

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**To:** Minister for Heritage

Tracking No.: 23/110563

Date: 6 November 2023**From:** Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water**Subject:** Public Consultation Report (Report) – Provisional Registration of the Former Kingston Post Office**Critical Date:** 15 Days from Receiving the Report**Critical Reason:** The *Heritage Act 2004* provides you a statutory power to issue a direction to the Council within 15 days of receiving the Report to give further consideration to issues raised in the report.

- A/g DDG, Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction 14/11/23

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Note** the Heritage Council's (Council) report to you (Attachment 1) on the outcomes of public consultation in relation to the Former Kingston Post Office pursuant to their statutory obligations under s.38 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (Act).

Noted / Please Discuss

2. **Note** that pursuant to s.39 of the Act, you may issue a direction to the Council, within 15 days of receiving the Report, to give further consideration to an issue raised in, or arising from the Report.

Noted / Please Discuss

3. **Agree** that you not issue a direction to the Council about the Report as there are no issues raised during public consultation, or in the Report, that require further consideration.

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

4. **Sign** the letter (Attachment 2) to the Council to acknowledge your receipt and noting of the Report.

Signed / Not Signed / Please Discuss

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA *Rebecca* 17/11/2023

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. At its meeting of 15 August 2023, the Heritage Council (Council) provisionally registered the Former Kingston Post Office.
2. In accordance with s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (Act), a four-week period of public consultation was undertaken about the provision registration.
3. Under s.38 of the Act, as soon as practicable after the end of the public consultation period in relation to the registration of a place or object, the Council must give you a written report (Report) on issues raised during public consultation. The Report prepared by Council is at [Attachment 1](#).
4. Under s.35 of the Act, provisional registration is for a period of five months. To avoid lapsing of this provisional registration, the Council must make a decision about finalising the registration decision prior to 15 January 2024. The Council intends making a decision regarding the final registration of the place at its meeting scheduled for 5 December 2023.

Issues

Outcomes of Public Consultation

5. Twenty-seven submissions were received during the public consultation period. A summary of the submissions and Council's response is at [Attachment 1B](#). A full copy of each submission is at [Attachment 1C](#).
6. The Council has considered all of the comments received and has reviewed its decision as noted in the Report. Several minor changes are being proposed that help to clarify the assessment, but do not materially change the decision.
7. Under s.39 of the Act, you have the power to issue a direction to the Council, within 15 days of receiving the Report, to give further consideration to an issue raised in, or arising from the Report.
8. ACT Heritage recommends that you not issue a direction in this instance, as there are no issues raised during public consultation, or in the Report, that require further consideration.
9. A letter to acknowledge your receipt and noting of the Report is at [Attachment 2](#).

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications associated with this brief for the Council or EPSDD.

Consultation

11. In accordance with s.34 and s.37 of the Act, public notice was given on the ACT Government Information Portal on 17 August 2023, notifying the Council's decision in relation to the provisional registration decision of the Former Kingston Post Office, and seeking public comments in relation to the provisional registration of the place by 14 September 2023.
12. After each Council meeting, as a courtesy, the Council writes to the National Trust (ACT) and the Canberra and District Historical Society (CDHS), informing them of all decisions relating to nominations and registrations including seeking comments in relation to any provisional registration decisions. CDHS made a detailed submission and the National

Trust did not respond.

13. The Council wrote to interested persons under s.13 of the Act, informing them of its decision and inviting them to provide comment during public consultation. Responses were received from the owners, Australia Post, and the lessee, Purnell Real Estate and have been considered.
14. The Council also wrote to everyone who provided comments during the first round of public consultation in 2022 inviting them to make further submissions on the remade decision.

Work Health and Safety

15. Nil.

Benefits/Sensitivities

16. Registration under the Act provides recognition and protection of the ACT's unique heritage places and objects. It is the function of the Council to identify, assess, conserve, and promote places and objects in the ACT with heritage significance.
17. There are no perceived sensitivities in relation to the heritage registration for the Former Kingston Post Office

Communications, media and engagement implications

18. A decision on registration by the Council may attract media attention when entered onto the ACT Legislation Register. The Chair of the Council is available to respond to any media enquiries.
19. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's Communications manages the Council's online Have Your Say public communications engagement for every provisional registration and advise the Council if broader engagement is recommended.

Signatory Name: Bren Burkevics Phone: 6207 8628

Action Officer: Richard Hekimian Phone: 6207 8538

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment 1	Council's report on public consultation
Attachment 1A	Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration
Attachment 1B	Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information
Attachment 1C	Consultation Summary
Attachment 1D	Copies of Written Submissions
Attachment 2	Minister's letter to Council - no direction required

From: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 5:52 PM
To: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skipington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];
Cc: Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office
Attachments: Council Report on Public Consultation for the Former Kingston Post Office.pdf; Attachment A- Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration.pdf; Attachment B - Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information.pdf; Attachment C - Former Kingston Post Office - Consultation Summary.pdf; Attachment D - Copies of written submissions.pdf

OFFICIAL

Dear Council Members,

Public consultation has concluded for the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office. In accordance with section 38 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the Council must provide the Minister with a report on public consultation (the Report).

The Report has now been drafted and recommends that the Council proceed to register the Former Kingston Post Office, with some changes to wording and description in the Registration and Background Documents. The proposed changes do not change the intent of the registration or the significant features but seek to clarify some elements where this was considered necessary. The Report, including attachments, has been added to this email for your review and to secure your agreement for it to progress to the Minister with the recommendation to proceed to registration.

This report must proceed to the Minister as quickly as possible to enable a final decision at the Heritage Council Meeting scheduled for 5 December 2023, which is the last scheduled meeting before the provisional registration period ends. The Act specifies that a decision on final registration must be made within 5 months of the provisional registration, or the Provisional Registration decision will lapse and the status of the place will revert to Nominated.

Once you have had time to read the Report please “reply all” and indicate by COB **Tuesday 31 October 2023** whether you are in agreement with the Report progressing with the recommendation of registration. If you do not reply this will be taken to be agreement that the report proceed to the Minister.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/g Director, Registrations and Engagement

Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th

ACT Heritage | heritage@act.gov.au | Access Canberra switchboard 13 22 81

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 7:20 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skipington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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Hi All,

I agree with the report and proceeding with the registration,
Regards

Doug

On 2023-10-26 14:51, Swetekelly, Maryclare wrote:

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other person.

From: Alistair Henschman | Saje Consulting [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 26 October 2023 8:03 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Kate Clark; Rachael O'Neill; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard;
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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I agree with the report and proceeding to registration.

Alistair

On 26 Oct 2023, at 4:20 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

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Regards

Doug

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disclose its contents to any other person.

From: Kate Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 October 2023 3:45 PM
To: Alistair Henschman | Saje Consulting
Cc: Swetekelly, Marvclare; Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Rachael O'Neill; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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I am happy to proceed to registration.

As a matter of interest the principal reasons given not to list are the perception that listing will impede future change - this underlines one of our key challenges which is how can we better communicate the message that listing simply flags interest - it does not stop us from finding new uses for a building!

Kate

On 26 Oct 2023, at 8:02 pm, Alistair Henschman | Saje Consulting [REDACTED] wrote:

I agree with the report and proceeding to registration.

Alistair

On 26 Oct 2023, at 4:20 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi All,

I agree with the report and proceeding with the registration,
Regards

Doug

On 2023-10-26 14:51, Swetekelly, Maryclare wrote:

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From: Alanna King [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 27 October 2023 6:05 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skipington; David Hobbes; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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Hi Mary Clare,

Thank you for the information regarding the Former Kingston Post Office public consultation, and the proposed amendments. I support the Report progressing to the Minister with the recommendation of registration.

Regards,

ALANNA KING

Director | Architect 2551 ACT

Atelier KIPU

Climate Community Culture

[REDACTED]
www.atelierkipu.com.au

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On Thu, 26 Oct 2023 at 17:52, Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

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From: Duncan Marshall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 29 October 2023 1:48 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare; Hekimian, Richard; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Alistair Henchman; Kate Clark; Douglas Williams; Rachael O'Neill; Jeffress, Stuart
Cc: Duncan Marshall
Subject: Kingston PO

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Dear Mary Clare

Thanks for the draft consultation report and attachments.

I do have a number of comments, as below...

Most of these comments are minor matters to tidy up, I think. The only more substantive issue relates to criterion (b), and whether it deserves reconsideration.

I also raise below a general issue, about giving the scorecard of support and opposition to registration. This does not need to be resolved now for Kingston, but I would like a general discussion at some stage about whether this is a wise inclusion for future registrations.

Hope this helps.

Cheers

Duncan

Attachment A

The background information changes the building date to 1951, but the citation still refers to 1947. Which is correct?

Description... delete the “of” at the end of the second sentence.

Check this sentence in the Description... seem to be too many “and” with perhaps the need of a comma instead...

Detailing including horizontally emphasized hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings and spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail capping the parapets

End of Description... I think it should be complimentary not complementary development. There is also one complementary I spotted in Attachment C.

Given the description, I am a bit worried that this will be a recipe for façadism. Maybe refer at the end to...

The rest of the physical material of the place, e.g. the extension and vehicular access as well as **non-original interiors/fabric**, are not considered to be significant heritage features.

Not to hold up this matter (ie. proceed with this registration), but I would like a general discussion at some later stage about the merits of referencing the numbers of supporting and opposing submissions. Not sure I generally agree with such an approach.

Criterion (h)... I suspect it should be the Department of Works and Housing, not Department for Works etc. This occurs twice.

Also... suggest design and documentation, not design and drawings.

Attachment B

The new text on page 2 refers to Manuka PO happening in the late 1950s, yet on page 3 the date of 1963 is given?

The table on page 2 still has the building date of 1947.

Page 4... refers to the Department of the Interior’s Department of Works and Housing... which does not sound right. A Department within a Department?

Page 5... no brief summary statement about the condition and integrity of the interiors? See the text at page 9 of Attachment C, perhaps.

Attachment C

Various pages... discussion of/response to criterion (e)... I am not fully comfortable with this response for several reasons...

While the Council, certain community groups and many others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated that the aesthetic characteristics are valued rather than just appreciated, i.e. evidence that the

community would give something up (like money, time or other facilities) in order to keep or use those aesthetic qualities. The current tenants complimentary fitout goes some way to show this, but cannot be demonstrated to extend to the wider ACT community.

I suggest something like this instead...

While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.

Page 11... CDHS suggests the KPO could meet criterion (b)... as it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office in the ACT. I don't think this particular aspect was considered in the documentation or Council deliberations, and it seems to have some merit. Is there a view on this specific claim?

From: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Sent: Monday, 30 October 2023 5:28 PM
To: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Alistair Henschman; Kate Clark; Douglas Williams; Rachael O'Neill
Cc: Hekimian, Richard; Jeffress, Stuart
Subject: RE: Kingston PO
Attachments: Attachment A- Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf; Attachment B - Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf; Attachment C - Former Kingston Post Office - Consultation Summary_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf

OFFICIAL

Hello Council Members,

In response to Duncan's comments on the draft consultation report, the associated Attachments A, B and C have been amended (as attached).

Regarding Duncan's queries about whether the KPO could meet Criterion b, the KPO does fulfill the basic test for this criteria:

- **Must have a clear association with the ACT's cultural history** – YES, as detailed under criterion (a) it has had an important role in the post-war development of the ACT
- **The association of the place/object to the aspect of history must be evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history** – YES, its design is representative of smaller government buildings of the time and can be seen in its documented history as per criterion (a)

However, it is less clear whether or not there is an **aspect** of the place that fulfills the threshold that the place is uncommon, rare or endangered in the history of the ACT. When determining the aspect of history that is represented, it should be noted that the place must *have* the aspect in question (hence the criterion starting with the word "has" and the policy referring to integrity, etc.) – it cannot be a previous role or something that is not actually evident, such as non-extant features or an activity that used to happen there. Therefore, it is the role of Council to establish and justify what you consider to be the appropriate aspect that meets this criterion. In relation to the Kingston post office, it could potentially be as a government building, stripped classical design, or post-war stand-alone post office, etc. Given enough qualifiers every place would meet this criterion or if there was too broad a category none would meet the criterion. With this in mind, and as a way of responding to several public consultation submissions, we are recommending the following modifications to the wording of the assessment under criterion (b):

"The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT's cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office building,

among others; however, the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity.”

ACT Heritage can facilitate further consideration of Criterion b, if that is what Council would prefer. However, to do so the Council will need to seek an extension on the period of Provisional Registration. An extension will allow another three months for a Final decision to be made but will, under s.35 of the Heritage Act, require that Council inform all Interested persons that the Council is seeking an extension and that the Council gives the Minister written notice (an extension notice) which the Minister does not then oppose.

Whether or not it is decided that the place meets Criterion b will not change the recommendation to include the Former Kingston Post Office on the Heritage Register, as a place need only meet one criterion to be considered for inclusion.

Until now, five Council members have replied in support of the Public Consultation report proceeding with a view to a decision in support of Final Registration at the HCM on 5 December 2023. This number represents a quorum of Council Members so, unless you advise that your decision has changed in response to the contents of this e-mail to the extent that we no longer have a quorum of support, we will progress the report to the Minister on Wednesday this week (1 November).

Kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/Director, Registrations and Engagement

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From: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:48 PM

To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Catherine Skippington [REDACTED]; David Hobbes [REDACTED]; Alanna King [REDACTED]; Alistair Henchman [REDACTED]; Kate Clark [REDACTED]; Douglas Williams [REDACTED]; Rachael O'Neill [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>

Cc: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]

Subject: Kingston PO

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While the Council, certain community groups and many others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated that the aesthetic characteristics are valued rather than just appreciated, i.e. evidence that the community would give something up (like money, time or other facilities) in order to keep or use those aesthetic qualities. The current tenants complimentary fitout goes some way to show this, but cannot be demonstrated to extend to the wider ACT community.

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From: Hekimian, Richard
Sent: Monday, 30 October 2023 11:49 AM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Subject: RE: Kingston PO

Its not in the background, just changed in the assessment part – adding it to the background would be a discussion if we wanted to add it there as a more detailed consultation report (maybe an appendix?)

Also, the use of “complement” is correct rather than “compliment”?

Otherwise, just expanding the response to criterion (b) which admittedly is pretty light on in the assessment section.

Cheers

Richard Hekimian | Registrations Manager | ACT Heritage
Phone 02 6207 8538 | heritage@act.gov.au | Access Canberra switchboard 13 22 81 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
ACT Heritage | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | **ACT Government**
Working remotely, otherwise at Naas Neighbourhood, Level 2, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson.



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From: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:52 AM
To: Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Kingston PO

Yes – I this removes the numbers for and against that he was questioning. Does this need to be changed in the assessment and the background document?

I agree that we should discuss the format and contents of the response at a later date.

Kind regards,

Mary Clare

From: Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:47 AM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Kingston PO

Noting Duncan's comment about adding info about the consultation to the decision – how about this (and maybe talk to them about adding a more informative consultation report to the background at a later meeting?):

- information and comments received during the public consultation period under s37 of the Act on the provisional registration of Former Kingston Post Office, consisting of 27 submissions. Council considered all submissions in their original format and decided to register the Former Kingston Post Office with minor amendments based on those submissions.

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From: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 10:04 AM
To: Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Kingston PO

Yes – I agree that changing criterion b would require an extension. Is there a simple answer we can give in response to whether we think it would meet threshold based on previous discussions/ documentation?

It only needs to meet one criterion to be included on the Heritage Register, so we may need to sound out the Heritage Council as to whether they think that consideration of this criterion is important enough to delay the decision. I will set-out the options in a reply e-mail to Council when we recirculate the amendments Duncan has requested.

Kind regards,
Mary Clare

From: Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:35 AM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Kingston PO

Except the issue of criterion (b) – if they really want to reconsider it, then we would probably need an extension.

Do you want to try and clear that up with Duncan in the first instance? Is it just that its not covered in the assessment (then its an easy enough fix to expand on the existing entry), or does he think it could be met and there is a possibility of adding another criteria to the reasons for registration (which would need a decision from Council and possibly an extension to fit it in and maybe then offering people the opportunity to comment again as part of the extension?).

Cheers

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From: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 9:15 AM
To: Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Kingston PO

Hi Richard,

I have quickly read these comments and think that they are relatively minor. Can you make the changes to the documents as requested? Do let me know if any of them amount to more than just a rewording of the sentences or minor corrections. I will then e-mail the revised copy to Duncan, cc-ing the rest of Council later this evening.

Kind regards,

MC

From: Duncan Marshall [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Catherine Skippington [redacted]; David Hobbes [redacted]; Alanna King [redacted]; Alistair Henchman [redacted]; Kate Clark [redacted]; Douglas Williams [redacted]; Rachael O'Neill [redacted]; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>
Cc: Duncan Marshall [redacted]
Subject: Kingston PO

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Dear Mary Clare

Thanks for the draft consultation report and attachments.

I do have a number of comments, as below...

Most of these comments are minor matters to tidy up, I think. The only more substantive issue relates to criterion (b), and whether it deserves reconsideration.

I also raise below a general issue, about giving the scorecard of support and opposition to registration. This does not need to be resolved now for Kingston, but I would like a general discussion at some stage about whether this is a wise inclusion for future registrations.

Hope this helps.

Cheers

Duncan

Attachment A

The background information changes the building date to 1951, but the citation still refers to 1947. Which is correct?

Description... delete the “of” at the end of the second sentence.

Check this sentence in the Description... seem to be too many “and” with perhaps the need of a comma instead...

Detailing including horizontally emphasized hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings and spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail capping the parapets

End of Description... I think it should be complimentary not complementary development. There is also one complementary I spotted in Attachment C.

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The rest of the physical material of the place, e.g. the extension and vehicular access as well as **non-original interiors/fabric**, are not considered to be significant heritage features.

Not to hold up this matter (ie. proceed with this registration), but I would like a general discussion at some later stage about the merits of referencing the numbers of supporting and opposing submissions. Not sure I generally agree with such an approach.

Criterion (h)... I suspect it should be the Department of Works and Housing, not Department for Works etc. This occurs twice.

Also... suggest design and documentation, not design and drawings.

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From: Rachael O'Neill <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 30 October 2023 10:16 AM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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Dear Mary Clare,

I agree with the proposal to register the building.

Regards

Rachael O'Neill
Director

<http://www.oneillconsulting.net.au/>

T [REDACTED]



O'NEILL CONSULTING

On 26 Oct 2023, at 5:51 pm, Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Dear Council Members,

Public consultation has concluded for the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office. In accordance with section 38 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the Council must provide the Minister with a report on public consultation (the Report).

The Report has now been drafted and recommends that the Council proceed to register the Former Kingston Post Office, with some changes to wording and description in the Registration and Background Documents. The proposed changes do not change the intent of the registration or the significant features but seek to clarify some elements where this was considered necessary. The Report, including attachments, has been added to this email for your review and to secure your agreement for it to progress to the Minister with the recommendation to proceed to registration.

This report must proceed to the Minister as quickly as possible to enable a final decision at the Heritage Council Meeting scheduled for 5 December 2023, which is the last scheduled meeting before the provisional registration period ends. The Act specifies that a decision on final registration must be made within 5 months of the provisional registration, or the Provisional Registration decision will lapse and the status of the place will revert to Nominated.

Once you have had time to read the Report please “reply all” and indicate by COB **Tuesday 31 October 2023** whether you are in agreement with the Report progressing with the recommendation of registration. If you do not reply this will be taken to be agreement that the report proceed to the Minister.

Thank you and kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/g Director, Registrations and Engagement

Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th

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<Council Report on Public Consultation for the Former Kingston Post Office.pdf><Attachment A- Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration.pdf><Attachment B - Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information.pdf><Attachment C - Former Kingston Post Office - Consultation Summary.pdf><Attachment D - Copies of written submissions.pdf>

From: David Hobbes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 11:28 AM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; Catherine Skipington; Alanna King; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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Hi Mary Clare,

I have read the Consultation Report and also the last couple of days correspondence with Duncan regarding Criterion b.

