
Former Telephone Exchange



Former Telephone Exchange
- 50 Gheringhap Street,
Geelong

Location

50 Gheringhap Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 213848

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1640

HO946

Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

C Listed - Local Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENT SHEET - GRC SHEET NO 153 -
PLAQUE, GEELONG POST OFFICE

This historic plaque marks the establishment of the first automatic telephone exchange in the Southern Hemisphere in Geelong, 6 July 1912.

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register.

REFERENCES

Inscription Reads:

"The first Automatic Telephone Exchange in the Southern Hemisphere was established in this building on 6th July 1912".

This commemoration plaque was unveiled by the Hon. Hubert Opperman OBE Minister for Shipping and transport, Federal Member for Corio on the 50th Anniversary 6th July 1962.

Another plaque in Gheringhap Street, reads

"The clock chimes in this Tower were subscribed for in the year 1910 by the citizens of Geelong & District to commemorate the illustrious reign of their late sovereign KING EDWARD who reigned 1901-1910.

Lang, W.R. - "Geelong Monuments and Plaques" No's 11 and 10a Geelong Historical Records Centre.

See also

RW Brownhill - History of Geelong and Corio bay, Wilke and Co, Melbourne, 1955. p. 583.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5, Graeme Butler, 1991; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study Volume 1, Graeme Butler, 1993; Greater Geelong - Geelong City 'C' Citations Study, Dr David Rowe, 2002;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered object,
Hermes Number	18907
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former Telephone Exchange building, 50 Gheringhap Street, Geelong, takes up a substantial proportion of the site and is situated on the front boundary. There is a narrow side setback of approximately 2500 mm on the north side, together with steel gates and unpainted brick piers. On the south side is an early solid cream brick fence. The symmetrical, three storey, face cream brick, interwar rectilinear Stripped Classical styled building is characterised by a parapeted hipped roof form clad in terra cotta tiles, and the cement pressed ashlar block vestigial colonnade at the front, with projecting V-shaped steel framed windows that span the three storeys. Centrally located is a steel framed and glazed entrance doorway, with flanking steel grilles and a metal sculptural motif directly above the winged symbol of the Commonwealth Postmaster-Generals Department in 1939. Pressed cement block dado walls flank the vestigial colonnade, which also has fluted reveals, the inscribed title "Geelong Telephone Exchange" above, and a crowning recessed and moulded parapet. Flanking the pressed cement colonnade are broad cream brick corners with incised bands forming a geometric rustication. Above the cement dados are single steel framed windows with decorative steel grills. At the front are also projecting cubic pedestals that support introduced standard lights. The side facades are also characterised by rectilinear vestigial

colonnades with steel framed windows between. Apart from the easternmost vertical windows that rise from near ground level, the base of the colonnades are level with the upper reaches of the pressed cement dados on the front facade. Comparative Examples of other interwar rectilinear Stripped Classical buildings Former High Court of Australia, Melbourne, 1925 28 General Store building 11, Maribyrnong Defence site, Maribyrnong, 1935 Commonwealth Bank building, Rockhampton, Queensland, c.1929 Commonwealth Bank building, Wollongong, N.S.W., c.1929

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/>