

Item name: Narraburra Post Office & Exchange

Location:

Temora

Address:

Planning: Southern & Western

Suburb/nearest town: Temora 2666

Local govt area: Temora

State: NSW

Parish:

County:

Other/former names:

Area/group/complex:

Group ID:

Aboriginal area: Wiradjuri

Curtilage/boundary:

Item type: Built

Group: Postal and Telecommunication **Category:** Post Office

Owner:

Admin codes:

Code 2:

Code 3:

Current use:

Former uses:

Assessed significance:

Endorsed significance:

**Statement of
significance:**

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Historical notes of provenance: NARRABURRA POST OFFICE

A letter written to the Postmaster General on 8th July 1888, from the undersigned residents of the Parishes of Boginderra, Narraburra and Thurungly “respectfully sheweth that there are residing within the above and other Parishes a large and increasing population who have no means of posting or receiving their letters other than through the courtesy of Mr. W. Duncan of Narraburra Station. Your memorialists further sheweth that their nearest Post Office is situated at a distance of eight miles and is therefore unsuitable for the convenience of the residents.”

The letter concluded by saying “and your memorialists will forever pray,” signed by M J Byron, Selector, Narraburra; John Eason (his mark), Selector, Narraburra; John Eason Junior, Selector, Narraburra; Samuel Ellis, Farmer; Samuel Ludlow, Selector, Thurungly; William Campbell, Selector, Thurungly; and V T Booth, Mason, Thurungly.

In a report from the postal inspector, the number of residents to benefit from a postal service was estimated at 13 to 17. Narraburra was situated about 8 miles from Morangarell and 10 miles from West Temora (this would be the post office at the Rock Hotel at the junction of the Narraburra Road and Traeger’s Lane). It would be situated on the Grenfell and West Temora, and on the Cootamundra and West Temora (The Rock) mail lines. Both the Postmasters at West Temora and Morangarell think a post office in this location is necessary.

Mr Edward Doubleday thought that a Receiving Office would be sufficient at this stage. Mr W Duncan, the manager of Temora Station was recommended as the ROK (Receiving Officer Keeper). It was noted on the 18th July 1888 that the Post Office at West Temora (The Rock), had been closed with O’Keefe as the last ROK.

On May 1, inst. 1889, the residents of the above Parishes of Narraburra, Boginderra and Thurungly expressed their “sincere regret” that the RO at Narraburra had been closed, through the resignation of Mr Duncan. They “humbly” asked that the postal department appoint Miss Katie Collins, schoolteacher at Boginderra, as a “fit and proper person” to conduct the PO, even though the school was two miles from the present site.

In 1889 it was decided to reopen the RO at West Temora to be conducted in the Narraburra Hotel, in lieu of the Narraburra office.

On May 7 1889, a letter from the postal inspector stated that the RO at Narraburra had not been closed despite the fact that the ROK W Duncan had tendered his resignation. It was recommended that a RO not be set up at Boginderra as the one at West Temora had been reopened (at Kites), and it was only three miles away and “should be suffice to meet the present requirements of the locality.”

Mr Duncan tendered his resignation on April 4 giving a month’s notice.

The RO in the Narraburra locality was then at West Temora. Isabella Kennedy was the ROK for the West Temora Office from Aug 24 1891, located at the Narraburra Hotel, owned by Thomas Kite and located on the corner of the Narraburra Road and ? Lane.

Isabella resigned on Nov 26 1892, as she was leaving the district. She handed over all the possessions and parcels of the office to Mrs Mary Yabsley, “the incoming proprietress of the Hotel who is willing to undertake the position.” In a letter written to the postal department by Mary on Oct 23, 1893, she said she had been forced to keep extra help due to the “attendance of people calling and receiving mails” and “respectfully beg to ask you that you will grant me the sum of £12 for keeping the receiving office.” She said she had a great expense of rental for the premises and for setting and fitting out of the room used for the receiving office had cost a considerable amount of money.

The revenue from the RO was £11.14.0 and it was recommended from the postal department that the RO become a Post Office, with the name of Narraburra, and that Mary Yabsley be appointed as Post Mistress at a salary of £10 per annum.