I am happy with the Consultation Report and also with your assessment re (b) so I support the report progressing with a recommendation to list on the basis of your most recent version.

Regards
David

On 26 Oct 2023, at 5:51 pm, Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

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Thank you and kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/g Director, Registrations and Engagement

Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th

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From: Catherine Skippington [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 October 2023 12:06 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Duncan Marshall; David Hobbes; Alanna King; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: PLEASE RESPOND - Public Consultation Report for Former Kingston Post Office

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Thanks Mary Clare

I support the report, and agree to proceed to registration.

Regards

Cathy

Catherine Skippington

Executive Consultant [REDACTED] <https://www.linkedin.com/in/cathyskippington>

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

On Thu, Oct 26, 2023 at 5:51 PM, Maryclare Swetekelly <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

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Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th

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From: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 November 2023 9:10 AM
To: Jeffress, Stuart
Cc: Swetekelly, Maryclare; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Alistair Henchman; Kate Clark; [REDACTED] Rachael O'Neill; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: Kingston PO

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Hi Stu

Okay is probably not the right word... but I can accept this approach on this occasion.

It makes me wonder whether the programming of the general process needs to allow time if issues are raised by Council during the review of consultation reports, even if that means amending the statutory timeframe for provisional registration. The review is hammering the issue of governance and if this process is already too compressed, then we should seek to fix it.

Cheers

Duncan

On 1 Nov 2023, at 3:41 pm, Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Duncan

The Brief is progressing quickly on this one as we need to get this to the Minister to make the December Council meeting.

Considering this, I suggest we keep the Brief moving 'as is' even though I think the minor change you suggest would have been an improvement. I see that delaying the brief create other risks for us.

Are you ok with this approach?

Stu

From: Duncan Marshall [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Cc: Catherine Skippington [redacted]; David Hobbes [redacted]; Alanna King [redacted];
Alistair Henchman [redacted]; Kate Clark [redacted]; [redacted] Rachael O'Neill
[redacted]; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Kingston PO

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Hi Mary Clare

Thanks for all of this... and I appreciate the problem of raising issues in the rather difficult timeframe imposed on the consultation report process.

I apologise for not responding till now, and you may well have already sent the report off to the Minister.

If not, then I would suggest amending the new para below as follows...

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT's cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office building, among others; however, ~~the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity~~ Council did not find sufficient evidence to support this criterion.

Cheers

D

On 30 Oct 2023, at 3:28 pm, Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hello Council Members,

In response to Duncan's comments on the draft consultation report, the associated Attachments A, B and C have been amended (as attached).

Regarding Duncan's queries about whether the KPO could meet Criterion b, the KPO does fulfill the basic test for this criteria:

- **Must have a clear association with the ACT's cultural history** – YES, as detailed under criterion (a) it has had an important role in the post-war development of the ACT
- **The association of the place/object to the aspect of history must be evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history** – YES, its design is representative of smaller government buildings of the time and can be seen in its documented history as per criterion (a)

However, it is less clear whether or not there is an **aspect** of the place that fulfills the threshold that the place is uncommon, rare or endangered in the history of the ACT. When determining the aspect of history that is represented, it should be noted that the place *must have* the aspect in question (hence the criterion starting with the word "has" and the policy referring to integrity, etc.) – it cannot be a previous role or something that is not actually evident, such as non-extant features or an activity that used to happen there. Therefore, it is the role of Council to establish and justify what you consider to be the appropriate aspect that meets this criterion. In relation to the Kingston post office, it could potentially be as a government building, stripped classical design, or post-war stand-alone post office, etc. Given enough qualifiers every place would meet this criterion or if there was too broad a category none would meet the criterion. With this in mind, and as a way of responding to several public consultation submissions, we are recommending the following modifications to the wording of the assessment under criterion (b):

"The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT's cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office

building, among others; however, the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity.”

ACT Heritage can facilitate further consideration of Criterion b, if that is what Council would prefer. However, to do so the Council will need to seek an extension on the period of Provisional Registration. An extension will allow another three months for a Final decision to be made but will, under s.35 of the Heritage Act, require that Council inform all Interested persons that the Council is seeking an extension and that the Council gives the Minister written notice (an extension notice) which the Minister does not then oppose.

Whether or not it is decided that the place meets Criterion b will not change the recommendation to include the Former Kingston Post Office on the Heritage Register, as a place need only meet one criterion to be considered for inclusion.

Until now, five Council members have replied in support of the Public Consultation report proceeding with a view to a decision in support of Final Registration at the HCM on 5 December 2023. This number represents a quorum of Council Members so, unless you advise that your decision has changed in response to the contents of this e-mail to the extent that we no longer have a quorum of support, we will progress the report to the Minister on Wednesday this week (1 November).

Kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/Director, Registrations and Engagement

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From: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:48 PM

To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Catherine Skippington

[REDACTED]; David Hobbes [REDACTED]; Alanna King [REDACTED]; Alistair

Henchman [REDACTED]; Kate Clark [REDACTED]; Douglas Williams [REDACTED];

Rachael O'Neill [REDACTED]; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>

Cc: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]

Subject: Kingston PO

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<Attachment A- Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf><Attachment B - Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf><Attachment C - Former Kingston Post Office - Consultation Summary_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf>

From: Duncan Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 2 November 2023 10:43 AM
To: Alistair Henschman
Cc: Jeffress, Stuart; Swetekelly, Maryclare; Catherine Skippington; David Hobbes; Alanna King; Kate Clark; [REDACTED]; Rachael O'Neill; Hekimian, Richard
Subject: Re: Kingston PO

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Thanks Alistair.

I guess that issues being raised during the consultation process might be uncommon, and the quick approval process would normally work in such cases. But the process is not designed around the possibility that there may be issues, or at least, it is a messier process.

As for whether this is a matter for taskforce or Council... again a question of timing perhaps... as to insert the taskforce again would involve another step and more time.

Cheers

D

On 2 Nov 2023, at 8:05 am, Alistair Henschman | Saje Consulting [REDACTED] wrote:

Duncan - I agree - and *ideally* wouldn't these details about wording be sorted at the Taskforce level?

Alistair

On 2 Nov 2023, at 8:40 am, Duncan Marshall [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Stu

Okay is probably not the right word... but I can accept this approach on this occasion.

It makes me wonder whether the programming of the general process needs to allow time if issues are raised by Council during the review of consultation reports, even if that means amending the statutory timeframe for provisional registration. The review is hammering the issue of governance and if this process is already too compressed, then we should seek to fix it.

Cheers

Duncan

On 1 Nov 2023, at 3:41 pm, Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Duncan

The Brief is progressing quickly on this one as we need to get this to the Minister to make the December Council meeting.

Considering this, I suggest we keep the Brief moving 'as is' even though I think the minor change you suggest would have been an improvement. I see that delaying the brief create other risks for us.

Are you ok with this approach?

Stu

From: Duncan Marshall [redacted] >
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Cc: Catherine Skippington [redacted]; David Hobbes [redacted]; Alanna King [redacted]; Alistair Henchman [redacted]; Kate Clark [redacted]; Rachael O'Neill <[redacted]>; Hekimian, [redacted]

Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Jeffress, Stuart <Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Kingston PO

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Hi Mary Clare

Thanks for all of this... and I appreciate the problem of raising issues in the rather difficult timeframe imposed on the consultation report process.

I apologise for not responding till now, and you may well have already sent the report off to the Minister.

If not, then I would suggest amending the new para below as follows...

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT's cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office building, among others; however, ~~the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity~~ **Council did not find sufficient evidence to support this criterion.**

Cheers

D

On 30 Oct 2023, at 3:28 pm, Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hello Council Members,

In response to Duncan's comments on the draft consultation report, the associated Attachments A, B and C have been amended (as attached).

Regarding Duncan's queries about whether the KPO could meet Criterion b, the KPO does fulfill the basic test for this criteria:

- **Must have a clear association with the ACT's cultural history** – YES, as detailed under criterion (a) it has had an important role in the post-war development of the ACT
- **The association of the place/object to the aspect of history must be evident in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history** – YES, its design is representative of smaller government buildings of the time and can be seen in its documented history as per criterion (a)

However, it is less clear whether or not there is an **aspect** of the place that fulfills the threshold that the place is uncommon, rare or endangered in the history of the ACT. When determining the aspect of history that is represented, it should be noted that the place must *have* the aspect in question (hence the criterion starting with the word "has" and the policy referring to integrity, etc.) – it cannot be a previous role or something that is not actually evident, such as non-extant features or an activity that used to happen there. Therefore, it is the role of Council to establish and justify what you consider to be the appropriate aspect that meets this criterion. In relation to the Kingston post office, it could potentially be as a government building, stripped classical design, or post-war stand-alone post office, etc. Given enough qualifiers every place would meet this criterion or if there was too broad a category none would meet the criterion. With this in mind, and as a way of responding to several public consultation submissions, we are recommending the following modifications to the wording of the assessment under criterion (b):

"The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT's cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office building, among others; however, the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity."

ACT Heritage can facilitate further consideration of Criterion b, if that is what Council would prefer. However, to do so the Council will need to seek an extension on the period of Provisional Registration. An extension will allow another three months for a Final decision to be made but will, under s.35 of the Heritage Act, require that Council inform all Interested persons that the Council is seeking an extension and that the Council gives the Minister written notice (an extension notice) which the Minister does not then oppose.

Whether or not it is decided that the place meets Criterion b will not change the recommendation to include the Former Kingston Post Office on the Heritage Register, as a place need only meet one criterion to be considered for inclusion.

Until now, five Council members have replied in support of the Public Consultation report proceeding with a view to a decision in support of Final Registration at the HCM on 5 December 2023. This number represents a quorum of Council Members so, unless you advise that your decision has changed in response to the contents of this e-mail to the extent that we no longer have a quorum of support, we will progress the report to the Minister on Wednesday this week (1 November).

Kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/Director, Registrations and Engagement
Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th
ACT Heritage | heritage@act.gov.au | Access Canberra switchboard 13 22 81
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | **ACT Government**
480 Northbourne Avenue | Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601
www.environment.act.gov.au

<image001.png>[@EnvironPlan](#) <image002.png> facebook.com/EnvironPlan

From: Duncan Marshall [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2023 1:48 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>; Catherine Skippington [redacted]; David Hobbes [redacted]; Alanna King [redacted]; Alistair Henchman [redacted]; Kate Clark [redacted]; Douglas Williams

[redacted]; Rachael O'Neill [redacted]; Jeffress, Stuart
<Stuart.Jeffress@act.gov.au>
Cc: Duncan Marshall [redacted]
Subject: Kingston PO

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Dear Mary Clare

Thanks for the draft consultation report and attachments.

I do have a number of comments, as below...

Most of these comments are minor matters to tidy up, I think. The only more substantive issue relates to criterion (b), and whether it deserves reconsideration.

I also raise below a general issue, about giving the scorecard of support and opposition to registration. This does not need to be resolved now for Kingston, but I would like a general discussion at some stage about whether this is a wise inclusion for future registrations.

Hope this helps.

Cheers

Duncan

Attachment A

The background information changes the building date to 1951, but the citation still refers to 1947. Which is correct?

Description... delete the "of" at the end of the second sentence.

Check this sentence in the Description... seem to be too many "and" with perhaps the need of a comma instead...

Detailing including horizontally emphasized hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings and spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail capping the parapets

End of Description... I think it should be complimentary not complementary development. There is also one complementary I spotted in Attachment C.

Given the description, I am a bit worried that this will be a recipe for façadism. Maybe refer at the end to...

The rest of the physical material of the place, e.g. the extension and vehicular access as well as **non-original** interiors/**fabric**, are not considered to be significant heritage features.

Not to hold up this matter (ie. proceed with this registration), but I would like a general discussion at some later stage about the merits of referencing the numbers of supporting and opposing submissions. Not sure I generally agree with such an approach.

Criterion (h)... I suspect it should be the Department of Works and Housing, not Department for Works etc. This occurs twice.

Also... suggest design and documentation, not design and drawings.

Attachment B

The new text on page 2 refers to Manuka PO happening in the late 1950s, yet on page 3 the date of 1963 is given?

The table on page 2 still has the building date of 1947.

Page 4... refers to the Department of the Interior's Department of Works and Housing... which does not sound right. A Department within a Department?

Page 5... no brief summary statement about the condition and integrity of the interiors? See the text at page 9 of Attachment C, perhaps.

Attachment C

Various pages... discussion of/response to criterion (e)... I am not fully comfortable with this response for several reasons...

While the Council, certain community groups and many others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated that the aesthetic characteristics are valued rather than just appreciated, i.e. evidence that the community would give something up (like money, time or other facilities) in order to keep or use those aesthetic qualities. The current tenants complimentary fitout goes some way to show this, but cannot be demonstrated to extend to the wider ACT community.

I suggest something like this instead...

While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.

Page 11... CDHS suggests the KPO could meet criterion (b)... as it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office in the ACT. I don't think this particular aspect was considered in the documentation or Council deliberations, and it seems to have some merit. Is there a view on this specific claim?

This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

<Attachment A- Former Kingston Post Office - Provisional Registration_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf><Attachment B - Former Kingston Post Office - Background Information_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf><Attachment C - Former Kingston Post Office - Consultation Summary_with further amendments 30 Oct.pdf>

From: EPSD Government Services
Sent: Tuesday, 5 December 2023 4:51 PM
To: Swetekelly, Maryclare
Cc: Chaston, Daisy; Hekimian, Richard; EPSD Government Services
Subject: LODGED: Heritage Council Decision to be notified - Registration of Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Attachments: Former Kingston Post Office -NI2023-801 Registration.obr

Categories: Instruments

OFFICIAL

Hi Mary Clare

The instrument has been lodged with the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) and will appear on the [Legislative Register](#) on Thursday.

The Instrument is registered as NI2023-801.

Kind Regards

Cara Weekes | Assistant Cabinet Liaison Officer

Email: EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 4 (Snow Gum), 480 Northbourne Ave, DICKSON

From: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 4:29 PM
To: EPSD Government Services <EPSDGovernmentServices@act.gov.au>
Cc: Chaston, Daisy <Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au>; Hekimian, Richard <Richard.Hekimian@act.gov.au>
Subject: Heritage Council Decision to be notified - Registration of Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston

OFFICIAL

Hello Government Services

Please be advised that at today's Heritage Council meeting the following notifiable decision was made:

- Decision about Registration of Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston.

The links to the Notifiable Instrument (NI) files are attached. In the associated files you will find:

- Word version of NI; and
- Signed pdf version of NI.

Also attached, is an e-mail that demonstrates:

- NI clearance from Legal Policy and Integrity.

Under the *Heritage Act 2004*, a notice must be notified within 5 working days after the day the decision is made.

Please arrange notification on the Legislation Register by no later than Tuesday, 12 December 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Mary Clare

Dr Mary Clare Swete Kelly | A/Director, Registrations and Engagement

Hours: 8:45-15:15 M, W, F; 9:00-14:30, 16:00-17:00 Tu, Th

ACT Heritage | heritage@act.gov.au | Access Canberra switchboard 13 22 81

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | **ACT Government**

480 Northbourne Avenue | Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601



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ACT Heritage Council

Contact Officer: *Richard Hekimian*

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for Heritage
ACT Legislative Assembly
London Circuit
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2600

Dear Minister Vassarotti

Report by the ACT Heritage Council on the public consultation in relation to the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston

Under section 38 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act), the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) hereby provides a written report on the public consultation in relation to the provisional registration of Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston.

On 16 August 2023 the Council provisionally registered Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston.

In accordance with the Act details of the provisional registration were:

- notified under the Act within five working days of the decision being made;
- notified on the ACT Government Information Portal on 12 October 2023; and
- sent to all interested persons as defined under section 13 of the Act.

Public consultation included a dedicated page, including the notification and a feedback form, on the ACT Government's Your Say website, which was made active on 18 August 2023.

Public consultation was undertaken for a four week period.

27 submissions were received during the public consultation period (32 submissions, counting repeat or subsequent submissions by the same person). 17 submissions were received in support of provisional registration. One submission was received providing conditional support for provisional registration. Nine submissions were received that did not support provisional registration. 18 submissions were received via the ACT Government's Your Say website and 14 were sent in via email.


Under section 38 of the Act, as soon as practical after the end of the public consultation period in relation to the registration of a place or object, the Council must give you a written report that:

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (a) | identifies the place or object; | Draft Register entry at <u>Attachment A</u>. |
| (b) | gives the Council's view as to whether the place or object should be registered under this division; | The Council is of the view that the place should be registered. |
| (c) | identifies issues raised in comments made to the Council before the end of the public consultation period; | 27 submissions were received, see <u>Attachment C</u>. |
| (d) | includes a copy of the written comments (if any); and | 27 submissions were received, see <u>Attachment D</u>. |
| (e) | identifies any other change the Council proposes to make to the registration having regard to the issues raised in the comments. | Changes have been made to the provisional registration following public consultation. These changes are in tracked changes at <u>Attachment A</u> and the Background Information at <u>Attachment B</u>. |

The Council is of the view that the place should be registered as indicated in Attachment A.

Should you wish to direct the Council to give further consideration to any issues raised in this report, the Council would appreciate receiving your direction in the near future, to enable it to make a registration decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Richard Hekimian
A/Manger (Registrations) ACT Heritage (as delegate for)
ACT HERITAGE COUNCIL
2 November 2023

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

In accordance with s37 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (the Act), the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) conducted a four-week period of public consultation, from 18 August 2023 to 14 September 2023. The Council must consider any comments made to it before the end of the public consultation period.

27 submissions were received during the public consultation period (32 submissions, counting repeat or subsequent submissions).

17 submissions were received in support of provisional registration. One submission was received providing conditional support for provisional registration. Nine submissions were received that did not support provisional registration.

18 submissions were received via the ACT Government’s Your Say website and 14 were submitted via email.

