
Old Telegraph Office



B0257 Old Telegraph Office

Location

83a Ryrie Street,, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No B0257

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1527

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 19, 2005

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.

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. An early building distinctively proportioned and carefully detailed - an example of the freestone buildings of the district.

Adapted from V H R Citation: 12/03/2014

Classified: 'Regional' 27/11/1958

Revised: 11/12/1969

Hermes Number 68435

Property Number

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/>