

BUILDING TITLE **BALLARAT POST OFFICE**  
 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA **CITY OF BALLAARAT**

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.  
 DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST (C)  FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE **POST OFFICE**  
 BUILDING NAME **BALLARAT POST OFFICE**  
 STATE **VICTORIA**  
 LOCAL GOVT AREA **CITY OF BALLAARAT**  
 STREET **STURT ST.** No.  
 SUBURB/TOWN **BALLARAT C.B.D.**  
 CITY **BALLAARAT** POSTCODE **3350**  
 RURAL  
 NEAREST CENTRE Km.



TIME REFERENCE Vol Fol  
 DIRECTORY  
 NEGATIVE FILE **FILM 1 / FRAMES 23, 31**

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION  
 DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION **JULY 1978**

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL  
 PRESENT **AUSTRALIA POST**  
 ADDRESS

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
 BUILDER  
 ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS REFERENCE  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION **1864**  
 ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE **£15,658**  
 ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS **1885 - NORTHERN SECTION INCLUDING TOWER**  
**1906, 1942, 1948, 1870'S - REFER ATTACHED SHEET.**

#### BUILDING CITATION

This is the third Post Office constructed on or near this site. This building was designed by the Public Works Department in two stages. The principal building facing Sturt Street was opened on 29 November 1864. The Lydiard Street section, (formerly Public Offices) and tower was commenced in 1885.

Subsequent alterations have occurred: the colonnade on the south facade was filled in by 1912 & the ramps to the central entrance changed to two ramps serving the two end openings, which were also modified.

The building is constructed in two sections. The earlier Sturt Street building of 1864 is an Italianate composition with arcuated windows at ground floor level and square headed windows to the upper floor. The hipped roof is broken by a series of projecting cylindrical roof vents. This design is echoed in the later Lydiard Street section of 1885 which includes a carriageway entrance with the tower above. The tower introduces other design elements, particularly the northern European Renaissance dormer windows and roof.

The building is generally intact with the exception of the removal of the slate and iron ridging from the roof, the various alterations to the Sturt Street facade, and the unsympathetic paint work. The building is important as a complex designed by the Public Works Department and is a major streetscape element in an important location.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

This building is owned by the Australian Government. It is recommended that it be added to the Register of the National Estate, be brought to the attention of the Historic Buildings Preservation Council and remain specified under Clause 8 of the

## DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

---

- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

### 01 DEPARTMENT OF CONSTRUCTION - DRAWINGS HELD

- 1885 - ADDITION, NORTHERN WING INCLUDING TOWER SIGNED J.H. MARSDEN ARCHITECT, G.B.H. AUSTIN ARCHITECT, P.G. FICK DRAFTSMAN; DATED 9.7.1885; CONTRACT DATED 14.9.1885.
  - 1906 ALTERATIONS TO MAIL ROOM & ASSOCIATED ROOMS; CONTRACT PRICE £1255; BUILDERS S. JOHNSON & W. J. ROBERTSON DRAWN BY H. J. KERR.
  - 1942 ALTERATIONS TO MAIL ROOM & REDESIGNED PUBLIC SPACE; LAMPS ALTERED
  - 1948 SMALL ADDITION TO REAR & OTHER ALTERATIONS
06. STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA; LATROBE LIBRARY HIST COLL.  
- SKETCH OF EARLIER P.O. SITUATED ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF LYDIARD ST.  
- SEE BIBLIOGRAPHY BELOW. NOS. 2, 3, 5, 7.  
- VICTOR

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. D. SAUNDERS (ED) HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF VICTORIA JACARANDA PRESS 1966.
2. BALLARAT ILLUSTRATED BALLARAT c1920 REPUBLISHED 1972. PHOTOS P7, P9.
3. J. FELDHEIM VICTORIA OLD & NEW: A PICTORIAL CONTRAST MELB. 1912. PHOTOGRAPH OF POST OFFICE
4. B. TRETHOWAN 'THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 1851-1900 A HISTORY' RESEARCH REPORT B.ARCH UHI. MELB. 1975. P128
5. BALLARAT AND DISTRICT IN 1901 PLATE 8
6. BALLARAT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 'SPIELVOGEL PAPERS' HELD AT THE BALLARAT REGIONAL LIBRARY.
7. A McCALUM & HISTORY OF BALLARAT LIBRARIES BALLARAT

---

## ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED AREA A1.1.

---

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978  
ARCHITECTS

## BALLARAT POST OFFICE

### BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The Ballarat Post Office was built in two distinct stages. The first building on the corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets was opened in c.1864;<sup>1</sup> the northern wing, including the tower, was constructed in 1885.