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
1	[REDACTED] YourSay 14 September 2023	No	<p>Listed attributes aren’t linked to claimed significance as aesthetic values are not considered significant.</p> <p>Listing the size and scale of the building limits the site’s future potential.</p> <p>It was not the first post office, so why is it considered significant?</p>	<p>The features described are the things that make the place distinctive, allow it to be physically associated with a time in the ACT’s history, show the higher quality build and permanence that show its importance in the Post Master General’s outlook for the capital and are the basis of subsequent planning requirements for other institutional buildings along Jardine Street – all things that are a part of the significance of the place.</p> <p>The size and scale are important elements for the heritage significance of the place as outlined in the decision. Rather than limiting development opportunities, the Council sees that inclusion of size and scale will allow for complimentary development that respects the heritage significance of the place.</p> <p>The first or last of a place does not necessarily establish importance, as defined in the <i>Council’s Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i> (the Policy) – The Former Kingston Post Office is significant for making an important contribution to the</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>The role of the Post Office supporting business is conjecture and supposition and “...it fails show how the Post Office Building delivered this role by referencing particular events, cultural groups or historical personalities.”</p> <p>“Were the Former Kingston Post Office to be listed as a heritage site this would significantly alter the potential uses of the site and the potential it has to contribute to the vibrancy and liveability of the Kingston area.”</p> <p>Concerned about the implication of heritage listing on the ongoing housing crisis.</p>	<p>history and development of the ACT.</p> <p>The heritage significance of a place for inclusion on the Heritage Register is governed by criteria in the Act and thresholds established in the Policy. Based on these documents, the importance of a place does not necessarily related to “particular events, cultural groups or historical personalities,” although aspects of these are considered within some criteria. In the case of the KPO, the place is an essential service that was chosen above other places (e.g. Manuka or the City) and informed subsequent planning of the Jardine Street banking and commercial row and was relied upon by businesses in Kingston and Manuka in a time when postal services were crucial to businesses and a physical presence was much more important than it is today.</p> <p>The Council considers that the appropriate inclusion of heritage may enhance may increase the vibrancy and livability of the Kingston area. Heritage listing does not freeze a place in time, but allows for change and further development that is compatible with the heritage significance of the place. Heritage values add to the livability and vibrancy of places by adding character and are often an important part of how an area came to be desirable in the first place (as per the ACT Planning Strategy).</p> <p>Heritage listing does not prevent development. It can lead to higher quality designs and by retaining materials and their embodied energy, make an important contribution to sustainable development.</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
2	<p>[REDACTED] Email 14 September 2023</p> <p>Additional submission via YourSay 23 September 2023</p>	Yes	<p>It is a significant building that has aesthetic value as an integral part of the Kingston community to maintain the “village” feel of the area.</p> <p>It should meet criterion (b) as it is considered to be a classical building of significant architectural importance making it uncommon, rare or endangered.</p> <p>The submitter noted disagreement with, but did not make any specific comments on, each of the criteria that the Council indicated that the place did not meet.</p> <p>They are the current tenants of the building on a long term lease and have renovated and refurbished the place in a way appropriate to its heritage significance.</p>	<p>This is captured in criterion (a) and the contribution of the place to later planning along Jardine Street. The heritage significance in the broader area will also be assessed under the Kingston Shopping Precinct and Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row nominations.</p> <p>The Council does not consider the place to meet criterion b. Careful consideration was given to the class of place the Former Kingston Post Office represents. The Council considered it as three separate classes of place: as a post office, a stripped classical building, and as a government building. Under none of these classes did the Council consider the place to meet thresholds relating to criterion b.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
3	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 13 September 2023</p>	Yes	<p>Concerned about adjacent development being too tall, noting that anything over three stories should be considered inappropriate.</p>	<p>Noted. However, the Council only has limited control on development within a reasonable boundary that contains the heritage significance of the place; in this instance, that was considered to be contained to the block. Council will also consider the issue of size and scaling when it assesses the neighbouring Kingston Shopping Precinct and the Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row. Additionally, the Council has previously supplied comments on development</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>One of the few historic buildings left in the area and must be protected.</p> <p>It should meet criterion (e) as place has aesthetic value as the, "...building definitely exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics, not evident elsewhere in the Kingston precinct."</p> <p>It has a special association with the community under criterion (g) as, "...the Post Office served as an important hub to the Kingston community. A walk along Jardine Street reminds you of the importance of community and village. The Post office building has and is central to that."</p>	<p>on the north neighbouring block.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the role the Former Kingston Post Office has had with the local community, but it cannot be demonstrated that this applies to the wider ACT community as required to meet the thresholds for inclusion under criterion g.</p>
4	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>YourSay 2 September 2023</p>	Partial support	<p>Would like to register the façade only as it is unfair to people who want affordable housing in Kingston to limit what could be developed.</p>	<p>The preservation of the façade in isolation from the rest of the building would not reflect current best practice in the heritage field. The retention of the facade in isolation would neglect the buildings context and forgo an holistic approach to managing this historic place.</p> <p>Registering the place does not inhibit affordable housing in Kingston. This building is currently used as a commercial property. Inclusion on the Heritage Register does not preclude future changes in usage, should a change be proposed the Heritage Council would review the proposed development to see that the heritage significance is retained.</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
5	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 28 August 2023</p>	No	<p>There are plenty of similar buildings and this one is not special.</p> <p>Don't want listing to impede operations of the building (e.g. removing letterboxes or window advertising).</p> <p>Does not consider the Post Office to any more or less important than butchers or bakers.</p> <p>"It is ironic that this building was a functional business providing for the economy and now we want to limit its potential future in Kingston, preventing it from renovating and evolving to serve the people in a different way."</p> <p>Listing will harm the potential of Kingston to evolve.</p>	<p>The assessment against the criteria and the detailed history in the background demonstrate the heritage significance of this place as compared to potentially similar localities.</p> <p>Heritage listing is based on the current state of a place and cannot force it to return to a given point in time, nor can it be used to force a certain use on a place. Council supports the continued use of the place and will work with the owners to ensure it remains viable into the future.</p> <p>For inclusion on the Heritage Register, each place is individually assessed by the Council to demonstrate that it meets at least one of the criteria defined in the Act. Inclusion of one place does not preclude any other place from being registered if it also meets criterion. Butchers and bakers may also have heritage significance, e.g. the registered Coggan's Bakery in Braddon.</p> <p>Recognising the heritage significance of this place will allow for the retention of an important aspect of the ACT's history, while also allowing further development that allows heritage places to remain lively and viable.</p> <p>Heritage places add character and contribute to the livability of the ACT while also allowing development. This approach can be seen in examples such as the Melbourne and Sydney Buildings in Civic.</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			Who knows what value future residents will value.	The preservation of significant heritage conserves places of value for the future. Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that values may change and there are provisions for review in the Act.
6	[REDACTED] YourSay 27 August 2023	No	It may negatively affect improvements to the place that may benefit local citizens. Its just an old post office with no unique architectural significance. There are more pressing needs for development than preventing future change for heritage.	Preserving heritage is of benefit to local citizens, adding character and contributing to livability while allowing development. The assessment against the criteria and the detailed history in the background demonstrate heritage significance. These are not incompatible and heritage listing allows for complementary development.
7	[REDACTED] YourSay 27 August 2023	No	No comments made.	Noted.
8	Anonymous YourSay 27 August 2023	Yes	Approves of boundary protecting context, not just the building. "Actually the first post office built in all of Australia, post-war not just Canberra." "Excellent amount of information. Great to see the new Heritage Council doing good things."	Noted. The Background Document notes that it was the first permanent post office building from the NSW Post Master General following WWII, but expanding on this historical aspect was not considered necessary for demonstrating heritage significance. Noted.

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
9	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 27 August 2023</p>	No	<p>Nothing worth considering for protection.</p> <p>“There is no significance to the ACT's economic or cultural history. The post office used for administrative matters only because it was necessary to do so for a limited amount of time for a small proportion of the population.”</p>	<p>The assessment against the criteria and the detailed history in the background demonstrate heritage significance.</p> <p>This statement does not take into consideration the much greater catchment of the Former Kingston Post Office in the past and the importance at that time of postal services for business and social activity. Both these aspects mean that the place was important to the course and pattern of the ACT's history beyond what may be considered the more local importance of this place today.</p>
10	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 26 August 2023</p>	Yes	<p>“For the reasons outlined under criterion 1 above, the Post Office building should be retained as representative of a style and scale suitable for preservation of Kingston's unique character”</p>	Noted
11	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 25 August 2023</p>	No	<p>Its an ugly, functional building and never intended to be a permanent feature.</p> <p>“Every heritage listing burdens future generations and this building is not worth imposing the burden” and “We should not burden future generations with buildings that are neither beautiful or useful, or historic in any meaningful sense.”</p>	<p>As outlined in the Background Document, the places continued use, its design and the construction materials demonstrate that it was a significant and permanent building. Aesthetics are not a specific aspect of the heritage significance of this place.</p> <p>The purpose of the Heritage Register is to preserve those places and objects of demonstrable importance to the ACT for the benefit of future generations. Heritage places add character and contribute to the livability of the ACT while also permitting developments that are compatible with the continued preservation of the heritage significance.</p>

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
12	[REDACTED] YourSay 25 August 2023	Yes	"I fully support listing of the post office, the history attached to the building is important to keep alive. We are still a new city and will remain so if we don't respect and protect our past."	Noted
13	[REDACTED] YourSay 24 August 2023	Yes	"Important part of Canberra and Kingston heritage. Will keep Kingston history relevant whilst modern apartments Built"	Noted
14	Anonymous YourSay 23 August 2023	Yes	No comments made	Noted
15	[REDACTED] YourSay 23 August 2023	Yes	"It is essential to our descendants to be able to see and experience aspects of 20th century culture. Post offices will probably not exist in the future, and an historically important one such as this must be saved."	Noted
16	[REDACTED] YourSay 22 August 2023	No	"can't support heritage registration without knowing the effect of such registration. For example, would registration rule out: - retaining the existing building as the ground floor of a multi-story building? - building a multistory building on the remainder of the site?"	Inclusion on the Heritage Register ensures protection of the listed significant features of place in accordance with the Act. Any proposed changes to the place would be evaluated by the Council in accordance with their impact on the significant features. Retention of the existing building as the ground floor of a larger development would detrimentally impact upon the identified significant features, particularly the scale and massing, and adversely impact on the original materials. Inclusion of this place on the Heritage Register does not prohibit the development of a multistory building elsewhere

**Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Summary of Public Consultation Responses**

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>This is an important site in Kingston and should be available for, in particular, residential use, the benefits of which have been clearly demonstrated by the commercial and residential development on the former carpark on the corner of Jardine and Eyre streets.”</p>	<p>on the site. A sympathetic design that preserves the scale and massing of the original building could potentially allow for higher and denser development on the rest of the block.</p> <p>Registration does not limit the current or future use of the place as, long as the identified significant features are retained. It is currently tenanted by a realtor and previously by medical suites after Australia Post moved its operations to the extension.</p>
17	<p>[REDACTED] YourSay 21 August 2023</p>	Yes	<p>Agree with the boundary and external features listed, but suggests that internal features should also be included for protection.</p> <p>Suggests it should meet criterion (d) as it is beautiful and needs protection.</p> <p>Suggests it should meet criterion (e) for its aesthetic values because, “I have always loved this building for its architecture. I feel it is a valued part of the Kingston precinct's cultural heritage and holds so many memories from the community”</p> <p>Suggests criterion (f) is met because, “This is beautiful design that created a standard for the area.”</p>	<p>The Council considered that the internal features are no longer original or representative of its previous use as a post office. Therefore, these features do not relate to the heritage significance of the place.</p> <p>While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.</p> <p>It is a building that is representative of its time, but it was not at the forefront of design or creating something new. It was a conservative design to show stability and permanency as befitting its station.</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>Suggests it should meet criterion (g) for a special association with the community, noting: "I really love this building and appreciate it regularly on my walks of the area. I feel that it is a loving memory of the community that grew up and built Kingston. This has always been a well-used building when it was a post office and would have a lot of significance for the community that has come and gone."</p> <p>Suggest it should meet criterion (h) for its association with the NCDC.</p>	<p>The Council is aware of the role the Former Kingston Post Office has had with the local community, but it cannot be demonstrated that this applies to the wider ACT community as required to meet the thresholds for inclusion under criterion g.</p> <p>The Council does not consider that the place meets criterion h. The place is associated with the NCPDC (prior to the NCDC being established), but there is no evidence that the association is special or any more than a part of their regular works program and standard functions.</p>
18	Anonymous YourSay 19 August 2023	Yes	No comments made	Noted.
19	Canberra & District Historical Society (CDHS) Email 1 September 2023 And an additional email 9 September 2023	Yes	<p>"The significance of the building is in the fine design supervised and approved by David Limburg, its history as part of the development of South Canberra and the role it played in delivery postal services after World War II."</p> <p>It was the first purpose-built post office building in the ACT.</p> <p>The Kingston Shopping Precinct was not the</p>	<p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the history of the ACT, not for its design or the people involved in its development. The contributions of D. G. Edward as draftsman, Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect/Principal Architect and David Limburg as Assistant Director will be noted in the updated assessment and background.</p> <p>Noted. This is covered in the assessment and background.</p> <p>Minor updates will be made to the assessment and</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>first shopping precinct developed as the blocks were sold on the same day as the Manuka shopping precinct blocks. Additionally, noting Thornhill’s shop on Bougainville Street was the first shop to be built and trading.</p> <p>The Post Office set the precedent for later buildings along Jardine Street and neighbouring buildings should be limited to two storeys.</p> <p>Should meet criterion (b) as it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office in the ACT. It does not matter that it is no longer a functioning post office for this criterion – for example compare against the Kingston Power House, Fitters Workshop or Former Transport Depot.</p>	<p>background to refer to the Kingston Shopping Precinct as the “premier shopping destination” as well as other references to dates and events to alleviate any misconceptions that may arise from the specific wording used. Also, the historical details are not unequivocal as to that date Thornhill had a shop in Manuka. The further research necessary to establish the historical detail was not considered necessary to establish the heritage significance of this place.</p> <p>The Council only has limited controls on development relating to the protection of identified heritage features within the boundaries of the heritage place. The boundary of this place was considered to be contained to the block.</p> <p>Council will also consider the issue of size and scaling when it assesses the assessment for Heritage Nominations for the neighbouring Kingston Shopping Precinct and the Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row. Additionally, the Council has previously supplied comments on development on the north neighbouring block.</p> <p>The Council does not consider the place to meet criterion b. Careful consideration was given to the class of place the Former Kingston Post Office represents. The Council considered it as three separate classes of place: as a post office, a stripped classical building, and as a government building. Under none of these classes did the Council consider the place to meet criterion b. Additionally, it is true that the place does not need to be functioning as a post office, but it would still need to have the features of a post office in its physical fabric to be able to be identified as such,</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>Criterion (e) could be met if greater effort to determine the community's views, noting various social media posts with positive engagement.</p> <p>Criterion (g) should be met as it is supported by several community groups and has a wider role than it previously has had.</p> <p>Criterion (h) should be met as the assessment fails to mention the work of David Edward Limburg in designing the Post Office. "He was appointed Assistant Director of Works in 1947 and would have at a minimum approved the design, if not had a hand in it and supervised the detailed work. It is acknowledged as one of Limburg's fine buildings in Canberra with others such as Albert Hall and Canberra Girls Grammar Boarding School" and the Council should</p>	<p>noting that the provided examples, the Kingston Power House, Fitters Workshop or Former Transport Depot, are all identifiable as having their former functions.</p> <p>While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.</p> <p>The Council is aware of the role the Former Kingston Post Office has had with the local community, but it cannot be demonstrated that this applies to the wider ACT community as required to meet the thresholds for inclusion under criterion g particularly given the changing context of its catchment compared to other parts of the ACT as it serves a smaller percentage of the community despite offering broader services.</p> <p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the history of the ACT, not for its design or the people involved in its development. The contributions of D. G. Edward as draftsman, Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect/Principal Architect and David Limburg as Assistant Director will be noted in the updated assessment and background., but there is no evidence that their association to the Former Kingston Post Office is special or any more than a part of their regular works program and standard functions.</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>further investigate his role in the design and construction of the Post Office.</p> <p>There is a continuation of service provision from the original post office to the new, almost seamless, extension, that creates an enduring presence.</p>	<p>The Council is aware of this and considered it during the assessment, but while acknowledging that its postal functions are not immediately evident in the physical material of the place, it was considered that only the original building has heritage significance.</p>
20	<p>Kingston & Barton Residents Group (KBRG) Email 9 September 2023</p>	Yes	<p>No neighbouring building should be allowed over two storeys high.</p> <p>Criterion (b) should be met as the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office building in the ACT</p>	<p>The Council only has limited controls on development relating to the protection of identified heritage features within the boundaries of the heritage place. The boundaries of this place, was considered to be contained to the block.</p> <p>Council will also consider the issue of size and scaling when it assesses the assessment for Heritage Nominations for the neighbouring Kingston Shopping Precinct and the Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row. Additionally, the Council has previously supplied comments on development on the north neighbouring block.</p> <p>The Council does not consider the place to meet criterion b. Careful consideration was given to the class of place the Former Kingston Post Office represents. The Council considered it as three separate classes of place: as a post office, a stripped classical building, and as a government building. Under none of these classes did the Council consider the place to meet criterion b. Additionally, it is true that the place does not need to be functioning as a post office, but it would still need to have the features of a post office in its physical fabric to be able to be identified as such, noting that the provided examples, the Kingston Power</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>Criterion (e) could be met if greater effort to determine the community's views, noting various social media posts with positive engagement.</p> <p>Criterion (h) should be met as the assessment fails to mention the work of David Edward Limburg in designing the Post Office as noted in the CDHS submission.</p>	<p>House, Fitters Workshop or Former Transport Depot, are all identifiable as having their former functions.</p> <p>While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.</p> <p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the history of the ACT, not for its design or the people involved in its development. The contributions of D. G. Edward as draftsman, Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect/Principal Architect and David Limburg as Assistant Director will be noted in the updated assessment and background., but there is no evidence that their association to the Former Kingston post Office is special or any more than a part of their regular works program and standard functions.</p>
21	<p>[REDACTED] Email 9 September 2023</p>	Yes	As per CDHS submission (submission #19)	As per CDHS submission (submission #19)
22	<p>Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) Email 11 September 2023</p>	Yes	<p>Notes agreement with CDHS and KBRG submissions.</p> <p>Specifically notes they would not support any proposal to just list the façade as the whole should be maintained.</p>	<p>As per CDHS (submission #19) and KBRG (submission #20) submissions.</p> <p>Supported. The preservation of facades in isolation is a poor heritage outcome that does not reflect heritage best practice as it only retains a thin veneer of significance, ignoring context and a holistic approach to managing historic places</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
23	Lovell Chen on behalf of Australia Post Email 11 September 2023	Yes	<p>Regarding the significant features of the place:</p> <p>“Ornamental metal windows”. As written, this implies the windows are ornamental, not functional. Is the intention to describe the windows as having no ornament and simple detailing? Suggest ‘Vertically arranged metal framed windows divided into horizontal panes’</p> <p>“Cylindrical mullions used in the main window, alluding to vestigial classical columns and emphasising verticality”. Suggest ‘Cylindrical mullions used in the principal window emphasising verticality’</p> <p>“Stepped end bay along the building’s western external wall implying a classical portico”: Suggest ‘Stepped end bays to the principal elevation drawing on classical composition’</p> <p>“Cream tiles around major openings, windows and parapet roof line” and “Low relief ornamental details”: Suggest combining the above descriptions for clarity, ‘Detailing including horizontally emphasised hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings and spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail</p>	<p>Supported</p> <p>The wording used is reflective of the classification and nomenclature used in the reference book by Apperly et al. However, the Background Document will be amended to include a clearer analysis of the architectural style .</p> <p>Partially supported. The wording is reflective of the reference as noted above. Change to: “Stepped end bays to the building’s western elevation referencing a classical portico”</p> <p>Supported.</p>

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			<p>capping the parapets’.</p> <p>“Scale and massing of the original single storey form”. Suggest ‘Scale and stepped massing of the original single storey section’</p> <p>Suggested correction: Complementary not complimentary in the following sentence ‘...allowing controlled complimentary development.’</p> <p>Notes discrepancies with some of the dates for construction and opening and suggest confirming the details.</p> <p>“We note that, at its opening in 1951, the Kingston Post Office was described as ‘the first modern brick post office to be completed since 1940’ (Canberra Times, 7 June 1951, p. 8). Nevertheless, it is pertinent that the National Archives of Australia contains plans from 1944 for the construction of a new post office in Manuka (NAA, A2617, Section 1/15143, Section 1/15554), pre-dating the plans for Kingston Post Office. This indicates that several major postal projects were underway during this period.”</p> <p>Suggests further research into the architects, D. G. Edward as author of the drawings and</p>	<p>Supported.</p> <p>Supported.</p> <p>Dates will be checked and confirmed throughout the background and assessment documents.</p> <p>Noted. This refers to a series of studies of post office expansions that were proposed in 1944, including initial investigations for using the Kingston block, that did not go ahead. Council will attempt to make this clearer in the background document.</p> <p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the history if the ACT, not for its design or the people involved in</p>

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			Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect (and the principal architect as he appears on several other drawings).	its development. The contributions of D. G. Edward as draftsman, Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect/Principal Architect and David Limburg as Assistant Director will be noted in the updated assessment and background., but there is no evidence that their association to the Former Kingston post Office is special or any more than a part of their regular works program and standard functions
24	<p>██████████ Email 11 September 2023</p>	Yes	<p>Endorse the submissions of the GNCA, CDHS and KBRG.</p> <p>Notes that the Council’s Heritage Significance Assessment Policy is not a legislative instrument.</p> <p>Notes the historical context in which the Post Office was built, noting the relative isolation of the ACT at the time, access to phones and telegraph, post-war development, its location at the Kingston shops and the conditions of postal workers.</p> <p>Agrees with the boundary.</p> <p>Criterion (a) should highlight the importance of the post office to the domestic life and well-being of the local community, noting</p>	<p>As per CDHS (submission #19) and KBRG (submission #20), and GNCA (submission #22) submissions.</p> <p>Council acknowledges this and notes that the document is designed to provide guidance based on best practice, past experience as well as insights into legal interpretation of the legislation provided by EPSD Legislative Services, GSO advice and various ACAT rulings. The community is not compelled to use the policy, but it does document how the Council assesses places and objects.</p> <p>Noted. Council considers that this is also captured in the assessment and background documents.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Criterion (a) touches upon the social role of the post office. Although historically interesting, Council does not consider this needs to be expanded i in order to demonstrate heritage</p>

