J.B. Cohen and constructed by Neil Falconer in 1906-07, at 4 McCartin Street, Leongatha.

### Why is it significant?

The Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland

Shire.

Historically, it is believed to be the last such facility in Victoria to be designed and constructed by the State on behalf of the Commonwealth in the immediate period after Federation. It is one of only two such examples in the Shire, and perhaps five in Victoria. It is therefore important in demonstrating the impact of Federation and illustrates the the significant civic and commercial development that occurred in Leongatha during the Federation period. (AHC criteria - A.4, B.2 and D.2)

Aesthetically, it is the superior example of a Federation timber post office in the Shire and is an integral part of the highly important group of civic buildings that are an essential part of the historic character of Leongatha. It is also of interest as an example of the work of noted PWD architect, J.B. Cohen. (AHC criterion - E.1)

Socially, it is significant as a place of local gathering and social intercourse during an important phase in the development of Leongatha when postal business was the principal form of communication.

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1906, 1914,
Architect/Designer	Cohen, JB,
Hermes Number	30793
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Leongatha Post & Telegraph Office, which was constructed in 1906 and extended in 1914, is a single storey weatherboard Federation building. It has a corrugated iron main hip roof oriented north south and half hips to the side. There are two adjacent projecting gables to the McCartin Street elevation above the main office and the entry. Both are stepped and bracketed with roughcast infills.

The office windows facing the street are a large bank of five segmental head casement sashes with hoppers above. The entry is defined by brick piers and square timber posts with neck moulds standing on a low balustrade. The west side roof extends down to form a low side porch with paired turned timber posts. The entry floor is paved in tessellated tiles, partly covered by a new entry ramp approaching a new door. The original interior is obscured by a recent false ceiling

*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/>*