

## FORMER TELEGRAPH STATION



FORMER TELEGRAPH STATION SOHE 2008



1 former telegraph station ryrie street geelong front elevation apr1997



former telegraph station ryrie street geelong front view publication



former telegraph station ryrie street geelong rear entry jul1984



former telegraph station ryrie street geelong rear view jul1984



former telegraph station ryrie street geelong side elevation jul1984



former telegraph station ryrie street geelong streetscape aug1984

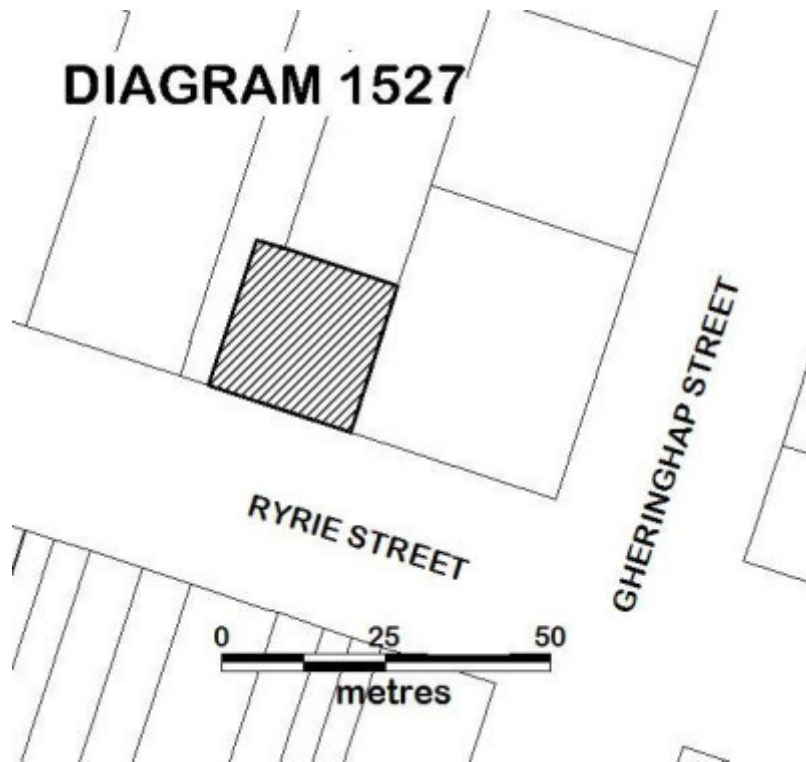


Diagram 1527.JPG

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### **Location**

83A RYRIE STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

### **Municipality**

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H1527

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO242

### **VHR Registration**

August 20, 1982

### **Amendment to Registration**

October 8, 2015

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2004

#### What is significant?

The former Telegraph Station in Geelong was built in 1857-8 by builders Patterson and Bell, after the telegraph line between Melbourne and Geelong was constructed in 1854-5. It was the centre of communications for Geelong and district for many years. The building replaced two earlier telegraph stations, the first being a portable building, the second a brick office in McKillop Street, with business transferred to the building in Ryrie Street in July 1858. It is highly probable that Henry Ginn, the Colonial architect for Victoria from 1851 to 1853, designed this building, although it was not erected until four years after his departure from the Colonial Service. At the suggestion of the Harbour Trust, a time ball was erected on the telegraph station tower in 1862. The time signal was received from Melbourne on the electric telegraph and relayed to the people of Geelong, including shipmasters, by the releasing of a ball at 1pm daily (except Sundays). This has since been removed.

In 1870 the telegraph business was amalgamated with the post office and the telegraph building was handed over to the postmaster for use as a residence. It was used for this purpose until 1881. The building was unoccupied for several years and subsequently occupied by various government departments until it was vacated by the Health Department in 1971. Since this time uses include a tourist information centre and its current use as a photographer's studio.

Built of Barrabool freestone, the Old Telegraph Station is a single storey building of simple Georgian design. The symmetrical front facade with parapeted slate hip roof, is dominated by a centrally located square tower with pedimented window and crowning bracketed cornice. The smooth, large stonework of the front facade contrasts with the rough textured, smaller stone courses of the side walls. Vermiculated quoining emphasises the corners of the lower front facade, while smooth quoining surrounds openings and corners of the upper tower.

#### How is it significant?

The Former Telegraph Station is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

The Former Telegraph Station is of architectural significance as one of the first buildings in Victoria to be constructed of Barrabool freestone and is an excellent example of early masonry construction in Victoria. It is also of significance as a probable outstanding example of the work of important colonial architect, Henry Ginn.

The Former Telegraph Station is of historical significance as an important centre of communications in early Geelong and district. By 1857, telegraph lines radiated out to all main Victorian towns and a year later telegraphic communication was established between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. Together with a number of other telegraph stations which were constructed at towns in Victoria in the 1850s, it represents an era when this mode of communication was highly important.

The Former Telegraph Station is of historical significance due to the presence of a time ball at the building which provides an association with the history of shipping on Corio Bay.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]*

### Permit Exemptions

#### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage

Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1857,
Architect/Designer	Ginn, Henry,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
Hermes Number	541
Property Number	

## History

The former Telegraph Station in Geelong was built in 1857-8 by builders Patterson and Bell, after the telegraph line between Melbourne and Geelong was constructed in 1854-5. It was the centre of communications for Geelong and district for many years. The building replaced two earlier telegraph stations, the first being a portable building, the second a brick office in McKillop Street, with business transferred to the building in Ryrie Street in July 1858. It is highly probable that Henry Ginn, the Colonial architect for Victoria from 1851 to 1853, designed this building, although it was not erected until four years after his departure from the Colonial Service. At the suggestion of the Harbour Trust, a time ball was erected on the telegraph station tower in 1862. The time signal was received from Melbourne on the electric telegraph and relayed to the people of Geelong, including shipmasters, by the releasing of a ball at 1pm daily (except Sundays). This has since been removed.

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**The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

A.Willingham. *Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study*. 1986  
National Trust File no. 257  
Historic Buildings Branch research, 1990

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying the following places in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1527  
Category: Heritage Place  
Place: Former Telegraph Station  
83A Ryrie Street  
Geelong  
Greater Geelong City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1527 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 22B, Section 55A, City of Geelong, Parish of Corio.

Dated 7 October 2015  
TIM SMITH  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G40 8 October 2015 p.2142]

*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/>*