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			<p>the greater importance of the service in the past.</p> <p>The continuing and changing role that post offices have with providing services to the community as detailed in the written submission.</p> <p>Criterion (b) should be met because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council’s consideration of the Post Office not retaining the service is irrelevant • It is the last remaining purpose-built post office building in Canberra • It should not be classed with larger government places • It is the only stripped classical style of architecture of its size <p>Criterion (c) should be met as there is potential for further research, particularly in the history of technological and telecommunications history. Additionally, the submission discusses the application of the criteria and the Policy document.</p>	<p>significance under this criterion.</p> <p>This is an interesting aspect of the history of postal services, but as there is no remaining evidence of this in the building, it is not considered necessary to investigate further with regards to the consideration of the place for inclusion on the Heritage Register.</p> <p>The Council does not consider the place to meet criterion b. Careful consideration was given to the class of place the Former Kingston Post Office represents. The Council considered it as three separate classes of place: as a post office, a stripped classical building, and as a government building. Under none of these classes did the Council consider the place to meet criterion b.</p> <p>These are interesting aspects of the history of postal services, but as there is no remaining evidence of this in the building, it is not considered necessary to investigate further. The place has been gutted and renovated twice and extended; there is no possibility of remaining evidence that could be considered would make an <i>important contribution</i> to the ACT’s cultural history (i.e. although unlikely, there may be some cabling, penetrations or attachment points that may at most indicate a particular technology was present, but this would be unlikely to tell us anything more about how it was</p>

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			<p>Criterion (d) should be met as a class of post-war community facilities. This is based on its ability to show that it was a post office, noting a number of features mentioned in an article from its opening day.</p> <p>Criterion (e) should be met based on the responses to this consultation from various community groups as well as the statement, "I suggest that the building evokes a strong response because it embodies the period when Kingston was developing and thriving as a busy commercial hub. It is a place where we reached out to loved ones from our new lives in a new city. The building represents the period immediately after the Depression and World War Two when our community was moving ahead with confidence. Its form reflects this."</p> <p>Criterion (f) should be met as it was a "creative solution to challenges faced by the workforce using the building. As the extract above shows, the postal workers considered the structure "the most modern in Australia" with its heated lockers for drying wet gear, retiring rooms and a dining room"</p>	<p>used or other information that would be important because it cannot be gleaned elsewhere).</p> <p>Those functions mentioned, and any others related to the place being a post office have been removed from the original building and the criterion requires that the characteristics must be demonstrated, not that they once existed.</p> <p>While the Council, certain community groups and others appreciate the aesthetic values of the place, a key requirement of the thresholds for meeting this criterion is that it can be demonstrated to be valued by the ACT community. The current evidence is too limited to demonstrate this wider value.</p> <p>Those functions mentioned, and any others related to the place being a post office have been removed from the original building and the criterion requires that the characteristics must be demonstrated, not that they once existed.</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>Criterion (g) should be met as the previous association the Council notes the place had with the community has continued to this day as evidenced by current Canberrans visiting the Kingston Shopping Precinct to also pop into the easily accessible Post Office and one of the attractors to the Precinct is its history; its designation as a Group Centre, visitors from across Canberra and interstate; Barton residents and workers utilizing the area; the increased catchment population due to surrounding development such as the Kingston Forseshores, redesigned Mauka Oval and various short terms accommodation services noted on booking websites.</p> <p>That the original building is no longer offering postal services is irrelevant to the association is has with the ACT community.</p> <p>Local businesses are still using the post office and there are more businesses than ever that would access it.</p> <p>Criterion (h) should be as per the CDHS submission that "...states that there is evidence that the post office was designed</p>	<p>The Council is aware of the role the Former Kingston Post Office has had with the local community, but it cannot be demonstrated that this applies to the wider ACT community as required to meet the thresholds for inclusion under criterion g particularly given the changing context of its catchment compared to other parts of the ACT as it serves a smaller percentage of the community despite offering broader services.</p> <p>The original post office building does not retain the materials required to meet criteria. Current and continued use of the postal services is associated with the extension, not the original section.</p> <p>Noted. However, the ACT population has expanded considerably, so the proportion of the community using the place (also noting that these services are no longer associated with the original section) can no longer be considered representative of the ACT community as a whole.</p> <p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the history of the ACT, not for its design or the people involved in its development. The contributions of D. G. Edward as</p>

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			in the Department of Works and Housing, Canberra. Architects involved were the Assistant Director of Works David Limburg, Principal Architect Edgar L. Miller, and Senior Architect Bruce Litchfield”	draftsman, Bruce Litchfield as Superintending Architect/Principal Architect and David Limburg as Assistant Director will be updated in the assessment and background document. However, there is no evidence that their association to the Former Kingston post Office is special or any more than a part of their regular works program and standard functions.
25	<p>██████████ Email 12 September 2023</p>	No	<p>Nothing distinctive happened there.</p> <p>It is not the first of its kind in the area.</p> <p>The contribution of the place to the area is overstated, presumably as an excuse for the Council to register a place that doesn’t reach the benchmark of outstanding aesthetic characteristics.</p> <p>In particular the scale and massing is inappropriate as it doesn’t relate to the stated significance of the place.</p>	<p>The importance of a place is not necessarily related to a particular distinctive event, in this case it is an essential service that was chosen above other places (e.g. Manuka or the City), informed subsequent planning of the Jardine Street banking and commercial row and was relied upon by businesses in Kingston and Manuka at a time when postal services were crucial to businesses and a physical presence was much more important than it is today.</p> <p>The first or last of a place does not necessarily establish importance, as defined in the Council’s Heritage Assessment Policy (2018) – The Former Kingston Post Office is significant for making an important contribution to the history and development of the ACT.</p> <p>The features listed under the Description of Place are all related to its significance and place in time. If these features are removed, it will lose its distinctiveness and ability to tell its story.</p> <p>The scale and massing of the building is appropriate for location and function. Not respecting this would risk overpowering the heritage significance of the place.</p>

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			Registration would be detrimental to the continued development of Kingston, "...and would have impacts on environmental sustainability, liveability and economic prosperity" by prohibiting future development and mixed-use development.	Contrary to this statement, the Council considers that the appropriate inclusion of heritage may enhance may increase the vibrancy and livability of the Kingston area. Heritage listing does not freeze a place in time, but allows for change and further development that is compatible with the heritage significance of the place. Heritage values add to the livability and vibrancy of places by adding character and are often an important part of how an area came to be desirable in the first place (as per the ACT Planning Strategy). Heritage listing does not prevent development. It often leads to higher quality designs and by retaining materials and their embodied energy, make an important contribution to sustainable development.
26	[REDACTED] Email 14 September 2023	Yes	As current long term lessee of the building the value the history of the place and have a special association to it as well as other Canberrans who have grown up with it. The value placed on its history is shown by the extensive renovations the have invested into the building that are complimentary to its history.	Noted. Noted and supported.
27	Greater Canberra Email 14 September 2023	No	Registration is an overreach of the ACT's heritage protection framework. Oppose the registration on two grounds:	To maintain and promote the Heritage Register is a primary function of the Heritage Council under the Act – the heritage value of the place was assessed by the Council for the benefit of the ACT and future generations. Heritage listing does allow for change and further development that is compatible with the heritage

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● That the FKPO does not have Territory or higher heritage significance when the two-step test provided by the <i>Heritage Assessment Policy</i> (March 2018) ('the Policy') in relation to the s 10(a) criterion is applied. ● That the listing of the FKPO is detrimental to the ACT community on other grounds, including environmental sustainability, economic prosperity, and liveability, and the Heritage Council should decide not to register the FKPO on these grounds. <p>The Provisional Registration does not make reference to the two-part test described in the Policy, or provide evidence of the Heritage Council's reasoning in applying it to this provisional registration.</p> <p>The place does not pass the threshold test as noted in the Council's Policy document. It is from a period of little development in the ACT and is not the oldest post office and others were operating at the time across the Territory.</p> <p>It was not the most important for business at the time as evidence by Manuka business</p>	<p>significance of the place. Additionally, retention of heritage values add to the livability and vibrancy of places by adding character and being an important part of how the area came to be desirable in the first place (as per the ACT Planning Strategy). Heritage listing does not prevent development. It often leads to higher quality designs and by retaining materials and their embodied energy, make an important contribution to sustainable development.</p> <p>The policy is not a legislative instrument but is designed to provide consistent guidance for assessments based on best practice, past experience, as well as insights into legal interpretation of the legislation provided by EPSD Legislative Services, GSO advice and various ACAT rulings.</p> <p>The Council considers the place significant for its role in the post-war growth of the ACT. These statements regarding ACT as opposed to local significance, do not take into consideration the much greater catchment of the Former Kingston Post Office in the past and the greater importance at that time of postal services for business and social activity. Both these aspects mean that the place was important to the course and pattern of the ACT's history beyond what may be considered the more local importance of this place today.</p> <p>Kingston was considered to be the preminent shopping</p>

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			<p>complaining that it was not sufficiently central and population density was higher around Manuka, making the third most important post office in the 40s and 50s. While it may be locally significant, it is not significant to the ACT as required by the Act.</p>	<p>precinct in the Territory at the time the place was constructed. In a way, Manuka businesses complaining about it not being central enough to conduct their essential business is an indicator of the importance of this place in spite of the location for the indispensable services it provided. .</p>

Hekimian, Richard

From: Nick Swain [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 1 September 2023 11:06 AM
To: Heritage
Cc: Helen Digan; Esther Davies; Gary; Patricia Clarke; Richard Reid; Frances McGee; Peter Dowling; Marilyn Truscott; TONY CORP; Allen Mawer; Kay Walsh
Subject: KINGSTON POST OFFICE - HERITAGE REGISTRATION SUBMISSION
Attachments: CDHS Kingston PO FINAL.pdf

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

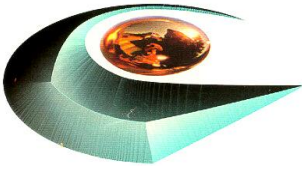
Dear Secretary of the Heritage Council

Please find attached the Canberra & District Historical Society's submission in support for the addition of the former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

Please feel free to contact me if any additional information is needed.

Yours sincerely

Nick Swain
Secretary



**Canberra & District
Historical Society Inc**

FOUNDED 10 December 1953
ABN 27 465 970 277

Curtin Place Curtin ACT 2605

PO Box 315 Curtin ACT 2605

Phone (02) 6281 2929

email: admin@canberrahistory.org.au

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

**FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE
Submission about heritage listing**

The Canberra & District Historical Society strongly supports the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

The highly visible and distinctive former Kingston Post Office building occupies a significant corner site adjacent to the original Eastlake shops (corner of Giles and Jardine Streets) and remains a very significant element of the heritage character of the Kingston Group Centre.

The significance of the building is in the fine design supervised and approved by David Limburg, its history as part of the development of South Canberra and the role it played in delivery postal services after World War II.

The former Kingston Post Office was the FIRST purpose-built post office building in the ACT.

Previous post offices were either part of other administrative buildings (e.g. East Block) or were in rented premises. It preceded by some 16 years the purpose built post office constructed in Manuka. That building has been demolished leaving the former Kingston Post Office building as the only remaining example of the ACT's post World War 2 purpose built post offices.

We provide some brief comments about some of the criteria addressed in the provisional registration.

(a) *importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history*

We heartily agree with the ACT Heritage Council's assessment that the Kingston Post Office meets this criterion.

Please note that Kingston was NOT the first shopping precinct developed for the ACT. The Kingston (then Eastlake) shopping centre blocks were sold on the SAME day as the Manuka blocks and were developed at the same time as Manuka, albeit at a faster pace due to the lack of

planning controls. Shops began trading in Kingston at the end of 1925 and it is possible that at least one shop in Manuka was also trading about that time (Thornhill's on Bougainville Street. Kegan the butcher followed shortly after). I have researched this in some detail and can supply further information if required.

Despite the Kingston and Manuka shopping centres being developed concurrently, Kingston was the first centre in the 'initial city' area to have a stand-alone, purpose-built post office. For quite some time the Postmaster General's Department had resisted building another post office to supplement the post office at East Block. Previously both the Manuka and Kingston Post Office's occupied rental premises. It was not until 1947 that Kingston got its own purpose-built post office and Manuka in 1963. The Manuka building no longer exists, making the Kingston Post Office building unique in the ACT as the earliest remaining post office building still standing.

The single storey structure is consistent with the character of the buildings in the original centre as constructed in the 1920s. The form and detailing of this building has established a low-scale precedent for the later street-based buildings in Jardine Street which are limited to two storeys.

A condition that should be applied to the listing of the Kingston Post Office should be that no neighbouring buildings be over 2 storeys high. This would limit any potential degradation of the building's heritage significance by domination (compare requirements for the Kingston Power House) and ensure the heritage character of the precinct is retained. The current Precinct Code for the Kingston shops is weak in ensuring the heritage character is protected.

(b) Has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history.

The former Kingston Post Office building is rare and uncommon because it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office building in the ACT. It stands there for all to see. The fact that it no longer operates as a post office is not relevant – it was built as a post office. There are other heritage listed buildings that no longer serve their original function such as the Kingston Power House, the Fitters Workshop and the Former Transport Depot – all great examples of adaptive reuse as is the former Kingston Post Office.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Heritage Council does not consider the former Kingston Post Office to meet this criterion. However it is not clear that the Council has attempted to find out the community's views other than through the very limited 'Your Say' survey device. A more substantial effort is needed.

Canberra & District Historical Society and the Kingston and Barton Residents Group posted the news of the provisional registration on their Facebook pages and it elicited a large number of supporting posts. There were 90 'Likes', 82 positive comments and 109 link clicks. I understand others have posted this matter on their Instagram pages with similar results.

The fact that a number of community groups, including the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Inner South Canberra Community Council, also support the heritage listing of the former Kingston Post Office is also evidence that the building is valued by the community.

(g) Has a special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Historical facts and government policy do not support the statement that Kingston Shopping Centre 'has been relegated to a smaller role servicing its local neighbourhood.' Nor do we agree that a smaller role is consistent with ACT government planning intentions. The Kingston Shops are classified in the ACT Territory Plan as a Group Centre. The official definition of a group centre is:

'Group centres are larger shopping centres throughout Canberra that serve groups of nearby suburbs. They incorporate a wide range of shopping, community, recreation and business facilities. As well as providing for major food retailing, they also offer opportunities for speciality shops, non-retail commercial uses such as banks, and residential development.' (Group Centre Development Code, page 5. NI2008-27).

In fact, the Kingston Centre Precinct has an even wider role than a 'normal' group centre as it provides accommodation for interstate and overseas visitor to the ACT who come for work, recreation and to visit friends and family. During Parliamentary sittings many Members of the House of Representatives, Senators and their staff use the centre, not to mention lobbyists and consultants. It also attracts people from all over Canberra to its restaurants and bars. In many ways the Kingston Centre has a wider role that it did originally when it was much smaller.

The government has not intended a smaller role for the Kingston shops. The suburb of Kingston has been the subject of significant urban renewal and 'densification' and recently released figures show Kingston as one of the fastest growing suburbs in Canberra. This is deliberate ACT government policy and is supported by developments at the Kingston shops including the construction of a large supermarket with residential apartments above it and a new hotel on Kennedy Street. The *Kingston Precinct Map and Code* allows for significant additional development.

Although the original building is not used as a post office the sympathetic extension still is. For most people it is the same building as the extension is so seamless. The range of post office services now offered is expanded from those originally offered to include, for example, the payment of rates and utility accounts and the processing of passport applications.

The current occupants of the former Kingston Post Office building are keenly aware of its heritage. Their business has been on Giles Street for many decades.

A number of community groups support the heritage listing of this building, indicating a special association.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

The provisional registration fails to mention the contribution of the architect David Edward Limburg to the design of the Kingston Post Office. He was appointed Assistant Director of Works in 1947 and would have at a minimum approved the design, if not had a hand in it and supervised the detailed work. It is acknowledged as one of Limberg's fine buildings in Canberra with others such as Albert Hall and Canberra Girls Grammar Boarding School.

We suggest the interim Heritage Council inspect the building files (obtainable through ArchivesACT) and other documentation to determine his role in the design and construction of the Post Office.

We look forward to the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely



Nick Swain
Secretary
Canberra & District Historical Society

1 September 2023

Hekimian, Richard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 9 September 2023 4:24 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE
Attachments: CDHS Kingston PO NS version.doc

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Dear Heritage

Please find attached my individual submission in support for the entry onto the ACT Heritage Register of the former Kingston Post office.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE Submission about heritage listing

Thank you for the opportunity to support the entry of the former Kingston Post Office onto the ACT Heritage Register.

I strongly support the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office building and curtilage to the ACT Heritage Register. To my knowledge this registration is supported by several community organisations including the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Canberra & District Historical Society. No doubt the National Trust will also be supportive.

The former Kingston Post Office building and its extension is highly visible, distinctive and unique in Kingston. It occupies a significant corner site adjacent to the original Eastlake shops and remains a very significant element of the heritage character of the Kingston Group Centre. This site, as shown on the Provisional Registration, continues to be used as a post office within the registered curtilage and the whole building is owned by Australia Post.

The former Kingston Post Office was the FIRST purpose-built post office building in the ACT.

Previous post offices were either part of other administrative buildings (e.g. East Block aka Secretariat Building No. 1) or were in rented premises. It preceded by some 16 years the purpose built post office constructed in Manuka. That building has been demolished leaving the former Kingston Post Office building as the only remaining example of the ACT's post World War 2 purpose built stand alone post offices. The post office continues to operate within the registered curtilage.

I have included some comments to correct or clarify the historical context of the Kingston Post Office and the Kingston Shops.

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history

I strongly agree with the ACT Heritage Council's assessment that the former Kingston Post Office meets this criterion.

There are some inaccuracies in the information in the provisional registration document, possibly stemming from popular misconceptions. I have researched the history of the Kingston and Manuka shops in some detail over many years. Kingston (then Eastlake) was NOT the first shopping precinct developed for the ACT. The Kingston shopping centre blocks were sold on the SAME day as the Manuka blocks and were developed at the same time as Manuka, albeit at a faster pace due to the lack of planning controls. Shops began trading in Kingston at the end of 1925 with two large stores claiming to be the first to open. It is possible that Thornhill's 'lock up shop' on Bougainville Street, Manuka, was trading earlier or at the same time.

Although the Kingston and Manuka shopping centres were developed concurrently, Kingston was the first centre in Griffin's 'initial city' area to have a stand-alone, purpose-built post office. For quite some time the Postmaster General's Department had resisted building another post office to supplement the post office at East Block. Initially both the Manuka and Kingston Post Office's occupied rental premises. It was not until 1947 that Kingston got its own purpose-built post office. Manuka followed in 1963 but was demolished recently. This makes the Kingston Post Office building unique in the ACT as the earliest remaining post office building still standing (Bearing in mind that the post office at East Block only occupied part of the building and no longer houses a post office).

The single storey structure, including the sympathetic extension within the curtilage, is consistent with the character of the buildings in the original centre as constructed in the 1920s.

The heritage significance of the whole building would be diminished if taller dominating buildings were allowed nearby.

(b) Has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history.

The former Kingston Post Office building is rare and uncommon because it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office building in the ACT. It stands there for all to see.