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Two years later a post office had not been established as a letter was written by J A McDonald, "Avington" Via Temora on July 29, 1896, to J C Watson Esquire, on behalf of the Narraburra Progress Committee. He said it had been "a source of considerable annoyance" that a Post Office had not been established at Narraburra. This letter was accompanied by a list of some of the people receiving mail there. They were Messrs Fraser, Coleman, Zimmerli, Miller, Doubleday, Laroliss?, Kennedy, Forbes, Briggs, Muir, McDonald, Kite, Yabsley, McNamara, Freer, Ross, Lynch, Rapley, Granleese, Gay, Butter, Hurst, Baldwin, Smith, Murchison, Connors, O'Keefe, Talbot, Willocks, Mrs Yabsley and O'Hara. The amount of mail received by the West Temora RO was 32 letters, 59 newspapers and 3 parcels and 25 letters and 2 newspapers were dispatched.

Mary Yabsley wrote in a letter written on Nov 15, 1896 objecting to a proposed change in the route via the Public School on the Young Road and stated that a post office was "absolutely necessary". Mary, in a letter on December 8th, said that she was willing to take the mail from West Temora to the Young Road, twice weekly for the sum of eight shillings per week on 3 months notice from either side.

The RO at West Temora was changed to a Post Office on the Jan 1, 1897, with Mary Yabsley being appointed Post Mistress.

A letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Progress Association, J A McDonald on Jan 20, that the name of the post office be changed to Narraburra. He said "the name West Temora is inappropriate as much as it is not West of Temora (either Town or Station) and misleading because it is already generally known (except officially) as Narraburra." The postal department wrote in March saying that they would have no objection to a name change.

Mary Yabsley wrote to the Postmaster General, also on the Jan 20, saying that now it was a post office it would be necessary to have a separate room from the hotel and as her landlord was not willing to build one, it placed her in an awkward position.

Mary Yabley resigned as post mistress on the April 1, 1900 as she had disposed of her business as lessee of the Narraburra Hotel. She nominated Thomas Kite, her landlord as her successor as PM, since he had been ROK there some years previously. She recommended him as "a trustworthy person & acceptable to the residents of the district."

Thomas Kite wasn't PM for very long as on 14th June he said he had given up his business as the Hotel Keeper and would like to transfer his duties as Post Master to Mr William Hopgood. He was appointed on July 2, 1900 with a salary of £12 per annum.

On Jan 26, 1905, William Hopgood was asking the Deputy Post Master General, for permission to move the post office to the Government Tank that he has recently leased (20 chains from the PO), as it would save him an additional rent. It appears that his wife R Hopgood was an assistant postmistress at this time. After much correspondence there was still no affirmative answer.

Mr Thomas Kite wrote a letter to the PM General in April 1905 objecting to the removal of the post office that was attached to the Narraburra Hotel. The present proprietor's lease was going to expire in a month's time and he wanted to move the PO to the Government Tank. Mr Kite was taking on the hotel again himself and would take charge of the PO as well. A 31 residents who wished the PO to remain, as it was more convenient to the public, signed the letter. Those surnames were Kemp, Leary, Kite (6), Warren (4), Kite (5), Baldwin (2), Murchison (2), Frater, Granleese (3), Muir (11) and Zimmerli.

The Post Office was removed to the Government Tank on 15th May by William Hopgood. The authorities said that it was better to have the PO premises away from the hotel if possible. They wrote to Mr Kite informing him that Mr Hopgood had gone to a lot of trouble to transfer the PO at his own expense.

On 1st January 1906, William Hopgood resigned as PM and Thomas Kite declared his willingness to accept the position at a salary of £12 pa plus £20 16s portorage between Young – Temora mail line and Narraburra, twice a

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week. Approval was given to conduct the PO business in the hotel as it was centrally located, was run properly and Thomas Kite's wife was of good character. Thomas commenced duties on 23rd January 1906, with his wife Susan acting as Assistant PM.

Thomas Kite resigned and Michael Paterson took over as PM on the Oct 8, 1906. A telegram announced that the PM, Michael Paterson died this morning (May 9, 1908). His wife Mrs Annie Paterson was carrying on the postal business as usual. She was appointed on the 11th June, and the number of postal articles posted yearly was 4,726.

