

## FLEMINGTON POST OFFICE



FLEMINGTON POST  
OFFICE SOHE 2008



1 flemington post office  
wellington street flemington  
front elevation jun1996



flemington post office  
wellington street flemington  
decoration she project 2004



Flemington Post Office  
Wellington Street Flemington  
Front View From Street SHE  
Project 2004



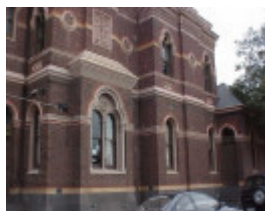
Flemington Post Office  
Wellington Street Flemington  
Front View From Street SHE  
Project



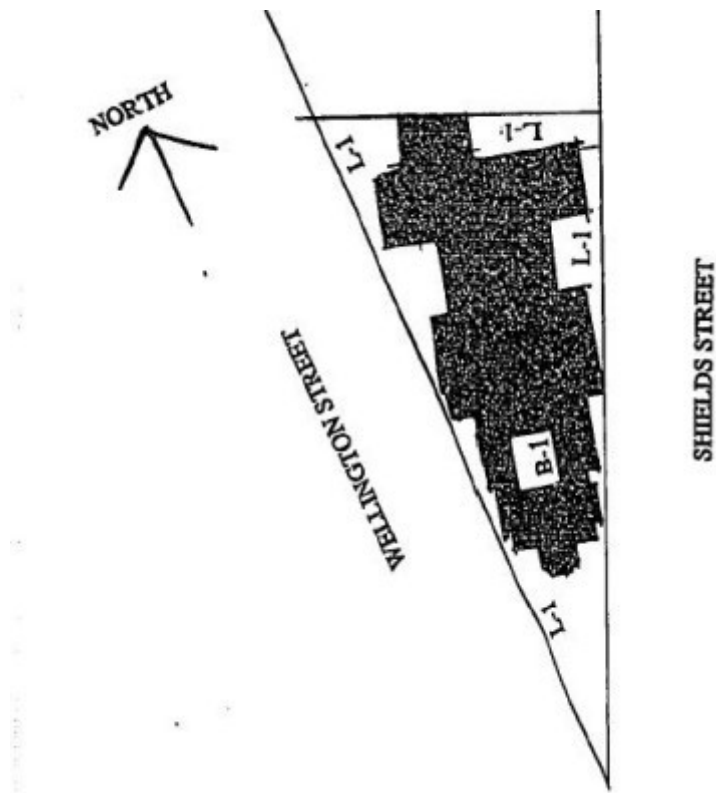
flemington post office  
wellington street flemington  
post boxes she project 2004



flemington post office  
wellington street flemington  
rear she project 2004



flemington post office  
wellington street flemington  
side view she project 2004



h01201 plan h1201

---

### Location

2A WELLINGTON STREET FLEMINGTON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

### Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1201

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO121

### VHR Registration

September 19, 1996

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 11, 1999

Flemington Post Office was constructed in 1889/90 to a design by architect JR Brown, under the direction of J T Kelleher both of the Public Works Department Eastern District. The tower was detailed by a J MacDonald, and construction was supervised by B Pratt. The Post Office is substantially intact but has had sympathetic additions made at the rear.

Flemington Post Office is of architectural importance to the state of Victoria

Flemington Post Office is architecturally important as a skilful design which takes maximum advantage of its sloping sharply triangular corner site and uses eclectic detail to create a highly successful building. It is the most accomplished design of public works architect

JR Brown, who worked with AJ MacDonald under JT Kelleher in the eastern district office to produce some very notable public buildings of the late 19th century.

The Flemington Post Office is important as an extraordinary example of the stylistic eclecticism associated with the period of public works architecture known as the "Battle of the Styles".

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of

the registered place or object.

2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### INTERIOR DECORATIVE SCHEMES TO ALL ROOMS EXCEPT THE MAIN PUBLIC AREA AND FOYER

\* Interior painting/wall-papering to walls and ceilings, provided the preparation work for painting/papering does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or other decorative scheme.

\* Removal of existing carpets / flexible floor coverings eg vinyl.

\* Installation of carpets and flexible floor coverings

\* Installation of curtain track, rod, blinds and other window dressings.

#### REFURBISHMENT OF BATHROOMS, TOILETS, KITCHENS

\* Refurbishment of bathroom /toilet / ensuite including removal of existing sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, and wall and floor coverings, and installation of new fixtures, and wall and floor coverings.