The fact that part of the building no longer operates as a post office does not preclude the original part of the building as being uncommon or rare. There are other buildings listed on the ACT Heritage Register heritage that no longer serve their original function such as the Kingston Power House (including the 1948 Switch Room), the Fitters' Workshop and the Former Transport Depot – all great examples of adaptive reuse as is the former Kingston Post Office part of the current building. Their repurposing has not diminished their heritage significance as it is their original purpose that is significant. They stand as a reminder of that purpose. Their repurposing is also an important factor in their preservation.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Heritage Council does not consider the former Kingston Post Office to meet this criterion. However it is not clear that the Council has attempted to find out the community's views other than through the very limited 'Your Say' survey device. A more substantial effort is needed.

Canberra & District Historical Society and the Kingston and Barton Residents Group posted the news of the original provisional registration on their Facebook pages and it elicited a large number of supporting posts. There were 90 'Likes', 82 positive comments and 109 link clicks. I understand others have posted this matter on their Instagram pages with similar results.

The fact that a number of community groups, including the Canberra & District Historical Society and the Kingston and Barton Residents Group also support the heritage listing of the former Kingston Post Office is also evidence that the whole building is valued by the community.

(g) Has a special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

Historical facts and government policy do not support the statement in the Provisional Registration that the Kingston Shopping Centre 'has been relegated to a smaller role servicing its local neighbourhood.' The ACT government's planning for the centre has led to a significant expansion of the centre servicing a wider area.

The government has supported an expanded role for the Kingston shops since the post office was opened in 1947. Since then the Kingston shops have grown considerably. A major expansion happened in the late 1950s when an extra row of shops was built behind the original row, forming Green Square. In the 1960s a commercial row was built along Jardine Street, facing Green Square. More recently the Eyre Street Markets were constructed containing a major supermarket, many smaller shops and residential apartments. The Kingston Precinct Plan allows for further redevelopment of the Kingston Group Centre including on the south side of Kennedy Street.

The suburb of Kingston has been the subject of significant urban renewal and 'densification' and recently released figures show Kingston as one of the fastest growing suburbs in Canberra. The usage of the Kingston shopping centre has increased accordingly.

The Kingston Shops are classified in the ACT Territory Plan as a Group Centre. Group Centres serve larger areas than their immediate neighbourhood. The official definition of a group centre is:

'Group centres are larger shopping centres throughout Canberra that serve groups of nearby suburbs. They incorporate a wide range of shopping, community, recreation and business facilities. As well as providing for major food retailing, they also offer opportunities for speciality shops, non-retail commercial uses such as banks, and residential development.' (Group Centre Development Code, page 5. NI2008-27. 13 April 2012.).

The Kingston Group Centre has an even wider role than a 'normal' group centre as it provides accommodation for interstate and overseas visitor to the ACT who come for work, recreation and to visit family and friends. During Parliamentary sittings many Members of the House of Representatives, Senators, their staff, lobbyists and consultants and use the centre. It also attracts people from all over Canberra to its restaurants and bars. The Kingston Centre has a wider role than it did originally.

The original post office operated in its building for 42 years thus establishing an enduring presence in that role which continues in the extended structure. The continuing existence of the building reminds us of that role and this should be commemorated with appropriate signage. Although the original part of the building is not used as a post office the sympathetic extension which has the appearance of being part of the original building still is (in other words, it is now part of the same structure). For most people the current post office is the same building because the extension is so seamless. I note that the curtilage includes the whole building including the sympathetic extension. The range of post office services now offered in this building is expanded from those originally offered to include, for example, the payment of rates and utility accounts, the processing of passport applications and retail sales.

The current occupants of the former Kingston Post Office building are keenly aware of its heritage. Their business has been on Giles Street for many decades. Several community groups support the heritage listing of this building, indicating a special association.

I look forward to the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely



9 September 2023

Hekimian, Richard

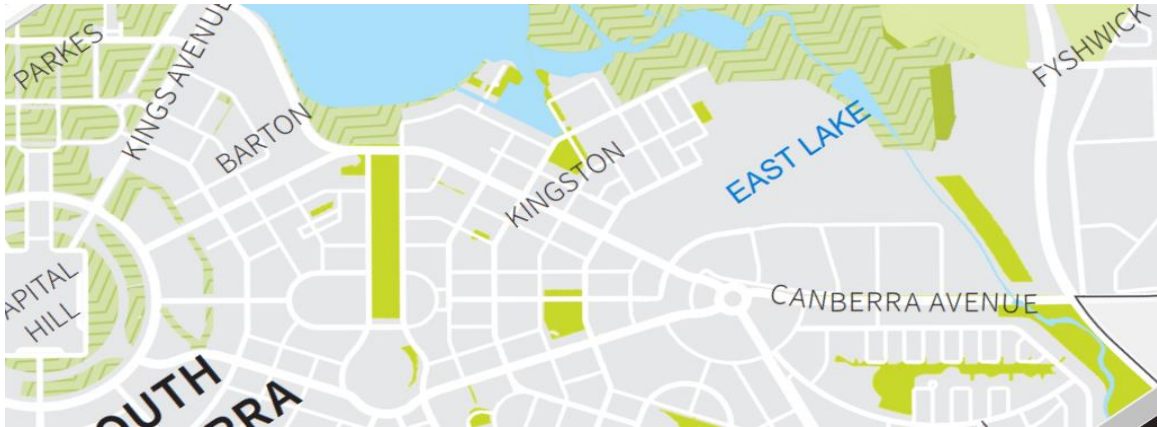
From: Richard Johnston [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 9 September 2023 2:03 PM
To: Heritage
Cc: Kathie Potts; 'Nick Swain'; Sue Tongue
Subject: FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE - PROVISIONAL HERITAGE LISTING
Attachments: KINGSTON PO HERITAGE LISTING SEP23.pdf

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Please accept the submission attached from the Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc. (KBRG).

Richard Johnston
President KBRG



K
B
R
G

Kingston & Barton Residents Group Inc. 11/1 Sydney Avenue Barton ACT 2600 kingstonandbarton@gmail.com

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE – PROVISIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

The Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc. strongly supports the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

A condition that should be applied to the listing of the Kingston Post Office is that no neighbouring buildings be over 2 storeys high. This would limit any potential degradation of the building's heritage significance by domination (compare requirements for the Kingston Power House) and ensure the heritage character of the precinct is retained. The current Precinct Code for the Kingston shops is weak in ensuring the heritage character is protected.

Our comments in relation to the statement of reasons by the Heritage Council for (again) provisionally listing this place are as follows:

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

We heartily agree with the ACT Heritage Council's assessment that the Former Kingston Post Office meets this criterion. Despite the Kingston and Manuka shopping centres being developed concurrently, Kingston was the first centre in the 'initial city' area to have a stand-alone purpose-built post office. Previously both the Manuka and Kingston PO's occupied rental premises. It was not until the 1960s that Manuka got its own purpose-built PO. It no longer exists.

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history.

The former Kingston Post Office building is rare and uncommon because it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office building in the ACT. It stands there for all to see. The fact that it no longer operates as a post office is not relevant – it was built as a post office. There are other heritage listed buildings that no longer serve their original function such as the Kingston Power House, the Fitters Workshop and the Former Transport Depot – all great examples of adaptive reuse as is the former Kingston Post Office.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Heritage Council was not satisfied that the Former Kingston Post Office is likely to meet this criterion. However it is not clear that the Council has attempted to find out the community's views other than through the very limited 'Your Say' survey device. A more substantial effort is needed.

The Kingston & Barton Residents Group and the Canberra & District Historical Society posted the news of the provisional registration on their Facebook pages last year and it elicited a surprisingly large number of supporting posts. There were 90 'Likes', 82 positive comments and 109 link clicks. I understand others have posted this matter on their Instagram pages with similar results.

The fact that a number of community groups, including the Kingston and Barton Residents Group and the Inner South Canberra Community Council, also support the heritage listing of the former Kingston Post Office is also evidence that the building is valued by the community.

The highly visible Former Post Office building occupies a significant corner site (corner of Giles and Jardine Streets) and is an important element of the character of the Kingston Group Centre. It is an integral part of the historic fabric of the Kingston Group Centre.

The form and detailing of this building established precedents for the street-fronting buildings in Jardine Street; which are evident in the treatment of the corner to Giles Street and of the finely detailed tile work fronting the pavement.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

The provisional registration does not make any mention of an association with the architect David Edward Limburg. Limburg was a significant architect in early Canberra, having been the honorary supervising architect for restoration and extension of St John's Anglican Church and was the original designer of the Albert Hall and Canberra Girls Grammar ('St Gabriel's') School as well as a number of impressive houses with LH Rudd. He was also much involved in the Canberra community and formed the Canberra Society of Artists. The Former Post Office was designed in Canberra in the Department of Works and Housing and Limburg was appointed Assistant Director of Works in 1947. It is believed that the fine façade of the building shows the influence of Limburg on the design.

We look forward to the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely

Richard Johnston,
B.Arch., Dip. T&C Planning, Dip. Environ. Studies
Life Fellow, Planning Institute of Australia

President, Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc.

7 September 2023

Hekimian, Richard

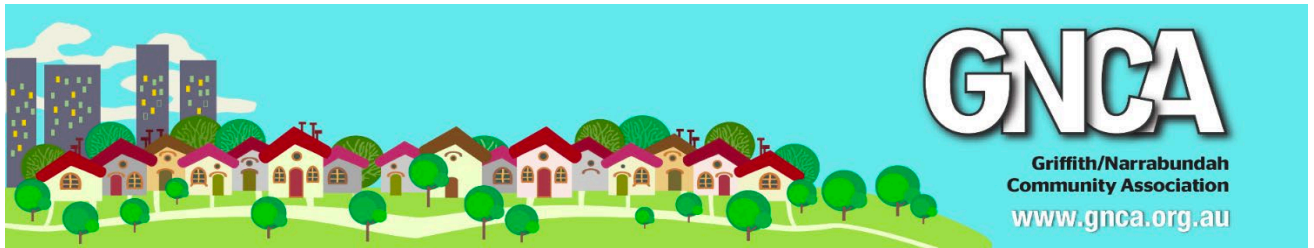
From: GNCA <info@gnca.org.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 September 2023 10:42 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: Kingston Post Office
Attachments: 230911 Kingston PO.pdf

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Please see attached letter from the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA).

Kind regards,
Deborah Price
Secretary, GNCA



Secretary,
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601
heritage@act.gov.au

Re: Provisional registration of the former Kingston Post Office

1. The Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the provisional registration of the Kingston Post Office (the post office).¹
2. The GNCA (ABN 26503486416) is a not for profit, voluntary, community-based organisation operating in the Griffith Narrabundah area. The objects and purposes of the Association are “to protect the amenity and interests of the Griffith and Narrabundah communities, particularly in relation to the preservation of community facilities and open space”. The Association has hundreds of members across generations.
3. The GNCA strongly supports the addition of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register. It agrees with the Heritage Council that the post office is important in the course or pattern of the ACT’s cultural history. Kingston was the first centre in the ‘initial city’ area to have a stand-alone purpose-built post office.
4. The GNCA supports the submissions of the Kingston Barton Residents Group (KBRG) and the Canberra District Historical Society (CDHS). Like those groups, the GNCA is part of the ACT community and represents members of that community, some of whom have used the post office since its early days and continue to do so.
5. The GNCA has applied the *Heritage Act* 2004 (**the Act**) s.10 which provides that:

Meaning of heritage significance

A place or object has heritage significance if the place or object meets 1 or more of the following criteria (the heritage significance criteria):

- (a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;*
- (e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;*

- (f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;*
- (g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- (h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.*

6. The GNCA recognises that s.10 provides that only one of the criteria needs to be met for there to be heritage significance and the Heritage Council has found that criterion (a) is met. However, the GNCA submits, on behalf of its members, that other criteria are also met. We support the submissions of the ISCCC, KBRG and CDHS that criteria (b), (e), (g) and (h) are met. Our reasons are as follows:

- Our community values the post office that has meaning because it is where our families maintained contact with their families who were interstate and overseas when the new capital city was being populated after World War Two. The mail, telegram and telephone services at the post office fulfilled a vital role (s.10 (a)).
- The post office is uncommon and rare because it is the only remaining purpose-built, stand-alone post office building in the ACT (s.10(b)).
- Our community values the post office as a reminder of post-World War Two construction which has aesthetic value (s10(e)).
- Our community values the post office because it formed, and forms, part of our families' regular visits to Kingston for shopping and attending to postal needs. It has a strong and special association with our community for social and cultural reasons (s.10(g)).
- The post office has a special association with the work of architect David Limburg who also worked on the Albert Hall and the boarding house at Canberra Girls Grammar School (s.10(h)).
- The building looks really good – it is at home in the Kingston shopping centre.
- We would not support any proposals to just preserve the façade. It is a treasure that works and should be maintained.

7. The GNCA would be happy to provide further information and testimony about the heritage significance of the Kingston Post Office.

Yours faithfully



David Denham
President
Griffith Narrabundah Community Association
11 September 2023

ⁱ Notifiable Instrument NI2023-492

Hekimian, Richard

From: Suzanne Zahra <SZahra@lovellchen.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 11 September 2023 3:34 PM
To: Heritage; Cleur, Maurice
Cc: Lydia Dillon; Swetekelly, Maryclare
Subject: Provisional registration of the former Kingston Post Office, Kingston
Attachments: Provisional_Reg_Former_Kingston_PO_submission.pdf; Primary_sources_Former_Kingston_PO.pdf

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Dear ACT Heritage Council,

On behalf of our client, Australia Post, please find attached our submission with regards to the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register. We have also provided copies of primary source material identified in our research and discussed in our submission.

We would be pleased to discuss this with you if needed.

Kind regards,

Suzanne

Suzanne Zahra

ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL



LEVEL 5, 176 WELLINGTON PARADE EAST MELBOURNE 3002 AUSTRALIA
TEL direct +61 (0)3 9667 0843 reception +61 (0)3 9667 0800

HOURS: Monday – Thursday, alternate Fridays

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NEW POST OFFICE

The Postmaster-General's Department has created an official post office at Eastlake in place of the subsidised office carried on formerly.

Shop premises have been secured by the department for the purposes of the post office, which is centrally situated, in the shopping area itself. A telegraph messenger has been provided, and the telegram service has been speeded up in consequence. Mail matter is now conveyed between Acton and Eastlake post offices direct instead of all matter having to go through Gueanbeyan.

CANBERRA EAST POST OFFICE NOW NAMED KINGSTON, A.C.T.

Canberra East Post Office has been renamed, and its official title since October 1 has been Kingston, A.C.T.

The change is the third that has been made since a post office was first provided at Eastlake in 1925.

The Kingston, A.C.T., post master (Mr. Donnelly) said yesterday that there were already five post offices in other parts of Australia which were known as Kingston Post Office, and it was therefore essential that the public should take care to use the full title Kingston, A.C.T., in all references to the former Canberra East Post Office. This distinction was particularly desirable in telegrams, money orders and postal notes. All outgoing telegrams carry the address Kingston, A.C.T., so that the addressees will be able to reply correctly, but it was necessary that the full title should be used in every case to avoid confusion and delay.

ADD PERSONAL

ADVISORY COUNCIL

A lengthy agenda was dispersed of yesterday by the Advisory Council, at which all members were present and Mr. C. S. Daly presided.

COTTAGES AT JERVIS BAY

The Department of the Interior advised that the letting of cottages at Jervis Bay by long-term contracts was economically more sound than the week-to-week letting.

Mr. J. L. Davies declared that several of the cottages were without tenants. It would be preferable to have tenants rather than empty houses.

Mr. Johnston said that houses were used by the Services and the demand could not be governed from week to week. The houses were built for the Services, not for weekly rest homes for Canberra residents.

Dr. Nott: Only departmental heads go there from Canberra.

HALL SERVICES

The Department of the Interior advised that the residences at Hall were being surveyed with a view to a weekly sanitary service. Light and water services would receive priority post-war consideration.

ROAD TO COAST

The Department also advised that a direct road to the coast from Canberra was listed as a post-war project, and that the Rationing Commission had advised that the rationing of offal meats was not practicable owing to shortage of supply and quick perishability.

PARKING AT RAILWAY

Mr. P. Gourgaud informed Mr. W. Hurley that the Department was taking up the matter of additional parking space at the Canberra railway station with the Federal Railways Commissioner; also the matter of space for postal vans.

BEER SUPPLIES

Mr. Daley informed Mr. Hurley that an increased quota of beer had been allotted to Canberra from March 1.

Dr. Nott: Yes, 60 gallons.

AIR RAID TRENCHES

Mr. Daley also said that the air raid trenches at Kingston would be filled in when the bulldozer was available. The police had power to remove loiterers from shop doorways, private property or public places.

CIVIC ARCADE

Mr. Johnston told Dr. Nott that

CIVIC ARCADE

Mr. Johnston told Dr. Nott that it was expected that the Arcade at City would be ready for occupation in October and that no allocations had been made of floor space. It was anticipated that all space would be needed for Government departments.

NORTH HOSTEL

Dr. Nott asked if the proposal to erect a hostel on the north side of Canberra had been "scrapped."

Mr. Johnston replied that it was listed as a post-war work. He was not aware of any proposal to build smaller hostels on either side of the river in lieu of one large hostel at Barton. This proposal may have been placed before the Parliamentary Committee.

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOLS

Mr. Gourgaud said that nothing could be done in reference to the provision of bus services for children outside the city area until the estimates for the financial year were allotted. The grants had been exhausted.

Bus shelter sheds had been approved for Ainslie (Limestone Avenue and Paterson Streets), Turner, Hotel Kurrajong, New Griffith and Forrest. Owing to the limited number of children to be served, it was not practicable to place a shelter to serve the Grammar School. Other shelters were more necessary.

HOG FARM

Mr. Johnston informed Dr. Nott that nothing had been settled regarding the Canberra Hog Farm. Consideration was being given to the matter but negotiations were in a state of flux.

DIGGING OF TREE HOLES

Mr. Gourgaud said that an industrial award covered the digging of holes for trees when the work was carried out by the Department.

GAS PRODUCERS

Dr. Nott asked why the transport section of the Department of the Interior had gone in for a wholesale abandonment of the gas producer units after the propaganda for their use by the public, and if unpacked gas producer, diesel or semi-diesel units and chassis were in the possession of the Department.

the Department.

Mr. Gourgaud replied that he had no information other than had been previously supplied to Dr. Nott. He refused to supply details of spare parts in the possession of the Department.

Dr. Nott said that Ministerial and Commonwealth cars had run on stone cold gas producers to induce the public to "buy a pup" which the Interior had purchased. The producers had never been used and they were now discarded. Some had never been lit.

ANNUAL LEAVE

Mr. Davies was informed by Mr. Johnston that caretaker employees of the Department of the Interior at Jervis Bay were not entitled to sick leave on full pay but the provisions of the Public Service Act were to be extended to them. He was not aware of any employee who had been forced to take annual leave in lieu of sick leave. Action was to be taken to circularise the employees on the terms of superannuation provisions.

Tenders had been called for the installation of an electric pumping unit for the Jervis Bay water supply and it was expected that the work would be carried out this year.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Mr. Daley said that the Minister for the Interior was represented on the Council of the University College and was empowered to make Ordinances. The University Council had opened a trust

fund and the public could make endowments or legacies for the establishment of a University in Canberra. The fund was controlled by the Council.

Dr. Nott suggested that the fact be publicised. Persons who were making fortunes may donate to the National University fund.

KINGSTON POST OFFICE

Mr. Davies was informed by Mr. Daley that the site for the new Kingston Post Office was at the corner of Giles and Jardine streets. The plans may have been approved by the Postmaster-General but that did not mean that money had been made available or that the project would be commenced before the cessation of hostilities.

LAND FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

In reply to Dr. Nott, Mr. Daley said that any member of the Services, irrespective of his residen-

said that any member of the Services, irrespective of his residential qualifications, could make application to be included in the land ballot in any State.

