



DESIGN NARRATIVES *in* / GAWLER

GAWLER CLOCK TOWER

Murray Street, Gawler

A public clock in the centre of a town adds beauty and practicality to the area

FIRST GAWLER POST OFFICE

The oldest surviving public building in Gawler is the old telegraph office, which was built in 1860 of local stone. A handsome post office was erected alongside the telegraph office in 1867. It was built of the same local Gawler stone. The building cost 2395 pounds, the architect was Mr. W Hanson, the builders were Pett and Gray and the overseer of works was Mr. O'Mahony.

CLOCK TOWER

On February 6th, 1867, a committee was formed to arrange the purchase and installation of a town clock as part of the post office building. The council imposed a levy on ratepayers of 3 pence in the pound, to raise the required funding. A narrow winding staircase led to the clock tower.

The clock was supplied and installed by Wendt's Jewellers of Rundle Street, Adelaide, at a cost of 150 pounds. The four dials were of the best quality milk glass, three feet-six inches in diameter facing north, south, east & west. Look closely at the eastern face. An interesting point is a mistake, during manufacture, on the eastern face, which shows, in Roman numerals, a number four where the six should be.

On the afternoon of 6th of September 1867, the Mayor of Gawler and a number of councillors and invited guests joined Mr. Wendt and two of his assistants in the clock tower. A few minutes before 4pm the 4 pendulum was set in motion and the clock first struck the hour at 4pm. For a number of years all went well, but it is worth noting that on Sunday 28 July, 1878,

fear was expressed that the end of the world was being heralded when the clock struck one hundred times!

GAWLER DESIGN STORIES ARE ALL AROUND US....

In designing hardware to be used every day, it was important to keep both the human aspects and the machine in mind. What looks good also often feels good.

Michael Graves

RELATED DESIGNS

Gawler Institute, *Murray Street, Gawler*
Gawler Town Hall, *Murray Street, Gawler*
National Trust Museum, *formerly the Old Telegraph Office, Murray St*

FURTHER INFORMATION

gawler.nowandthen.net.au