\* Removal of existing kitchen benches and fixtures (stoves, dishwashers etc.) and floor coverings and installation of new kitchen benches and fixtures, including associated plumbing and wiring.

#### INTERIOR WORKS TO THE LATER ADDITIONS AT THE REAR OF THE BUILDING

\* All interior works to the later additions at the rear of the building.

Construction dates	1888,
Architect/Designer	Brown, John Russell,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	4429
Property Number	

---

## History

### Contextual History:History of Place:

#### Flemington Commercial area

Flemington Post office was constructed at the height of the 1880's boom in Melbourne, when like most of metropolitan Melbourne, Flemington experienced unprecedented growth. The population grew from 1,811 in 1883 to 9, 069 at the end of the decade. The main development in the commercial area of Racecourse Road was near the saleyards and racecourse, where there were cattle dealers, stock and station agents, farriers , hotels and stables. Towards the end of the decade, almost half a million animals were auctioned annually at Newmarket, and the eastern end of Racecourse Road was also developing into a busy commercial area, with the Doutta Gala Family Hotel (1888/9), the Colonial and national Bank (1889), the offices of the West Bourke Times, (the local newspaper) and an assortment of traders in the area.

Wellington Street was part of the hill known as Flemington Estate, which had formerly been part of the large holdings of local squire Hugh Glass, whose residence, Flemington (later known as Travancore) became the site of the Flemington Primary School. Wellington Street developed as a civic precinct at the end of the boom years starting with the Flemington Post Office in 1888/9, then the Court House and Police Station in the following two years and a Fire Station shortly after that.

There was a Post Office in Melbourne as early as 1837, in Geelong and Portland in 1840, and Kilmore, the Ovens, Mt Macedon, Alberton and Port Fairy in 1843., with a total of 36 prior to 1851. The Victorian Post Office Department was formed in 1851 but it was not until the Public Works Department was established that any Post offices of a permanent nature were constructed. Fro 1856 an intensive program of public building works was started, with the main building program being court houses. Post offices constructed in this period include the Melbourne G P O (1859- unfinished), Williamstown, (1859)Ballarat (1854,58), Bendigo(1853,58) Castlemaine(1857) and Beechworth(1858).

From 1859 until January 1878, William Wardell had overall responsibility for new public buildings in Victoria, and the many Post Offices and other public buildings constructed during this period show his influence. The main characteristic of this period of public buildings was the lack of unnecessary ornamentation - a general austerity of design.

Following Wardell's departure, the boom of the 1880's resulted in a continued vigorous building program and the period was characterised by a freedom of stylistic expression culminating in the "Battle of the Styles". The Education Departments architects were amalgamated with the Public Works Department in October 1883, resulting in Henry Barstow (ex Education Department) bringing Gothic style to the Public Works Department. Other styles employed by the Public Works Department during this period included Italianate employed by J H Marsden, J T Kelleher G W Watson and others; Elizabethan and Queen Anne, and towards the end of the century, an American Romanesque favoured by A J MacDonald.

The Flemington Post Office was constructed at the end of the boom in 1890. It does not neatly fit into any of the main style categories of this "Battle of the Styles" period , but is a richly eclectic and individual design.

History of Place:

From the Flemington and Kensington Conservation Study:

Reputedly a 'non-official' post office was managed in the area by John Spicer in the 1850's. certainly during the 1870's a post office was run as an adjunct to grocery establishments near the old Flemington Hotel in Mount Alexander Road., where gold traffic caused a concentration of business houses. Fred B Brady and R W Terry were successive proprietors there. By the 1880's, an official post and telegraph office had been established near to the above sites south of Buckland Street. Mrs E G Sutton was the last postmistress on this site, transferring in 1890 to the new Wellington Street building near the new population growth and commercial centre along Racecourse Road.

Public Works Department, Eastern District Architect J T Kelleher supervised drawings carried out in 1888 by J R Brown, whilst the construction was supervised by B Pratt. Architect A J MacDonald detailed the tower.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As the Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including Heritage Register Number 1201 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Flemington Post Office, 2a Wellington Street, Flemington, Moonee Valley City.

Extent:

1. All of the building known as Flemington Post Office marked B-1 on Plan 607028 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Plan 607028 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council being all of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 1728, Folio 522.

Dated 5 September 1996

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G37 19 September 1996 p.2473]

*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/>*