No original drawings survive of the first stage. The design by the Public Works Department incorporated a recessed colonnade along the main facade which has subsequently been infilled. The building is representative of large early post offices - which were often stuccoed and built in the Italianate palazzo style. The restraint of the facades of this building is typical of post offices constructed during William Wardell's period as Inspector General (1859-1878). At ground level there are arcuated windows (originally the colonnade) and at first floor level, square headed windows are topped by Renaissance hoods supported on consoles. The hipped roof is broken by a series of cylindrical roof vents.

This design is echoed in the later Lydiard Street section of 1885, built as the Mining and Police Department. The drawings of this section<sup>2</sup> were signed by J.H.Marsden Architect, G.B.H. Austin Architect and P.G. Fick draftsman and dated 9.7.1885. William Barker was the contractor. This section introduces a new element - the tower, which consists of 5 stages: the arched carriageway entrance; the hooded window with balconette at first floor to match the earlier building; the four pedimented windows with balustrades at sill level; the top storey with corbelled window bays containing paired arched windows; and the balustraded parapet which is surmounted by dormer windows of northern European Renaissance form flanked by scrolls. The steep roof terminates in a widows walk. The section to the north of the tower is a copy of the earlier section.

---

1. B.Trethowan 'The Public Works Department of Victoria' - 1851-1900 A History. Research Report, 1975 p.128.

2. Held at the Department of Construction Victoria/Tasmania Region.

BALLARAT POST OFFICE

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The building has undergone subsequent alterations. An early photo of c.1912<sup>3</sup> shows the building in near original condition, but by this date the collonade is infilled (see below).

Subsequently, the front entrance ramps have been changed, and the end doors altered from arch to square headed. The new ramp is somewhat awkward, but the door surrounds are reasonably compatible. In 1969<sup>4</sup> the slate and decorative ridge capping was replaced by inappropriate cement tiles.

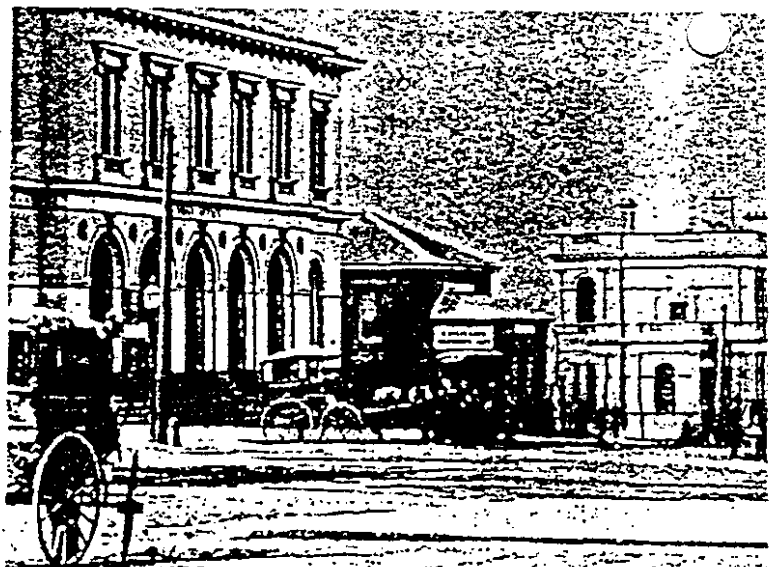
This building is important as a complex designed by the Public Works Department and is a major streetscape element in an important location. It is generally intact with the exception of the roof, the various alterations to the Sturt Street facade and the unsympathetic paint work.

---

3. J.Feldheim *Victoria Old and New : A Pictorial Contrast Melbourne* 1912. Photo held at La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria.

4. Department of Construction records.

1912 Colonnade enclosed, central entry maintained.



Post Office 1887  
with open colonnade.