SOIL EROSION

Mr. Johnston outlined the steps taken by the Department to combat soil erosion. Experiments were being conducted on areas where erosion was taking place. It included contour ploughing, re-afforestation, planting with grasses, silting up, and drop-falls in gullies. Steps had been taken to prevent further erosion on the road near Lanyon Station. Grazing and fencing-off was being treated on a comparative basis.

COOL STORAGE

Submitting a motion that application be made for the establishment of cool stores in Canberra, Dr. Nott said that a grant had been made to the States and the A.C.T. had not been mentioned. The need was imperative. The establishment of cool stores would permit residents to store eggs, vegetables, poultry and edibles.

The motion was carried, with the addition of a recommendation that the establishment be on the same lines as in the States.

SHOPPING CENTRES

Dr. Nott moved that, as the erection of a shopping centre in Ainslie and Westridge was more urgently needed than before, the Minister for the Interior be requested to have the work given immediate priority. He said that the centres were designed and in the case of Ainslie, tenders were ready when building ceased. The work was essential. Women with children could not go long distances to shop. Buses were crowded and the position beyond reason.

The motion was carried.

A motion asking the Minister to appoint a trained social and welfare worker to organise amenities for female employees in the A.C.T. was also carried.

Only One Architect To Plan All Darwin Rebuilding

DARWIN.—There is only one architect in Darwin to plan all its rebuilding, and not one estate agent or auctioneer to handle the public auction of most of the town.

M^R Bruce Litchfield is the only qualified civilian architect in the Northern Territory employed by the Department of Works and Housing.

Unless he gets help in the next few months he will need to work 24 hours a day—and then he won't have time for a few streets, a sewerage scheme or two, and other details which go with the making of cities.

Yesterday the Territory's superintending architect, Mr. Gregory Bruer, left for Adelaide, where he will re-enter private practice.

Mr. Litchfield knows the Northern Territory almost as well as any other man.

Darwin will soon be sold under the hammer at public auction.

This was stated today by the Administrator (Mr. Abbott), referring to the method of disposal of property on perpetual lease to people desiring to reside or establish businesses here.

All land and buildings in Darwin have now been acquired by the Government under the Darwin Acquisition Act, and overnight the Administrator has become everyone's landlord.

So that the town can be re-established along the lines of the new plan, the Government now has to redispense the land by business and residential zones, according to their locations in the plan.

It is expected that the normal procedure will be followed of putting an upset rental price on each block, which would be the annual cost of perpetual occupancy, and then selling at auction the right to occupy.

Proposed Post Office At Kingston

Replying to Mr. Allan Fraser, M.P., the Postmaster-General (Senator Cameron) says his Department is anxious to build a new, modern Post Office at Kingston, but cannot begin it immediately.

Senator Cameron says that the Department cannot adopt a suggestion that a residence should be provided for the Postmaster.

The proposed building will be a single storied post office without a private residence.

"During the past 20 years it has not been the practice to supply quarters to postmasters except in very special circumstances," says Senator Cameron.

Start Soon On New Post Office At Kingston

It is expected that a start will be made on a new post office building at Kingston within the next few weeks.

It was stated yesterday that a contract has already been let and preliminary preparations completed.

The new post office will be on a block at the corner of Giles Street and Jardine Street, and opposite J. B. Young's shop.

The volume of business transacted at the present Kingston post office has made the premises too small and this in turn has restricted the number of staff, which can be employed.

A preliminary survey was also carried out last week at a site adjacent to the Capitol Theatre in Franklin Street, Manuka, where it is proposed to erect a Manuka post office building.

The District Inspector of Postal Services (Mr. Wilson) said yesterday that it would be some time, however, before the Manuka project was proceeded with.

NEW POST OFFICE AT KINGSTON OPENED

The first modern brick post office to be completed since 1940 was declared open by Mr. J. R. Fraser, M.P., at Kingston yesterday, and the doors were opened for business by the Postmaster, Mr. N. Mason.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. S. F. Kellock, Director of Post and Telegraphs, high officers of the P.G.M.'s Department, representatives of the A.C.T. Advisory Council, and postal unions.

The post office, which is faced with terra cotta, has replaced the previous post office accommodated in a shop building at Kingston shopping centre.

Mr. J. R. Fraser said that he appreciated the action of the Postmaster General, Mr. Anthony, in deciding on a policy of allowing Members of Parliament to open new post offices in their electorate.

Mr. Fraser said that it was fitting that the first permanent post office erected by the N.S.W. postal authorities since the early war years should be erected in the National Capital.

The new post office, he said, had been decided upon in 1947, the contract had been let in 1948, and excavation work had commenced in 1949. This had all been done during the time of the Chifley government and during the life of the 17th Parliament. The building construction had continued through 1950 during the life of the 18th Parliament and under the Menzies Government.

"The opening today practically coincides with the opening of the 20th Parliament next week, so it can be seen that changes of administration do not affect our great undertakings," he said.

Mr. Fraser said that sometimes citizens were apt to take for granted the tremendous services given throughout Australia by the postal authorities.

"We are able to transact business without hindrance and with absolute safety in this great undertaking. No matter what mechanical aids may be used, however, the final efficiency must rest in the hearts, brains, and hands of the postal workers. There are more than 70,000 postal workers throughout Australia and we owe our grateful appreciation to them," he added.

ation to them," he added.

Mr. Fraser said that although the postal service was not one of the most highly paid services in the Commonwealth, it could not exist without the loyalty of its officers. Mr. Fraser congratulated the contractors, Burrows and Lowes, on their construction of the post office in the face of

many difficulties.

The Director of Post and Telegraphs, Mr. Kellock, said that his department had taken a long time to obtain the new post office but there had been many difficulties.

"We realise that the public and the staff were not fairly treated in the old post office, but we hope that the position will be different in this new building," he said.

Mr. Kellock said that the Post Office was the largest single business in Australia. It was closer to the daily lives of the people than any other business. With the rapidly expanding population and lack of buildings, however, the Post Office had difficulty in carrying on its enterprise.

"The building needs for post offices throughout Australia are forming a severe bottleneck which it is difficult to break through," he said.

Mr. Fraser handed the key of the post office to Mr. N. Mason, who is the new postmaster.

Prior to unlocking the door, Mr. Mason said that it would be his aim, and the aim of his staff to uphold the traditions of the post office with constant attention to courtesy, efficiency and service.

Electrically heated lockers in which the clothes of outdoor staff will be dried in wet weather, are a feature of the staff quarters in the new post office.

The staff quarters, according to postal workers are the most modern in Australia.

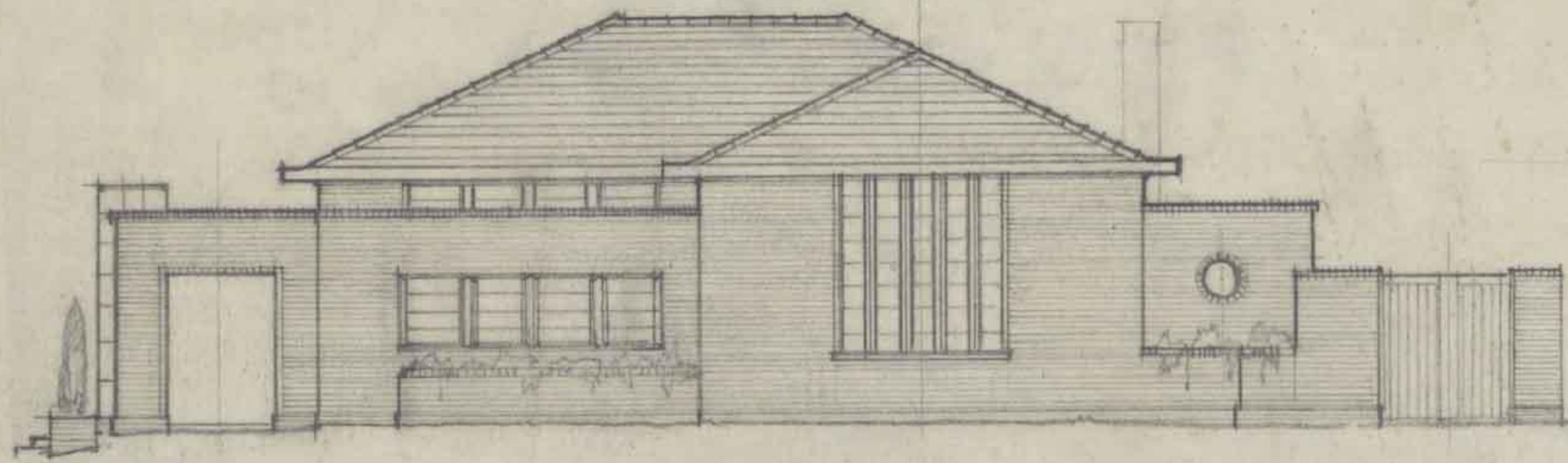
Both men's and women's retiring rooms are provided, while a dining room is an added fea-

ture.

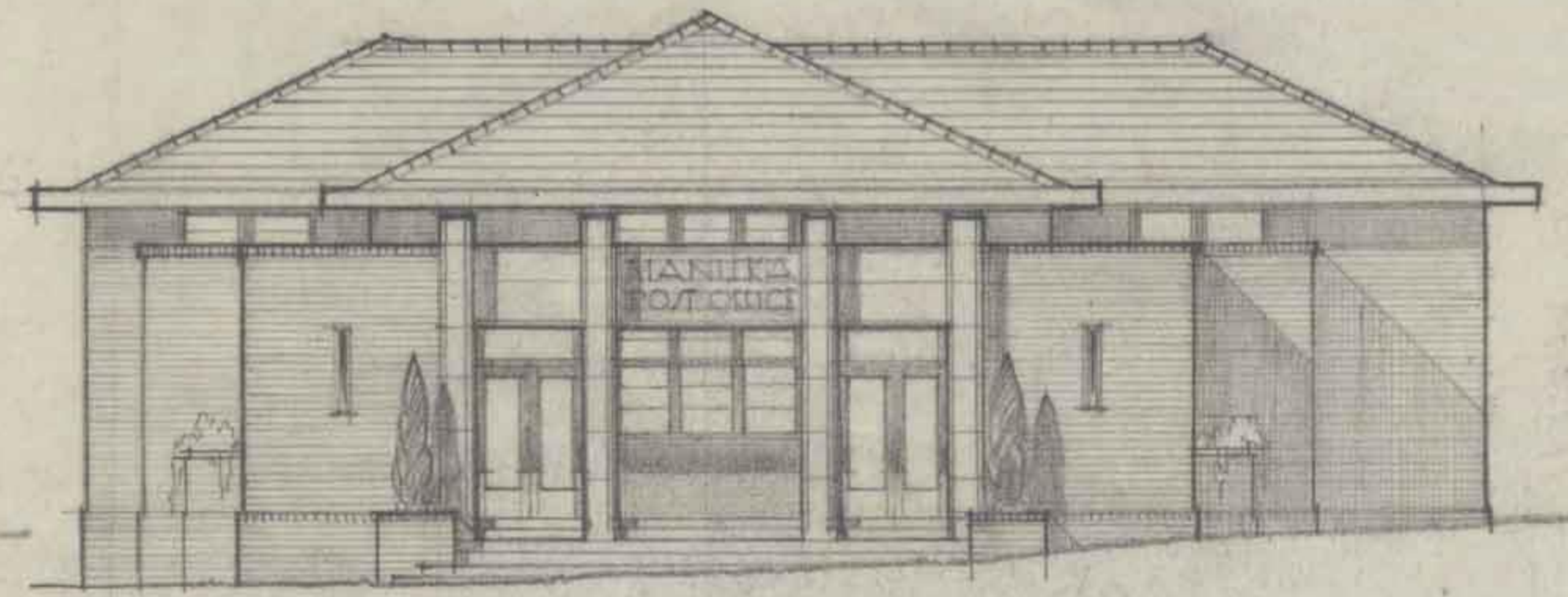
The post office extends for more than 75 feet from its frontage on Giles Street. Spacious counter and waiting space has been included in the building.

A boiler room, storeroom and electrical room have been provided at the rear of the front office.

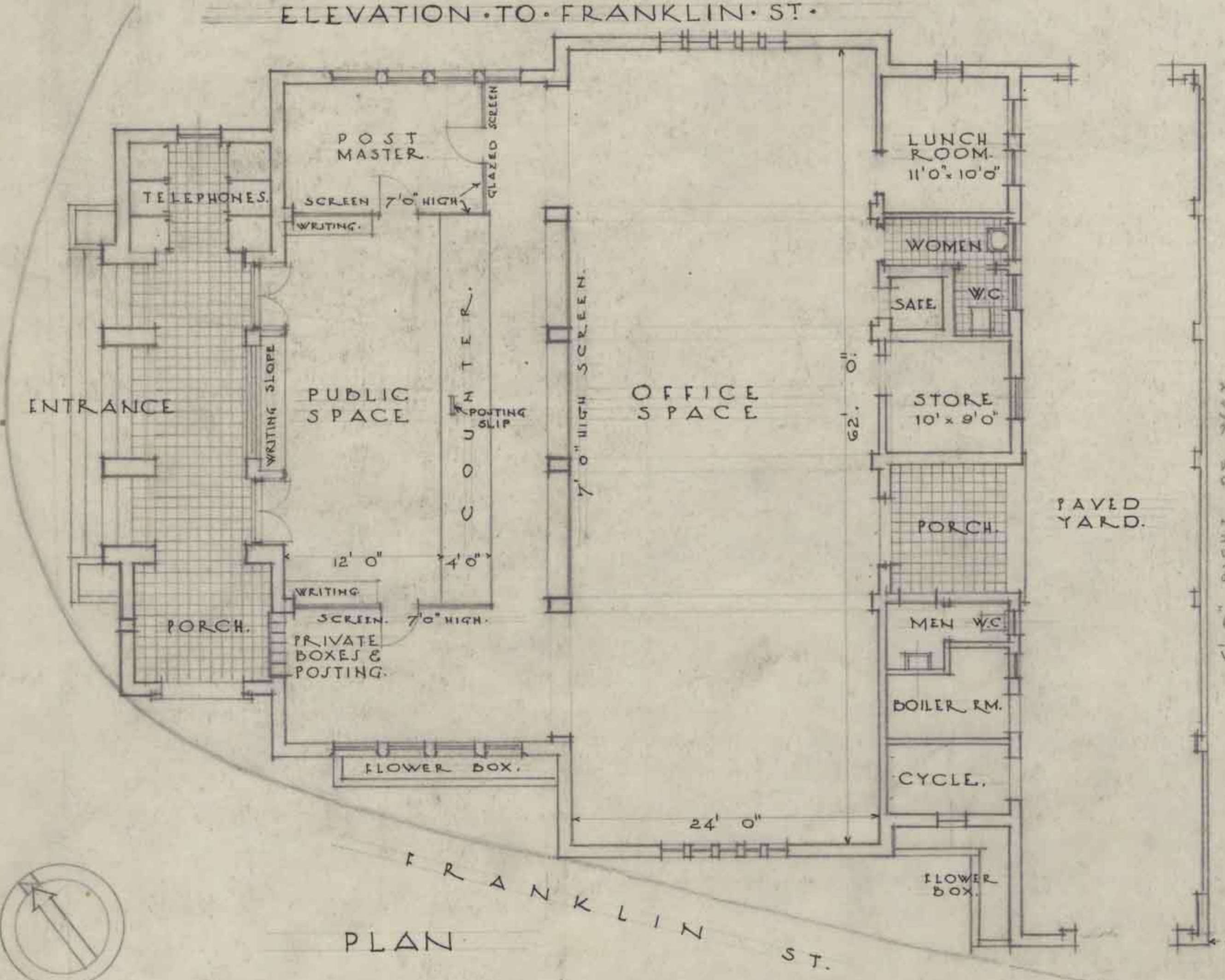
The building is of a most modern design and the area which is used by the public is



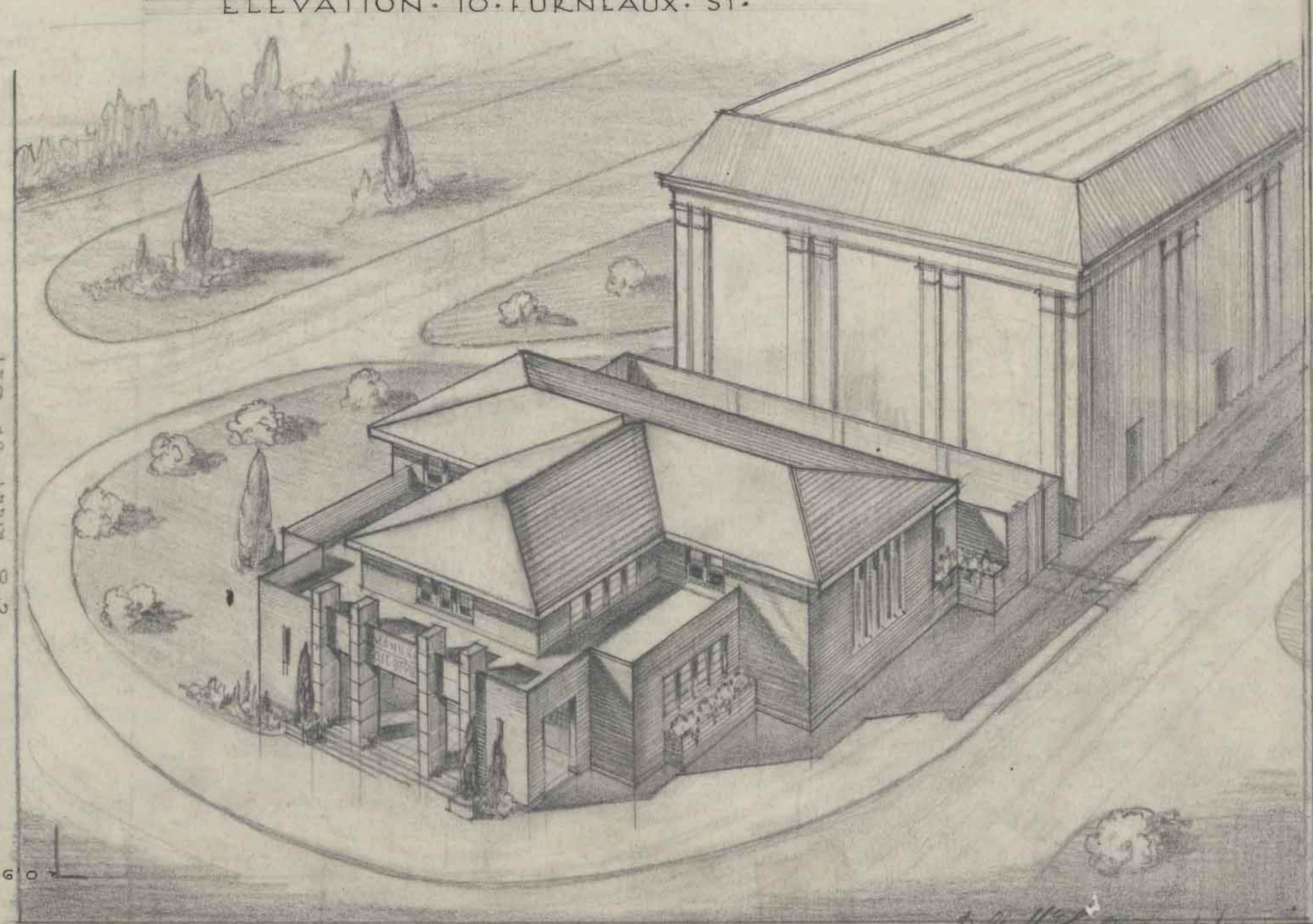
ELEVATION TO FRANKLIN ST.



ELEVATION TO FURNEAUX ST.



