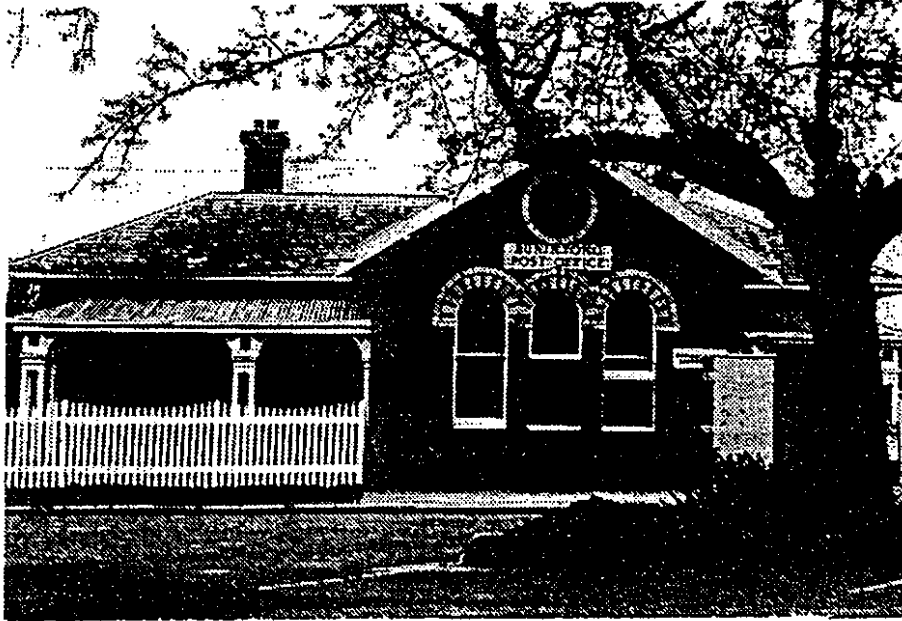


BUILDING NO. 21
BUNNINYONG POST OFFICE
406 - 8 LEARMONTH STREET



Recommendations

It is recommended that the Bunninyong Post Office be added to the Government Building's Register and protected under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act. (Third schedule).

Statement of Significance

This building is a highly intact example of a smaller post office erected in a Victorian country town in the 1870s. A number of post offices were erected to a similar design in towns both west and north-west of Melbourne, but many do not remain as intact as that at Bunninyong. Of particular note are the intact openwork timber verandah columns, the picket fence and the semicircular polychromatic brick arches which emphasize the three windows of the front bay.

Building History and Description

Postal services began in Buninyong in the 1840s, but were upgraded significantly with the completion of the present Post Office building on 20 October 1873. Postal services were reported to begin on 24 October. The drawings for the Buninyong Post Office were executed in December 1872 by the Public Works Department draftsman, John H Marsden but the architect responsible for the design is not known. Similar designs were executed by A. T. Snow and H. A. Williams, both of whom were producing architectural work at this time, and may have been responsible for the Buninyong design in conjunction with Marsden.

The red brick post office is dominated by a projecting front gable bay which contains three arched windows. Two small sections of verandah and hip roofs behind, flank this asymmetrically placed gable bay. Decoration is confined to polychrome brick work which outlines the front and side window heads, openwork timber columns which support the verandahs and simple red and cream brick chimneys which rise above the slate roof. A timber picket fence lines the front boundary of the property.

Post Offices of similar form and design were erected from 1869 and through the 1870s at such locations as Heathcote, Maldon, Avoca, Beaufort, Peshurst and Coleraine. These all feature a projecting gable with three windows and flanking sections, although Buninyong appears to be the most compact of these designs. It is of interest that similar openwork timber columns were employed at all these post offices, however variations resulted in the occurrence of polychromatic brickwork and in the proportion of particular elements. Alterations have occurred at some of these Post Offices mentioned, while Buninyong remains largely intact externally.

Building Integrity and Future Enhancement

As the Buninyong Post Office has been retained in a highly intact condition it is of great importance that a conservation analysis of the building be undertaken before any future work is carried out.

References

B Trethowan. 'The Public Works Department of Victoria, 1851-1900. An Architectural History.' Vols. 1 and 2. Undergraduate Report, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1975.

Transferred Properties Valuations, 1908.

Buninyong Telegraph 25 July 1873
 4 August 1873
 21 September 1873
 20 October 1873



THIS BUNINYONG POST OFFICE, N.D. WITH SCALLOPED PICKET FENCE. INTERMEDIATE PICKETS ARE PAINTED IN A CONTRASTING COLOUR.