

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** COLERAINE POST OFFICE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 80 Whyte Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 024

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** COLERAINE POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 10      **SECTION:** 2      **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430J G4 No 2; VR 228 C9. Located on the north side of Whyte Street, the Glenelg Highway, on the north-east corner of Winter Street in the centre of Coleraine.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Coleraine Post Office, Whyte Street, Coleraine.

**Image Date:** 09/02/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all the land.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Coleraine Post Office is a single storey symmetrical brick building, now rendered, and built on a bluestone base. The central pavilion has a triple arched window with an oeuil de boeuf in the gable containing a clock. The main roof is hipped and made of corrugated iron. Originally the side porches were timber with strong moldings and corrugated iron roofs. The eastern verandah was enclosed with timber panelling and double hung sash windows. The interwar alterations to the porch have continued the Classical style, but with rather more formality.

The building was in the simple Italianate style which, in the largest examples of Public Works Department Post Offices, such as Castlemaine, assumed the form of large villas, and, as at Maryborough, were the focus of town squares surrounded by other public buildings. In this sense, the post office must be interpreted in association with its immediate neighbour, the court house which is another standard Italianate design.

The building originally included a Post Master's residence and a telegraph office.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which the Post Office stands was not purchased by the Commonwealth of Australia until March 1901, although the current Post Office was constructed in 1875.

Coleraine's first official Post Office was opened in November 1854 in a building adjoining Trangmar's store in Whyte Street, and the first Post Master was George Trangmar (The Argus 22/11/1854, p.5). A small brick building constructed in 1866 on the site of the current Post Office served as both the Electric Telegraph Office and the Post Office, managed by Mr. R. Kennedy (CHS files - Post Offices).

In February 1874, the Coleraine Albion reported that the Minister for Public Works, the Hon. Mr. Fraser had noted the need for a new Post Office and Telegraph Office in Coleraine, and tenders were called for in May of that year (Troeth, 1988 p. 74). James Nation & Co. of Flinders Lane, Melbourne were successful, and contracted to construct the building for a sum of £1854, 4 shillings and 2 pence, and to supply the fencing and fittings for £315. All works were to be completed by 30 December 1874 (ibid.).

The Post Office was constructed on Allotment 10, Section 2 of Coleraine, in the centre of the township. The Coleraine Albion reported that building started in June 1874, with bluestone foundations being quarried at Tahara. The construction of the Post Office was delayed due to a local shortage of bricks, and the building was finally completed in March 1875 (CA, 05/02/1875). The eastern side of the verandah which was originally timber was enclosed in 1894 (CA 28/09/1894 in Troeth, 1988 p.84), and modified further in the 1920s. It is not known at what date the fencing was removed from the Post Office.

The Coleraine Post Office was one of at least seven examples of the same design dating from 1869, including the Penshurst Post Office, which was constructed in 1877. The name of the designer is not known, but Trethowan (1975) suggests that it may be Alfred T. Snow.

The building continues to be used as a Post Office for the township of Coleraine and the surrounding district.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.7 Establishing communications

3.7.1 Establishing postal services

3.7.2 Developing electrical means of communication

## **CONDITION:**

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The building is in good condition.

## INTEGRITY:

Intact to its Interwar condition. New glazed front doors. Unsympathetic Paint colour.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### What is significant?

The Coleraine Post Office, located at 80 Whyte Streets in the centre of Coleraine is a symmetrical, single storey brick building which is now rendered. The building originally housed the Post Office, a Post Masters residence and a telegraph office. It was built in 1874 by James Nation & Co. of Melbourne to a standard design prepared by the Public Works Department. The post office was housed in the central section and the eastern side of the building, including an enclosed timber verandah. The western side was the post master's residence. The building passed to the Commonwealth after Federation in 1901. The facade was altered in the 1920s, again to a standard design. The building remains relatively intact externally to that date, although it is much altered internally. It is in good condition.

### How is it significant?

The Coleraine Post Office is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine and the Shire of Southern Grampians.

### Why is it significant?

The Coleraine Post Office is of historical significance as the focus for communication services to the community for over 140 years. It is of historical significance because of its earliest associations with the important local Trangmar family. The Post Office is of architectural significance as a representative example of a standard Public Works Department Post Office from the 1870-1880 period. Architecturally, it is significant for its relationship to the court house immediately adjacent and other civic buildings in the vicinity.

## COMPARISON:

245 Post Office & Residence, Bell and Martin Streets, Peshurst (1877)

414 Post Office, Wills, St, Dunkeld

198 Post Office, cnr Cox and Best Sts, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

03-Aug-01

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	The Argus - 22/11/1854	1854	
	Coleraine Albion - 28/09/1894	1894	
	Coleraine Albion - 05/02/1895	1895	
Bruce Trethowan	The Public Works Department, 1851-1900	1975	
Coleraine Historical Society	Post Office file	n.d	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	

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Malcolm Troeth

The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine

1988 74-5,  
131