PLAN

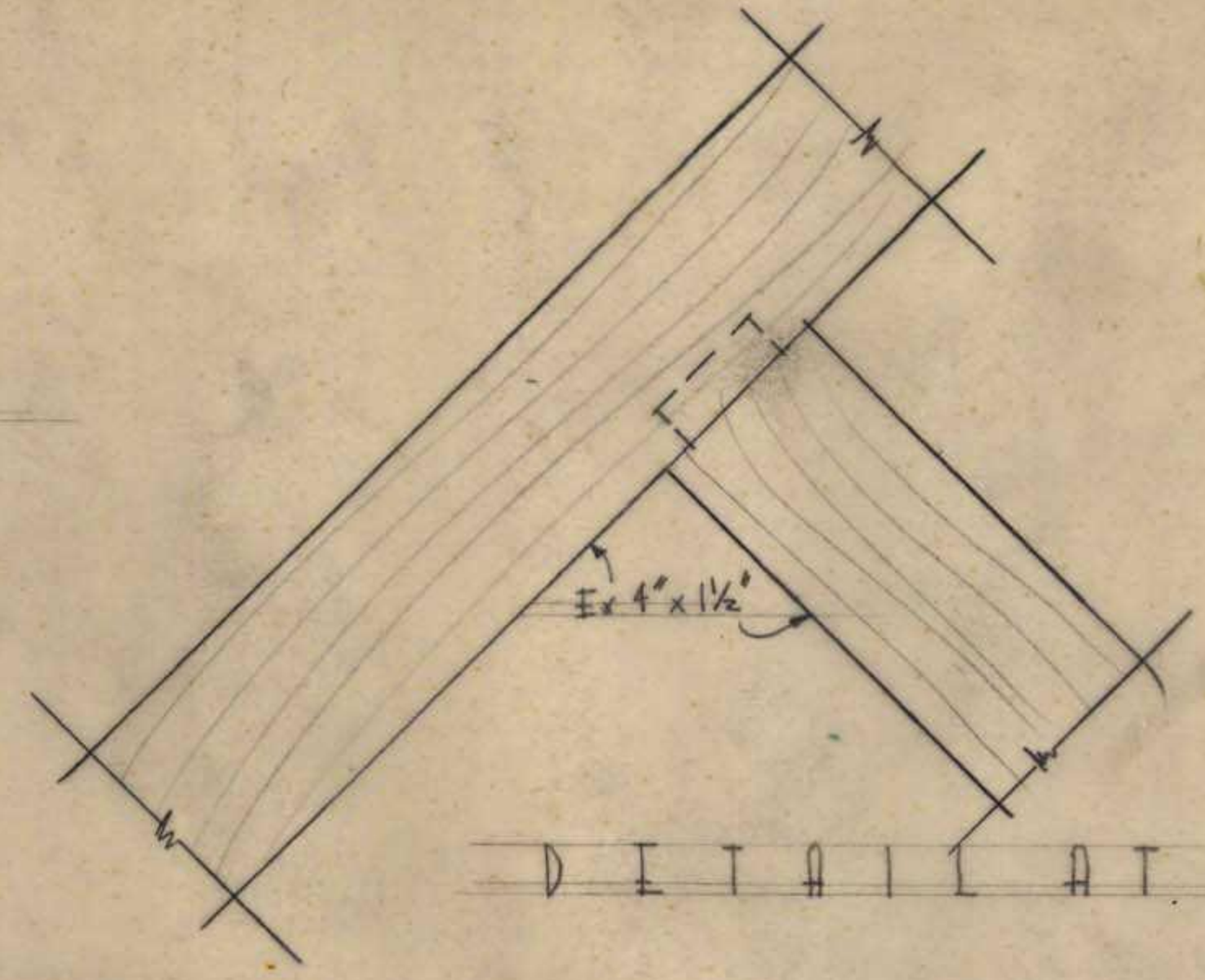
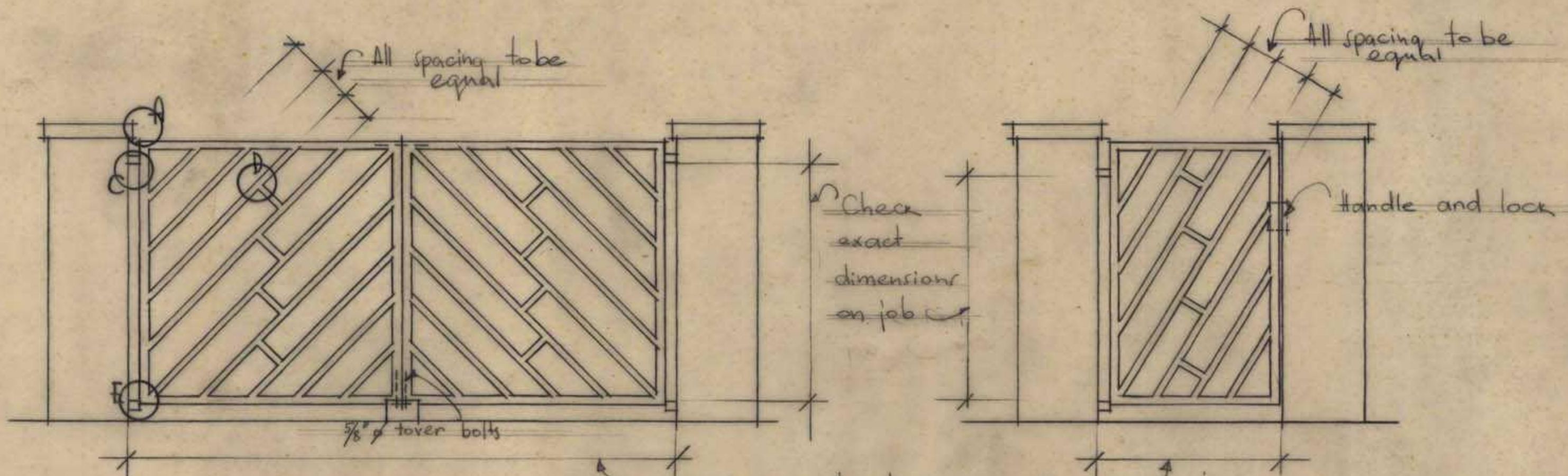


DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 CANBERRA. A.C.T.
 DRAWN BY - C.R. WINTER.
 SCALE: 8 FEET TO AN INCH.

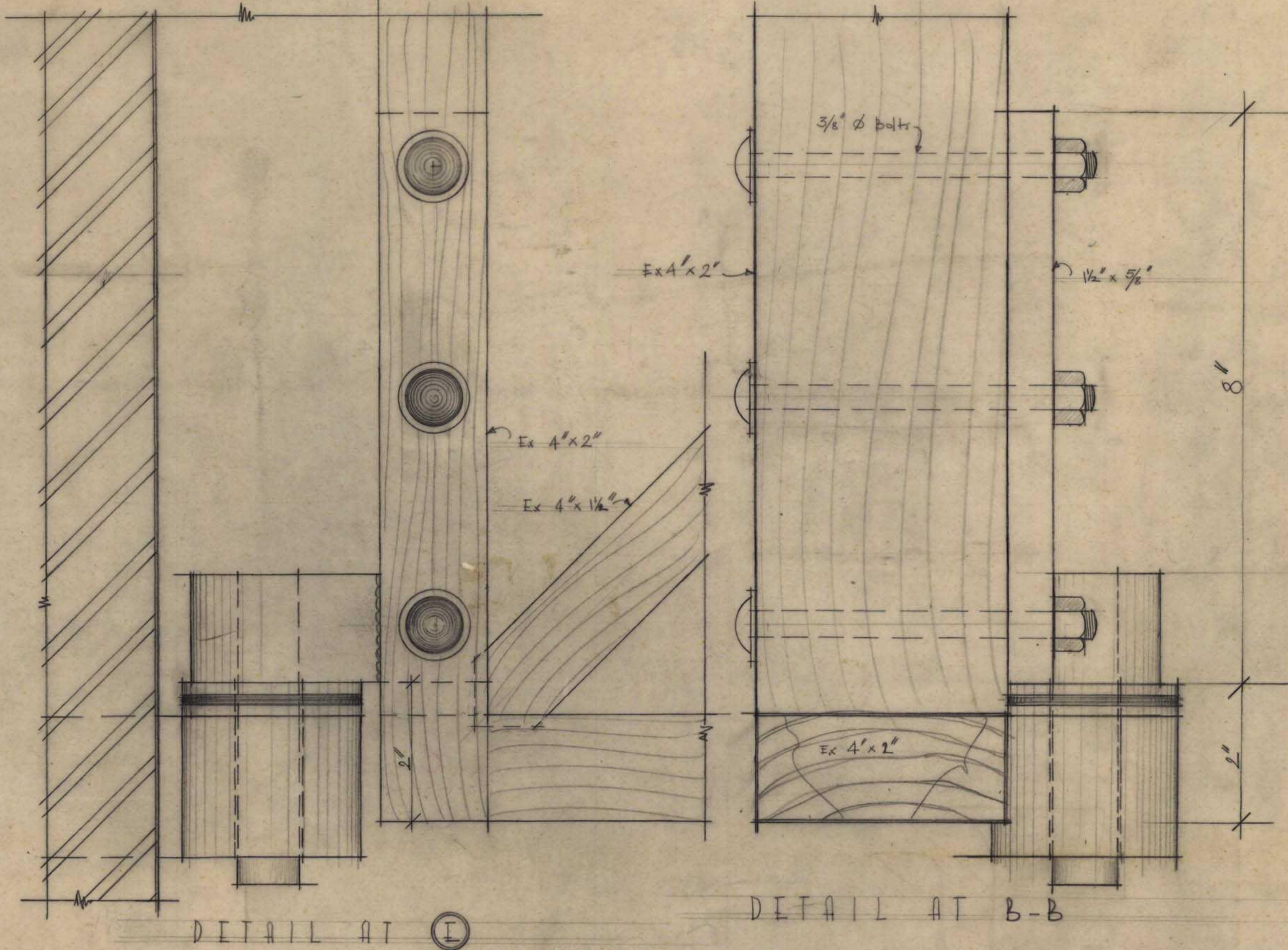
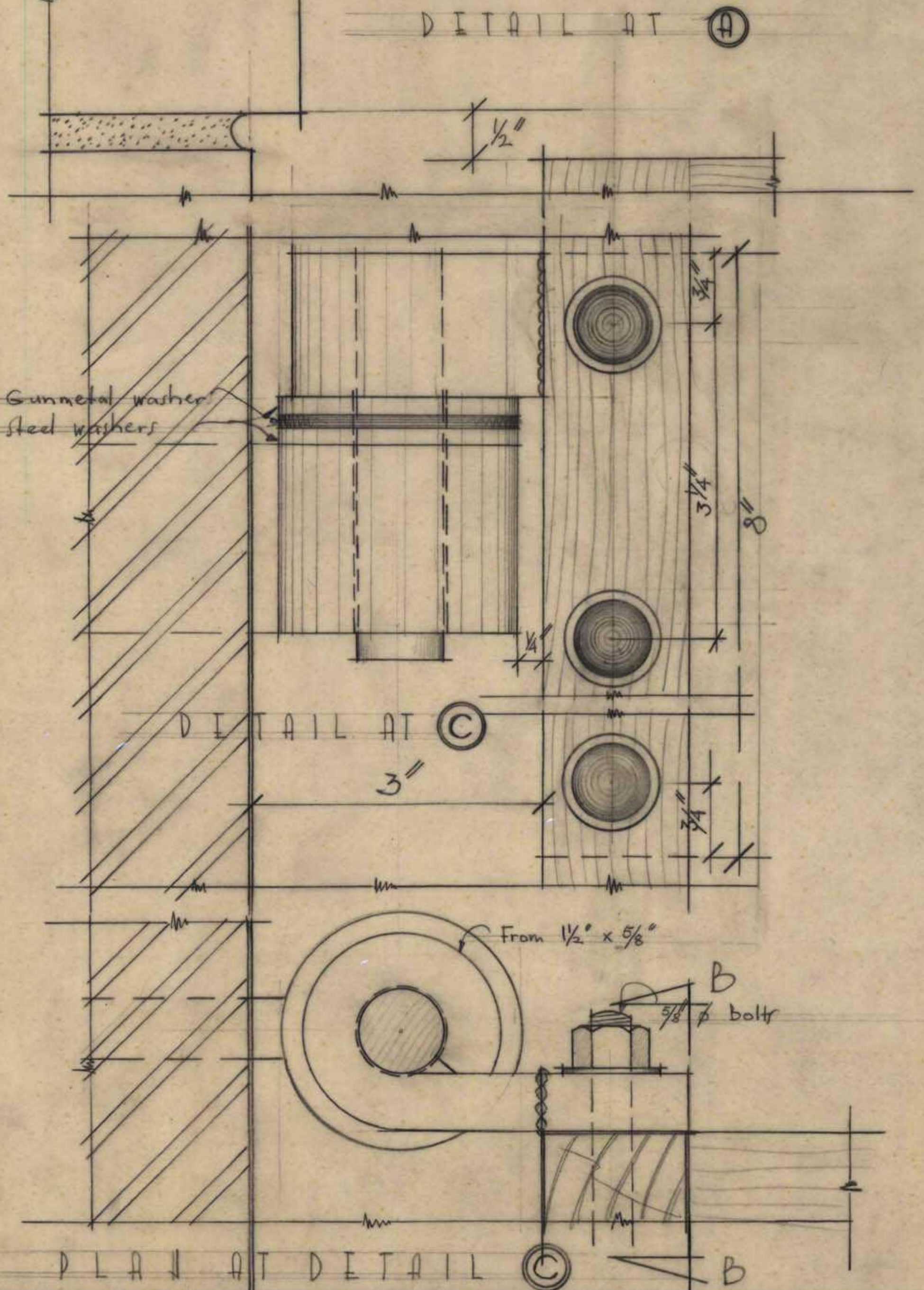
PROPOSED NEW POST OFFICE
 MANUKA CANBERRA.

D. G. Allen 2/10/42
 ARCHITECT IN CHARGE DRAWING OFFICE
William
 SUPERINTENDING ARCHITECT.
Aschmann
 22.5.42 WORKS DIRECTOR.

NAA: A2617, SECTION 1/15554



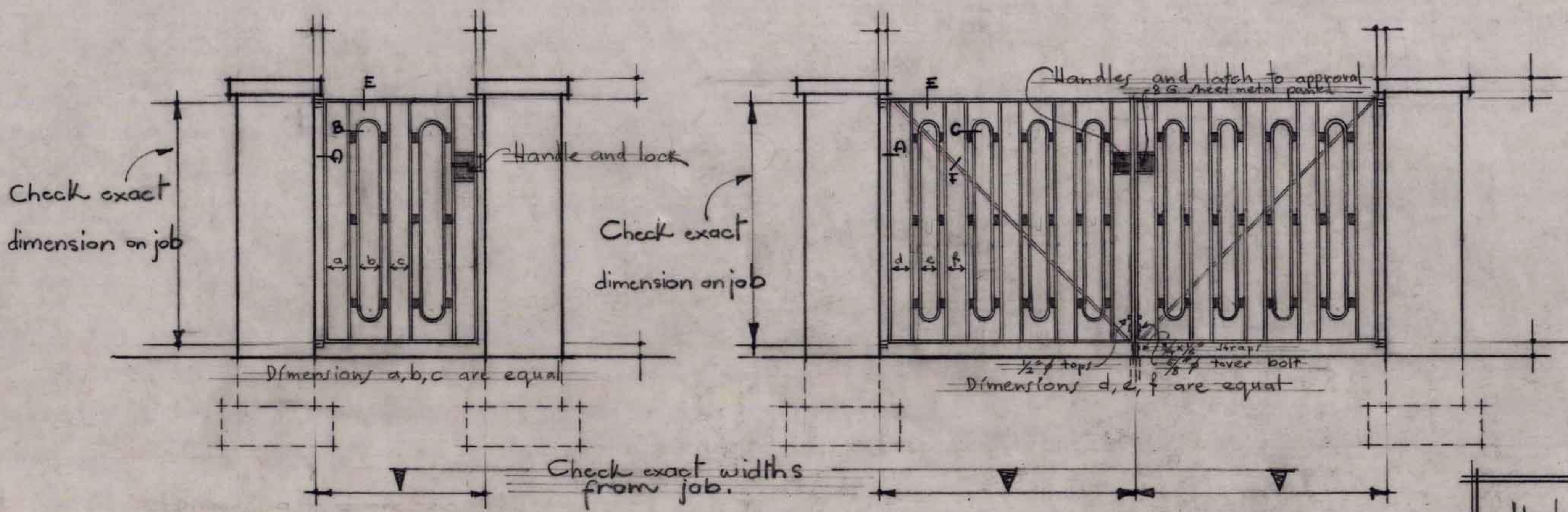
ELEVATION OF DOUBLE GATES /#-2 off/
 ELEVATION OF SINGLE GATE /#-1 off/



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS AND HOUSING - CANBERRA A.C.T.
 DRAWN BY: R.K.
 CHECKED BY: K. G. ...
 FILE NO.

NEW POST OFFICE KINGSTON - CANBERRA - A.C.T.
 DETAILS OF WOOD GATES

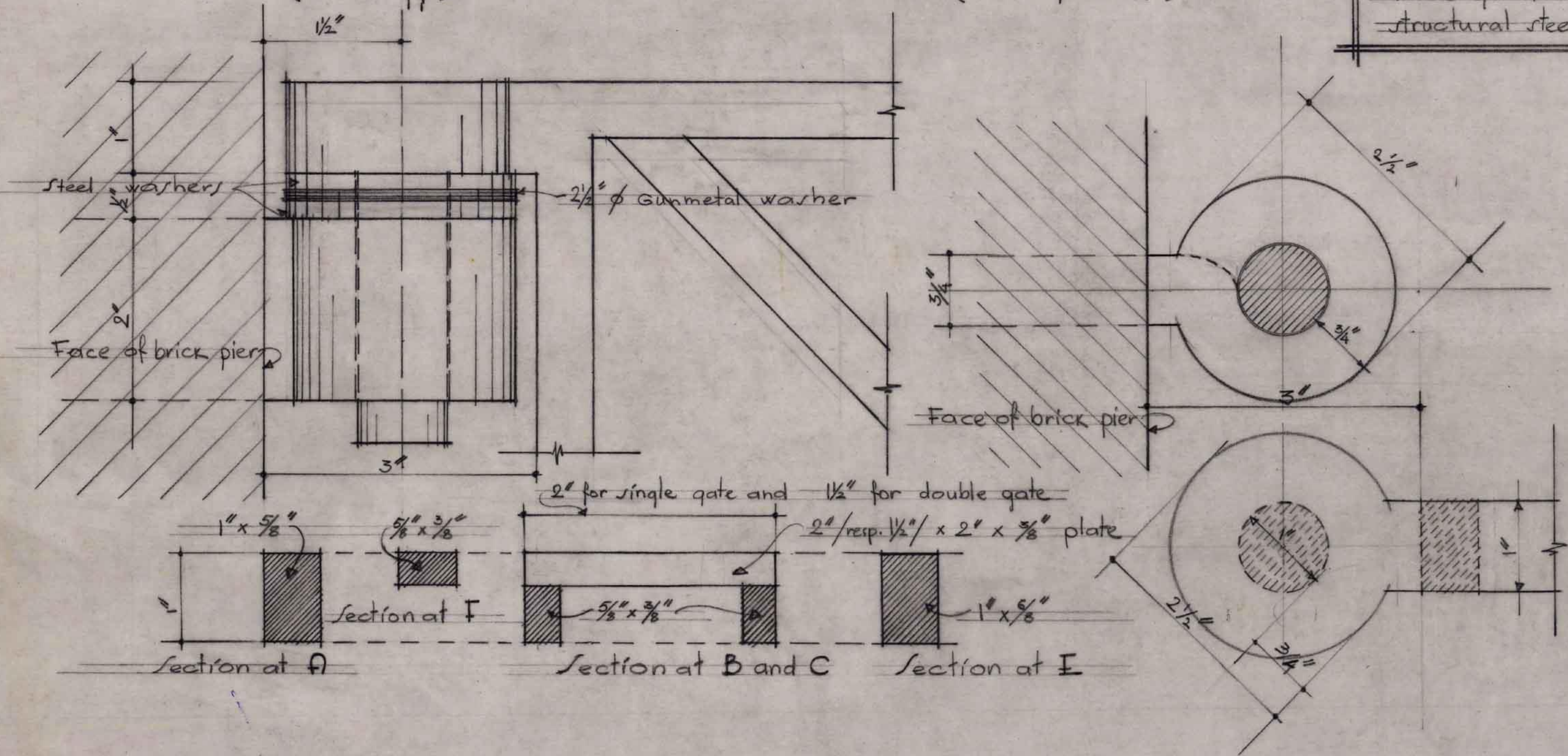
SUPERINTENDANT OF CONSTRUCTION: Bruce H. ...
 SENIOR ARCHITECT: ...
 PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT: ...
 J.R. OF WORK, A.C.T.: ...
 REG. NO. 20587



Elevation of single gate
(No 1 off.)

