

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: LIBRARY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Watt Street WONTHAGGI

STUDY NUMBER: 515

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO174

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: FORMER WONTHAGGI POST OFFICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Library, Watt Street, Wonthaggi

Image Date: July 2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Whole allotment.

LIBRARY

Heritage Overlay No HO174
PropertyNo
File Number
Heritage Study No 515
Heritage Grading

HPD Number 213 HI Number
Other Names/s FORMER WONTHAGGI POST OFFICE

VHR Number

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location Watt Street WONTHAGGI

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI
WONTHAGGI (T)

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

Planning Authority

Ward Hovell

Access Description

Map Number 0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

Whole allotment.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The former Wonthaggi Post Office, now the Library, is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance. It is of historic and social significance as it was built for the new township as a Post Office in 1911 and served the community as a post office until the 1980s. The building is of aesthetic significance as a public building designed in an eclectic Federation Freestyle by the notable architect, A J Frogerand. It is demonstrative of the provision of communication in the growing township which was created to serve the State Coal Mine and Victorian Railways.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

AHC E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community

AHC F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement

Date Assessed 13/08/2004 Assessed By F Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

Investigate original paint colours when due for a repaint. Restrict signage to minimal.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Postal and Telecommunications

Post Office

Title Details

Physical Description

LIBRARY

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The Wonthaggi Library is a red brick and stucco Federation Freestyle building. It is comprised of a central double storeyed section with a single storey brick wing on each side facing McBride Avenue to the north and extending along Watt Street to the south. The ground floor exterior walls are finished with face red brick, while the upper level is finished with cream painted rendering. The wing facing McBride Avenue was originally flanked with a pair of brick porches. The porch on the south side has been bricked in, while the porch on the north side has been modified by the addition of wheelchair access ramp. The windows generally have original double hung sash window joinery with multi-pane toplights and bluestone sills. The main roof is gambrel in form and clad with terracotta tiling and ridge ornamental detailing. The two face red brick chimneys are high relative to the roofline, and each are surmounted by a pair of terracotta chimney pots.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Usage Wonthaggi Public Library.

Associated People

Historical Notes

Wonthaggi was established as a mining town in 1909 to supply the Victorian Railways with black coal, and thus make Victoria independent of the privately owned New South Wales coalfields, the previous source of coal for the railways. The decision to proceed with mining coal from the Powlett Coalfield was prompted by the coal miners in New South Wales strike in 1909. When established, the coal was worked by the State Coal Mine from the Dudley and Kirrak Basins. The township of Wonthaggi is located on a ridge between the two basins. Initially the miners lived in a tent city; by 1910 the Government had laid out a model township. By 1921 Wonthaggi had a population of 5,000, making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland at the time. Wonthaggi's population peaked at around 12,000 in the mid-1920s when the mine was at its operational peak. The township was divided into commercial and residential areas. Its infrastructure provided for housing, water, churches, schools, and other social facilities.

Wonthaggi's first post office operated from 2 February 1910 in a tent; the first Postmaster was William John Hamilton. A site for a permanent post office was reserved in the new municipal precinct in the town survey. A notice announcing construction of a post office building at Wonthaggi appeared in the journal, 'Building', in December 1911. Designed by architect A J Frogerand, the new building cost 2350 pounds. It remained in use as a Post Office until the 1980s when for a short time a pre-school operated from the premises. In 1993, the building was converted and became the local Library.

Historic Themes

Thematic Environmental History

12.5 Post Offices & Telegraph Exchanges

Postal services in Australia were initially a government monopoly following legislation regulating postal services and deliveries throughout the colonies. The distribution of mail was assisted by Cobb & Co. Coach services. In capital cities, mail was often delivered three times a day by the 1880s. From 1901 the Commonwealth Government took over the running of post and telegraph offices. Post Offices have remained an essential element of town infrastructures.

Listings

Name

Number Date

Local Planning Scheme

References

Author

Title

Year ShelfLocation

Department of Land and Survey

Parish Plan of Township of Wonthaggi, Parish of Wonthaggi, County of Mornington

John M Coghlan

The State Coal Mine and Wonthaggi 1909-1968

1979

Reference to new post office to be built in Wonthaggi (cited in Lewis Index.)

Building, 12 December 1911

1911

T J Gannon (ed.)

Wonthaggi and District, Past and Present

1934

Conservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

LIBRARY

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Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls? Yes

Included in Vic Heritage Register? No

Internal Alteration Controls? No

Prohibited uses may be permitted? Yes

ee Controls? No

Name of incorporated plan No

Outbuildings/fences not exempt? No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No