

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BALMORAL POST OFFICE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 11 Glendinning Street BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 169

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Balmoral

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 4 and **SECTION:** 4
5A

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388J C4; VicRoads 227 T3; located on the north-east side of Glendinning Street about

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Post Office, Glendinning Street, Balmoral.

Image Date: 09/02/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and all of the land excluding the interiors.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The post office is a single storey symmetrical timber building with a verandah, subsequently enclosed and which formerly featured a pediment and clock. The paired timber posts survive as does much of the façade detailing. The building has shallow eaves. Its plan includes a projecting central pavilion used as the main office the interior of which retains some original features. There is a residence at the rear (not inspected). The roofs are corrugated iron.

HISTORY:

The land on which the current post office stands was first purchased from the Crown on 26th April 1854 by Donald Cameron. It was subsequently subdivided in half and assumed by the Commonwealth of Australia on 1st March 1901, the other half facing Urquhart Street.

The first official post master was Basil Lyon, appointed from 1st January 1856. His brief posthumous biography in *Victoria and Its Metropolis*, states that he 'was born in Glasgow, Scotland, and arrived in Victoria in 1852. He was for two years resident with his family near Coleraine, after which he went to Balmoral, and was the first postmaster of that place. He lived at his farm Grassgunyah, until the time of his death, in 1884. With his three sons, Mr. Lyon selected 960 acres of land, and some years later his fourth son selected 320 acres additional. He was married in Scotland, where the family were born, except the youngest son. Three sons and a daughter survive the father. Mrs. Lyon is sister of Mr. John McConochie, of Konong Wootong Creek, Coleraine. According to Lyell Harris in "Balmoral, 1841-1975", Lyon had already acted unofficially from his store on the same site from November 1855 although he may have operated from 7 Glendinning Street for several years. 'At that time the mail was carried once a week between Hamilton and Apsley, via Cavendish, Balmoral Harrow and Edenhope. The contractor was William Rutledge & Co. [of Belfast, now Port Fairy]. During 1860, a total of 5,791 letters and 13,455 newspapers passed through the Balmoral post office. By 1884, the figure had risen to 10,666 letters.' Basil Lyon was post master for 26 years.

In 1875 the service was expanded to include telegraph facilities and in 1878 a post office Savings Bank was opened. The current building, designed by the Victorian Public Works Department, was completed in 1890 (Trethowan). Although the design included a clock 'tower' in the verandah roof, no clock was ever installed. The façade was altered, to provide better weather protection, as early as the 1930s when the clock tower was probably removed. The façade was altered again more sympathetically in the 1990s including the reconstruction of the verandah posts and the installation of plate glass screens. The main office was altered in the 1940s when the screen dividing the counter area from the main office was removed. There have been minor modernisations to the residence.

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:

The building is in good condition although altered.

INTEGRITY:

low degree of integrity externally
(interior not yet inspected)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is Significant?

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How is significant?

The Balmoral Post Office is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the community of Balmoral.

Why is it significant?

The Balmoral Post Office is of historical significance as the focus for postal and telecommunications services to the community from the 1860s to the present day. It is of architectural significance for its comparison with the post offices in the other communities of the Shire, particularly that of which is of the same standard design.

COMPARISON:

024 Coleraine Post Office, 80 Whyte Street COLERAINE
414 Dunkeld Post Office, Willis Street, DUNKELD
361 Glenthompson Post Office and Residence, Memorial Drive, Glenthompson
245 Peshurst Post Office & Residence, 31 Martin Street, Peshurst
198 Post Office (former), Brown Street, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

24-Jan-02

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
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 11A, County Districts	1888	66
Bruce Trethowan	The Public Works Department, 1851-1900	1975	
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Lyall Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	13