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# Former Telegraph Office, 21 Leslie Street, STAWELL



SL 135 - Former Telegraph Office, 21 Leslie Street, STAWELL

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## Location

21 Leslie Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 24, 2004

The former Telegraph Office, Leslie Street, Stawell, has significance as the first Post Office erected on this site then known as Pleasant Creek. The front gable roof form and rear roof, together with the window locations, ventilator, window hood and verandah decoration all form part of the design of 1860, which originally had an identical gabled wing on the other side. The hipped end to the rear roof form and possibly the windows reflect the changes made to the building in the early 20th century.

The former Telegraph Office is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of both Victorian and interwar styles. These qualities include the recessed hipped roof form, together with a gable roof that projects towards the street frontage. Other intact qualities include the single storey height, horizontal weatherboard wall construction, galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding, wide eaves, timber framed

and double hung tripartite windows with the wider central windows having six paned upper sashes, and the decorative features (timber verandah columns and fretwork, window hood and timber brackets on the front gable end and the gable ventilator).

The former Telegraph Office is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with infrastructure developments in the Pleasant Creek/Stawell area during the height of the goldrush in the late 1850s and early 1860s. The surviving building was constructed in 1860, with the earlier Post Office relocated from Commercial Street and attached to the building. Although altered in the early 20th century, the surviving section of the building represents Stawell's only Telegraph and Post Office from 1860 until the opening of the new building in Main Street in 1875.

The former Telegraph Office is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although no longer used as a telegraph or post office, the building is still recognised by sections of the Stawell community for its previous function.

Overall, the former Telegraph Office is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	112318
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Former Telegraph Office, Leslie Street, Stawell, is situated on a modest allotment with a front setback of approximately 5 metres. The front is bound by an introduced post and rail fence with a picket gate, and is approximately 1200 mm high. There does not appear to be any landscaping of significance visible from the street.

The asymmetrical, single storey, horizontal weatherboard, eclectic Victorian and interwar styled building is characterised by a recessed hipped roof form, together with a gable roof that projects towards the street frontage and a rear skillion addition at the side. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated iron. Wide overhangs are a feature of the eaves. The early tripartite windows on the front facade are timber framed and double hung, with the wider central windows having six paned upper sashes.

Other early features of the design include the timber verandah columns and fretwork, window hood and timber brackets on the front gable end and the gable ventilator.

The current building forms only half the original design, when two gable roof forms providing projecting wings at the sides forming a symmetrical arrangement. Unpainted brick chimneys with multi corbelled tops adorned the roofline. The much reduced extant building forms the left component of the original building, with the traversing (original linking) roof form shortened and reformed into a hip roof. The detailing the building, particularly the verandah, remains true to the original design.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*