

# WARRANDYTE POST OFFICE (FORMER)

Historical Society

Place No. 13

<b>ADDRESS</b>	111-117 Yarra Street Warrandyte	<b>Last Update</b> 19/04/2005
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<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The building has a double-gable, and three bays, with the gables extending across the site. A timber verandah around two sides has a timber valance and decorative brackets, with some sections enclosed by a timber balustrade. The right-hand side of the building was separated as a residence.
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**Condition** Excellent

**Integrity**

Altered - major alterations

**Threats**

**Key elements**

**Designer**

<b>HISTORY</b>	This early Victorian timber building was constructed in stages between 1876 and the early 1900s. It was rebuilt between 1985-88 after a fire destroyed some sections.
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The site was purchased from the Crown by Alexander Speers in 1876, and was listed as a store in the Council rate books of 1876. Henry Squires appears to have been the first person to operate a post office from the building in 1893, renting the building from Mr Speers [1]. The first post office at Warrandyte was opened in 1857 [2].

Early in its life the building was extended to the rear, and later to the north-eastern side (c1897), with the eastern verandah and timber tracery details dating from the early 1900s.

The Post Office terminated its lease in 1972, and the building served as a residence for some years.

The building has survived a number of natural calamities including the 1934 floods (which covered the floor) and the 1939 bushfires which decimated the town. After being condemned by Council, it was partly destroyed by a deliberately lit fire in 1982. Local efforts saw its reconstruction achieved and it was reopened as a community and tourist information centre in 1987.

Even though it has been rebuilt some original sections remain, and the building has been reconstructed with some care to the original detailing. The rebuilding revealed much evidence about the sequence of construction, demonstrating that the western point of the Yarra Street frontage is the c.1876 building.

## SOURCES

[1] Bruce Bence, 'The historic post office at Warrandyte 1876-1988', 1989

[2] Keogh, p.20

**Creation Date** 1876

**Change Dates**

**Associations**

**Local Themes**

Alexander Speers

6.01 - Public buildings

<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	Of regional significance as an early building demonstrating the typical characteristics of early timber structures, and for its historical importance as the only relatively intact building in the town's main street dating from the gold mining period. It is also of local social significance for its important and continuing associations with the social and economic life of the town for over 100 years.
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## LEVEL

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Heritage Register Listings**

**Register**

**Reference**

**Zoning**

**Status**

None Specified

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**Extent****Heritage Schedule**

External Paint Controls:

On VHR:

VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

**Conservation Management****Extra Research**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**