Annie Paterson notified the Deputy PM General on the Jan 14, 1909 that she had changed her name, as she had married Edward Harold Shumack and she asked that her husband be appointed Assistant PM.

Mrs Annie Shumack resigned and Frederick Smith started duty as the PM on May 2, 1921 at the rate of £36 per annum. He was the Hotel Keeper of the Narraburra Hotel and the Post Office was a separate room (13' X 13'), 15 yards from the hotel.

Frederick Smith had a short tenure as PM as Thomas Young Wardhaugh became PM on Dec 13, 1922, being the incumbent Hotel Keeper. Thomas was a returned soldier, 29 yrs old and married, being a native of Northumberland England.

The Telephone Exchange was opened at the Narraburra Office on Jan 21, 1923 with hours of business from 9am to 5pm with a lunch hour between 1pm and 2pm. The number of subscribers was 2 with one a party line of 7, the PM's salary increasing from £32 to £37.

Complaints were made by Mr AD Davidson, Hon Sec of the F & S Association regarding the derelict state of the PO. The switchboard was removed from the PO to a room next to the bar in the hotel, for convenience.

Thomas Wardhaugh relinquished the PM's position at short notice on the July 15, 1924, as the hotel licence had been transferred to Mr Robert Sweeny. He would act as PM and his step-daughter Mary Ellen Grant would be his assistant.

Mr AD Davidson wrote to the postal department informing them that the licence of the hotel would expire on June 30, 1925 and will not be renewed, so the residents were anxious to retain an office in the district. Robert Sweeny tendered his resignation and suggested that Mrs Susan Kite (wife of Thomas) could be the new PM.

Although it was not usual to appoint a married woman, and no one else could be found, Susan Kite (52 yrs) was appointed PM on July 1, 1925. As she was a married woman dependent on her husband she would receive a minimal salary.

Susan resigned 4 months later, but agreed to continue if the PO could be removed to their private residence nearby, a quarter of a mile away. The postal department agreed if she guaranteed that it was for at least two years.

The district Inspector at Cootamundra said that the PM at Narraburra was an old lady and was unable to continue her duties due to her failing health. She ceased duty on Jan 10, 1944 to enter Temora Hospital. Her son, (Richard) was the owner of the resident and was adverse to conducting the PO in his premises. His wife was reluctant as her husband was a shearer and away for long periods of time.

Frances Lavinia Kite was appointed as Telephone Office Keeper from Jan 19, 1944, with a salary of £85/10/- per annum, but the PO would close from the Jan 10, on a temporary basis. There were 16 subscribers at this time. The PO remained closed due to no one taking it on.

It appears that the Telephone Office was closed at Narraburra some time in 1978 as the file was sent to the archives on Oct 19, 1978.

National Archives of Australia – Narraburra Post Office File, SP32/1

Item name: Narraburra Post Office & Exchange**Location:** Temora**Themes:** National theme
3. Economy**State theme**
Communication**Local theme****Designer:****Builder:****Year started:****Year completed:****Circa:** No**Physical description:****Physical condition**
level:**Physical condition:**
Archaeological
potential level:**Archaeological**
potential Detail:**Modification dates:****Recommended**
management:**Management:** Management category**Management name****Further comments:****Criteria a):**
[Historical
significance]**Criteria b):**
[Historical
association
significance]**Criteria c):**
[Aesthetic/
Technical
significance]**Criteria d):**
[Social/Cultural
significance]**Criteria e):**
[Research
significance]**Criteria f):**
[Rarity]**Criteria g):**
[Representative]

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Intactness/Integrity:

References: Author Title Year

Studies: Author Title Number Year

Parcels: Parcel code Lot number Section number Plan code Plan number

Latitude: **Longitude:**

Location validity: **Spatial accuracy:**

Map name: **Map scale:**

AMG zone: **Easting:** 560147 **Northing:** 6200835

Listing: Name Title Number ListingDate
Heritage study

Data entry: Data first entered: 29/06/2004 Data updated: 15/09/2017 Status: Completed