

PLACE NAME: THE OLD TELEGRAPH STATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: CITY OF GEELONG

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Colonial Georgian

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Henry Ginn, colonial Clerk
Reference: of Works

Public Records Office, Plan Book of Henry Ginn, (1846-53)

BUILDER:

Reference:

PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 2nd November, 1857

Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: 1857/58

Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE

SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

The timeball which surmounted the central tower, has since been removed.

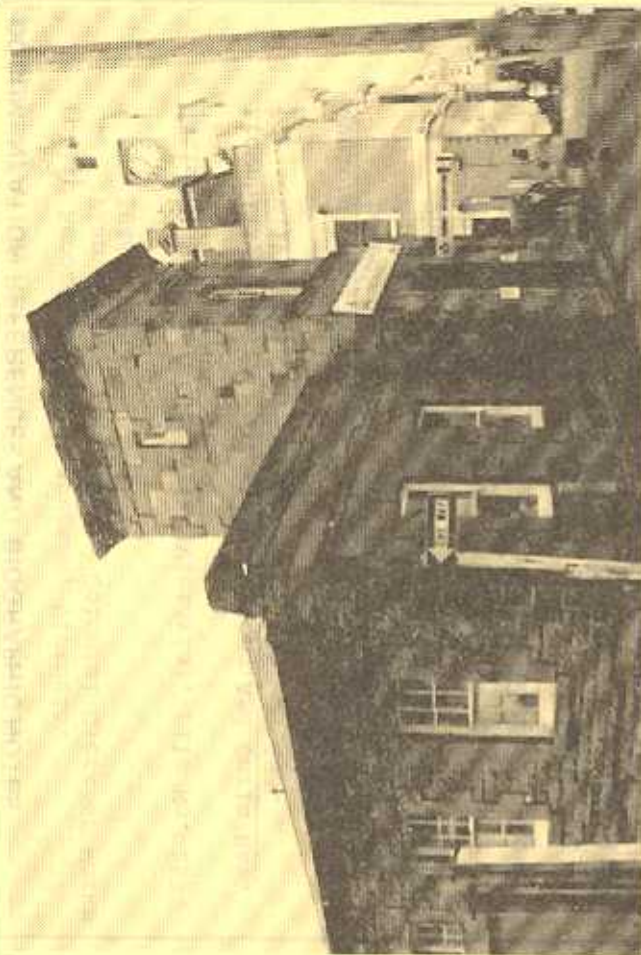
ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

Public Works Department

SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

1870 used as postmasters residence, then as various government departments until 1971 when vacated by the Health Department.

OTHER NOTES



NEGATIVE FILE:

☒Australian Heritage Commission
Register of National Estate☐Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Register No.
File No.☒National Trust of Aust. (Vic)
Classified/Recorded
File No. 257☒Geelong Regional Commission
Register No.

IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME: The Old Telegraph Station,

ADDRESS: 81 Ryrie Street,

Geelong, 3220.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: City of Geelong

TITLE INFORMATION

MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE: Tourist Authority Offices.
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE: Commonwealth Government

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE: (052) 97220.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF GEELONG

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Public Records Office, Laverton, Victoria.
Plan Book of Henry Ginn, Colonial Clerk of Works
1846 - 1853

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 257.

Brownhill, W.R., A History of Geelong And Corio Bay,
Wilke and Co., Melbourne, 1955, p. 583.

Geelong Advertiser, 12th August 1854, tender for
telegraph station, probably second one to be
built.

2nd November 1857, tender for telegraph station,
third and existing.

16th January 1858, 'Public Buildings', the
telegraph station is more than half way above
ground.

20th February, 1858, 15th April, 1858, 13th
August, 1858, 22nd August, 1860, 6th May, 1862
9th May, 1873, 11th November, 1875, tender
notices for various sundry works.

(Although Henry Ginn left Victoria and the Colonial
Service in 1854 the design was apparently by his hand
but not erected until after his departure in 1857).

CITATION

The Old Telegraph Station, a single storey structure with a square tower constructed in 1857 from Barrabool freestone with a slate roof, is one of the first buildings in Victoria constructed of Barrabool freestone and most probably an outstanding example of the work of the extremely important colonial architect Henry Ginn. The Telegraph Station was for many years the centre of communications for Geelong and district and is integrally associated with the history of shipping on Corio Bay. The structure is a finely proportioned axial composition of colonial georgian style origin and an excellent example of early masonry construction in Victoria.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- ☒ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
☒ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised.
☒ In danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
☒ Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
☒ Its townscape and/or landscape value.
☐ Its scarcity value.

SIGNIFICANCE

☐ LOCAL ☐ REGIONAL ☒ STATE ☐ NATIONAL ☐ WORLD

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☒ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

INTEGRITY

☒ HIGH ☐ LOW ☐ ALTERED ☐ DAMAGED

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register
Historic Buildings Council Register

DOCUMENTATION - Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,
North Fitzroy. 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

SIGNATURE

DATE