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# TOORA POST OFFICE RESIDENCE



Toora Post Office Residence



Toora Post Office residence  
(2000)



image240

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## Location

13 STANLEY STREET, TOORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

### What is significant?

The Toora Post Office Residence, at 13 Stanley Street, Toora, built in 1914, is significant. This brick hip and gable federation villa has contiguous verandah with a lower pitched roof than the main building and a projecting gable with louvred vent, and ridge gable. The verandah is supported by simple timber posts, after the ladder frame balustrade was removed. Other key features include:

- Three plain brick chimneys with simple caps (one with added chimney pot)
- Multi-pane windows in the top section
- Glazed front door and full height windows with hopper over it in front room

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not of heritage significance.

### How is it significant?

The Toora Post Office Residence is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

### **Why is it significant?**

Historically, the Post Office and Residence were built as part of the Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Act (1902) in 1914 by the local Rispin Brothers. It is also the only example within the Shire of a freestanding Post Office residence. This building would have been the first physical representation of the new Commonwealth in action at a local level. This building and its pre-war construction date demonstrate the strength and importance of the Toora community as part of the region and the necessity of key services within the growing town. The residence is significant to understanding and illustrating the impact of the Commonwealth Government on the South Gippsland Shire region. (Criterion A)

The Toora Post Office residence is a superior, intact example of a Federation dwelling. This building in particular has the clean lines, lead lighting, lower pitched roof, prominent front verandah and gablets typical of this style of house. This classic example of this style of home significantly contributes to the character of Stanley Street and the town of Toora. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1914, 1914, 1914,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department, Department Of Works,
Other Names	-,
Hermes Number	31012
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The Postmaster's residence at 13 Stanley Street, Toora is a Public Works Department version of a Federation hip and gable residence constructed in red brick with a corrugated iron roof. Its form varies slightly from the typical hip and gable residence, in that the side gable is at the front, resulting in a front only verandah, rather than the standard return verandah. The roof is also at a flatter pitch. Other significant elements include:

- The plain brick chimneys with simple cap.
- The ridge gable vent.
- The hipped contiguous verandah at a lower pitch than the main roof.
- The plain verandah support structure and simple ladder frame balustrade. (Note - The cast iron brackets fitted to the posts are not original or appropriate.)
- The use of multi-pane windows only in the top sash.
- The glazed front door and the full height window with a hopper over, to the front room.

The weldmesh front fence is reasonably compatible. It is situated adjacent to the contemporary post office. The post office complex at Toora is the only of the five constructed in the Shire during the Federation period where the residence and the post office are located in separate buildings.

*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/>