Elevation of double gate
(No 2 pairs off.)

Notes: Gate to be welded construction throughout. To be given one coat of structural steel paint at shop.



DEPARTMENT OF WORKS AND HOUSING
CANBERRA
A.C.T.

DRAWN By: *RL*

CHECKED By:

SCALE: Full scale / 1/2" to 1'

NEW POST OFFICE KINGSTON - CANBERRA
DETAILS OF WROUGHT IRON ENTRANCE GATES

SUPERINTENDANT
OF CONSTRUCTION

SENIOR ARCHT. *Bruce H. Petherfield*

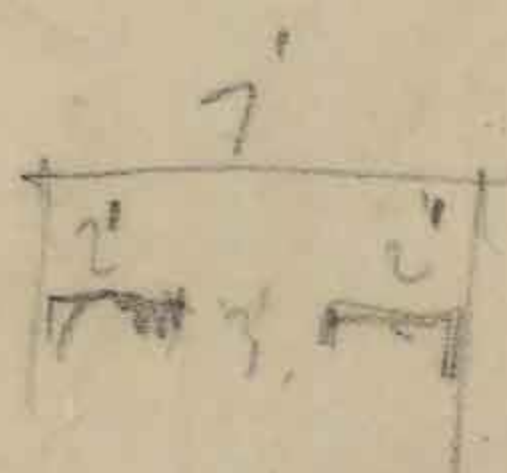
PRINCIPAL ARCHT.

DIR. OF WORKS ACT

MICRO-FILMED

Dart office building

Bitumen paved drive



Take out hedge

Existing hedge

New position of gate

Existing piers to be demolished and rebuilt as shown

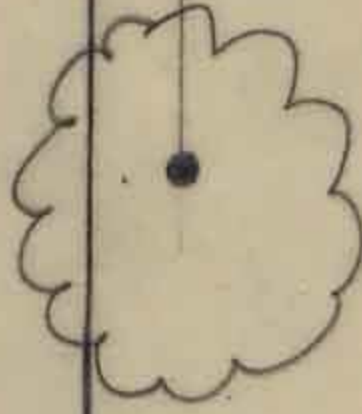
Replace hedge

entrance

10'-3"

6'-6"

New driveway



JARDINE STREET

DEPARTMENT OF WORKS AND HOUSING - CANBERRA, A.C.T.

DRAWN BY: RV.

CHECKED BY: *Agp. 24/8/62*

SCALE: 1/2" TO 1'-0"

NEW POST OFFICE KINGSTON-CANBERRA

A.C.T.

AMENDED DRAWING FOR DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE

SUPERINT. OF CONSTRUCTION

SENIOR ARCHT.

PRINCIPAL ARCHT.

DIR. OF WORKS

Handwritten signature

25/8/62

Comments on the Provisional Registration of the Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston.

***please note that only comments received during the public consultation period will be valid for certain provisions under section 13 and/or review under part 17 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. This includes comments received no earlier than 12am on 18 August 2023 and no later than 11:59pm on 14 September 2023 ***

The Council has provisionally registered the Former Kingston Post Office as a way to indicate that it intends to make a decision on whether or not to permanently put it on the ACT Heritage Register. The provisional registration sets out what it is about the place that the Council thinks is important to the ACT and why. This public consultation aims to find out the views of the ACT community.

Please read the Provisional Registration Decision and the Background Information documents before starting.

Privacy Statement

This survey fulfils the role of public consultation under section 37 of the [Heritage Act 2004](#) (the Act), and the collection of personal information as authorised by the Act. If you make a comment using this form, you will be considered an *interested person* under section 13 of the Act. For this reason, the survey requires respondents to provide contact details so functions under the Act relating to notification of interested persons can be fulfilled. If you do not provide your identity or contact details then the ACT Heritage Council will be unable to give you notice of decisions as an interested person under the Act. Also, you may not be able to be identified as an interested person entitled to appeal rights under the Act.

The personal information on this survey is collected by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) and provided to the ACT Heritage Council. All personal information provided will be collected, used and stored in accordance with the [Information Privacy Act 2014](#) and EPSDD's [Information Privacy Policy](#), which contains information about how you may access or seek to correct your personal information held by EPSDD and how you may complain about an alleged breach of the Territory Privacy Principles.

Section 1 - ACT Heritage Council considerations - place

The boundary on the map (Figure 1) and the attributes listed below are what the ACT Heritage Council considers to capture the proposed heritage significance of the Former Kingston Post Office. Do you agree or do you have suggested changes you want the Council to consider?

the Former Kingston Post Office has the following attributes:

- The original Kingston Post Office Building, as indicated in Image 1, including of:
 - Punchbowl orange facebrick
 - Cream tiles around major openings, windows and parapet roof line
 - Vent grilles and rainwater heads
 - Inter-war stripped classical overall design with minor art deco embellishments, including:
 - Elements arranged symmetrically;
 - Cylindrical mullions used in the main window, alluding to vestigial classical columns and emphasising verticality;
 - Stepped end bay along the building's western external wall implying a classical portico;
 - Ornamental metal windows;
 - Coloured glazed terracotta (faience) facing; and,
 - Low relief ornamental details.
 - Scale and massing of the original single storey form
 - The flagpole, either in its current position above the entrance or in its original position extending horizontally from top of the centre of the western facade
- The rest of the physical material of the place, e.g. the extension and vehicular access as well as interiors, are not considered to be significant heritage features. The larger registered boundary is considered an appropriate heritage curtilage for conserving the scale and massing of the original building while allowing controlled complimentary development.

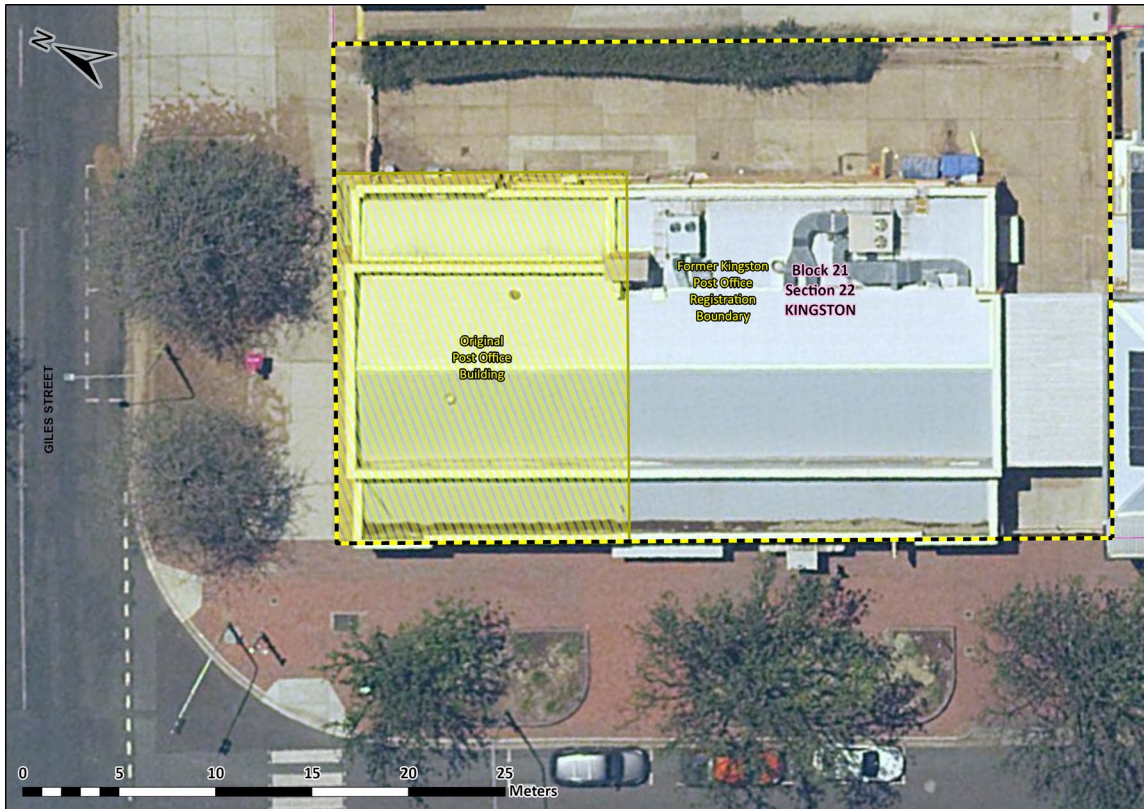


Image 1 – Proposed Heritage Boundary

Your Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

The proposed boundary is acceptable.

The comments below are suggested to provide clearer description of the building attributes to aid in future management of heritage values and significant fabric:

- Ornamental metal windows;

As written, this implies the windows are ornamental, not functional. Is the intention to describe the windows as having no ornament and simple detailing?

Suggest 'Vertically arranged metal framed windows divided into horizontal panes'

- Cylindrical mullions used in the main window, alluding to vestigial classical columns and emphasising verticality;

Suggest 'Cylindrical mullions used in the principal window emphasising verticality'

- Stepped end bay along the building's western external wall implying a classical portico;

Suggest 'Stepped end bays to the principal elevation drawing on classical composition'

- Cream tiles around major openings, windows and parapet roof line

And

- Low relief ornamental details.

Suggest combining the above descriptions for clarity, 'Detailing including horizontally emphasised hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings and spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail capping the parapets'.

- Scale and massing of the original single storey form

Suggest 'Scale and stepped massing of the original single storey section'

Suggested correction:

Complementary not complimentary in the following sentence '...allowing controlled complimentary development.'

Section 2 - ACT Heritage Council considerations - significance

A place or object has heritage significance if it meets with **one** or more of the eight heritage significance criteria as defined under section 10 of the [Heritage Act 2004](#).

The heritage significance criteria are labelled (a) to (h), and your comments are most useful when addressed against each of these criteria, or you could focus on the ones relevant to your argument. However, you may choose to only leave a general comment by skipping to the General Comments section.

The ACT Heritage Council has determined that the Former Kingston Post Office is likely to have heritage significance under criterion (a) only. The criteria that are not met can also be commented on.

While the Council will independently assess and research any claims you make against the criteria, it may be helpful to refer to the [Heritage Assessment Policy](#) as a guide to providing the strongest argument with appropriate evidence.

(a) **importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (a) and is satisfied that the place is likely to meet this criterion.

The Kingston Shopping Precinct was the first shopping precinct developed for the ACT and was the premier shopping destination in the new capital for many decades, providing a central hub for services, socialising and business development in Canberra. The Former Kingston Post Office was integral to the continuing success of businesses in the Precinct during the period of growth following WWII, as it was needed to process a predicted increase in business transactions, as well as being an effective drawcard service to attract people to the area. Its predecessor had outgrown its location in one of the shopfronts in the Precinct along Giles Street, and before that, the first post office in the Kingston area had opened in a house in 1918 at Eastlake, near to the power station, but neither was suitable to the task and a purpose-built facility was needed.

Development in the ACT was severely restricted during the 1930s and the early years of the Second World War. After the end of the War, the Former Kingston Post Office Building was the first official purpose-built post office constructed in the ACT. While it was not the first post office established, it is the oldest surviving post office building designed for the federal capital and was the first significant post-war project for the NSW Post Master General, making it a testament to the faith in the importance of the developing capital.

The high-quality building was the NSW Post Master General's first significant investment since the start of WWII. The commitment of resources and faith in its establishment of significant services in the ACT is demonstrated in the Inter-

war Stripped Classical style of architecture and the solid building material of brick and concrete. While other important buildings of the time were using modernist designs, classicism was still seen as prestigious and emblematic of permanent and institutional buildings as evidenced by such examples as Old Parliament House (J. S. Murdoch's design that influenced elements of his concept plans for early Kingston Shopping Precinct along Giles and Kennedy Streets), the Former Institute of Anatomy, the Former Patent Office as well as the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical examples that followed such as the National Library. The high-quality build is an important contribution to the character of the area recognised later by the NCDC stipulating that the rest of the Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row had to use the same Punchbowl Orange brick as the Post Office as one of the key unifying features. The choice of architectural style and the materials used are significant, not just as evidence of the post-war recovery and investment in the region, but also for its enduring effect on the surrounding architecture that has continued to this day with nearby modern developments referencing the original post office following community consultation.

In a time of economic recovery, the Kingston area, including the Precinct and the surrounding industrial areas, was one of the main business centres in the ACT and there was a high reliance on the Former Kingston Post Office for delivering and receiving orders, invoices, cheques, legal documents, and various other services that businesses of the day depended on.

Your Comments on criterion (a):

This assessment is broadly supportable.

However, additional research into available primary sources indicates that the post office was constructed between 1949 and 1951, with an official opening in 1951 (*Canberra Times*, 18 January 1949, p. 8; *Canberra Times*, 7 June 1951, p. 3). This is contrary to the background information document (15 August 2023) accompanying the provisional registration, which lists a completion date of 1947. **We provide more detail on the findings of this research below at 'Section 3 – General Comments'.**

In view of these discrepancies, and the evidence of a later construction date, we suggest re-examination and confirmation of the following statements with a view to inform the assessment of Criterion (a):

- That this was 'was the first official purpose-built post office constructed in the ACT' following World War II.
- That this is the oldest surviving post office building designed for the Federal capital
- That this was the first significant post-war project for the NSW Post Master General

We note that, at its opening in 1951, the Kingston Post Office was described as ‘the first modern brick post office to be completed since 1940’ (*Canberra Times*, 7 June 1951, p. 8). Nevertheless, it is pertinent that the National Archives of Australia contains plans from 1944 for the construction of a new post office in Manuka (NAA, A2617, Section 1/15143, Section 1/15554), pre-dating the plans for Kingston Post Office. This indicates that several major postal projects were underway during this period.

(b) **has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (b) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. All of these types are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates.

Your Comments on criterion (b):

NA

- (c) **potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (c) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

As a well-documented built place, it is unlikely that any new information will be garnered from the material fabric of the place that would be considered a significant contribution to our existing knowledge. The Former Kingston Post Office does not have the potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural history.

Your Comments on criterion (c):

NA

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (d) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a post office as all of these functions have now moved into the new extension and the original interior post office section retains no evidence of its past use. As a type of architecture, it does demonstrate the principal characteristics of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style (although it was built post-war, the style was most prevalent and synonymous with the inter-war period) with its symmetrical massing and classical composition with a minimum of classical motifs and Art Deco decorative elements; however, as a late (i.e. it was built after the style was falling out of favour) and relatively small (for a style that is exemplified by large institutional buildings that allow a greater expression of the style) example of this kind it is not considered to be important for demonstrating these characteristics. Significant examples of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style include the Former Institute of Anatomy, the Robert Garran Offices, formerly the Patent Office, Barton and Old Parliament House. The Former Kingston Post Office does not meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion as either a post office or an example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture.

Your Comments on criterion (d):

NA

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (e) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

Whilst the Council recognises that the Former Kingston Post Office Building is an example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style with Art Deco characteristics, there is insufficient evidence before the Council at this time to indicate that this exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities that are valued by the community or a cultural group. It does contribute to the character of the Kingston Shopping Precinct, but there is not enough existing evidence of the building being aesthetically valued in and of itself.

Your Comments on criterion (e):

NA

(f) **importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (f) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office was built in a solid, standard, method of construction for its time. It is a brick and timber frame construction. Its design includes provision for movement and loading of postal vehicles, although these features have not been retained in the extant structure of the original building. While the stripped classical design testifies to its government origins, there is nothing that distinguishes it as a post office or shows any special achievement beyond being a well-made building of considered and classical design. There is no evidence at this time that the design meets the threshold demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for the period.

Your Comments on criterion (f):

NA

- (g) **has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (g) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

In its heyday, the Former Kingston Post Office had an important role to play in supporting businesses and attracting shoppers to the Kingston Shopping Precinct, which was the premier shopping destination in the ACT in the period immediately after WWII. As such it would certainly have had a strong and special association with the ACT community as a social and economic hub at that time, but as the city has expanded, the Precinct has been relegated to a smaller role servicing its local neighbourhood. This smaller, local role is consistent with the original planning intention. The original post office building has also not been functioning as a post office since 1989, when that role was moved into the extension. As a consequence of the local role of both the precinct and the original post office building today, the latter does not have a strong or special association to the broader ACT community.

Your Comments on criterion (g):

NA

- (h) **has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.**

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (h) and is satisfied that the place is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office building is associated with the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (the NCPDC), the NSW Post Master General (PMG) and Australia Post, but not in a way that could be considered a special association, i.e. above the ordinary carrying out of their duties, that would satisfy the threshold for meeting this criterion.

The NCPDC was the advisory body to the Minister for the Interior that helped the planning and development of the ACT. They had a role in the development of the Post Office, but there is nothing to suggest that it was a special association above and beyond their usual involvement in any other planning and development issue in the ACT at the time.

The PMG and more recently the Australian Postal Corporation as the owner and developer of the Post Office certainly have an association with the place and are important to the history of the ACT. To meet this criterion, that association would have to be special, i.e. above and beyond the ordinary, however, there is no evidence that the association is special.

Your Comments on criterion (h):

NA

Section 3 – General Comments

I support the proposed heritage registration? Yes

Please include any further comments to your submission:

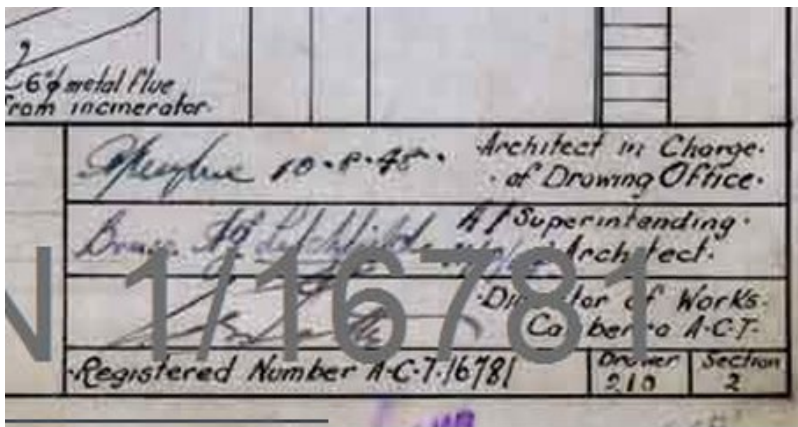
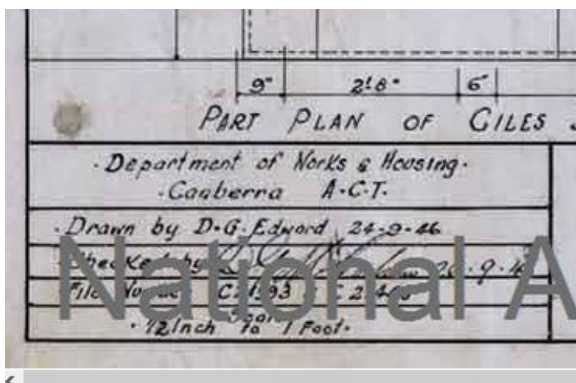
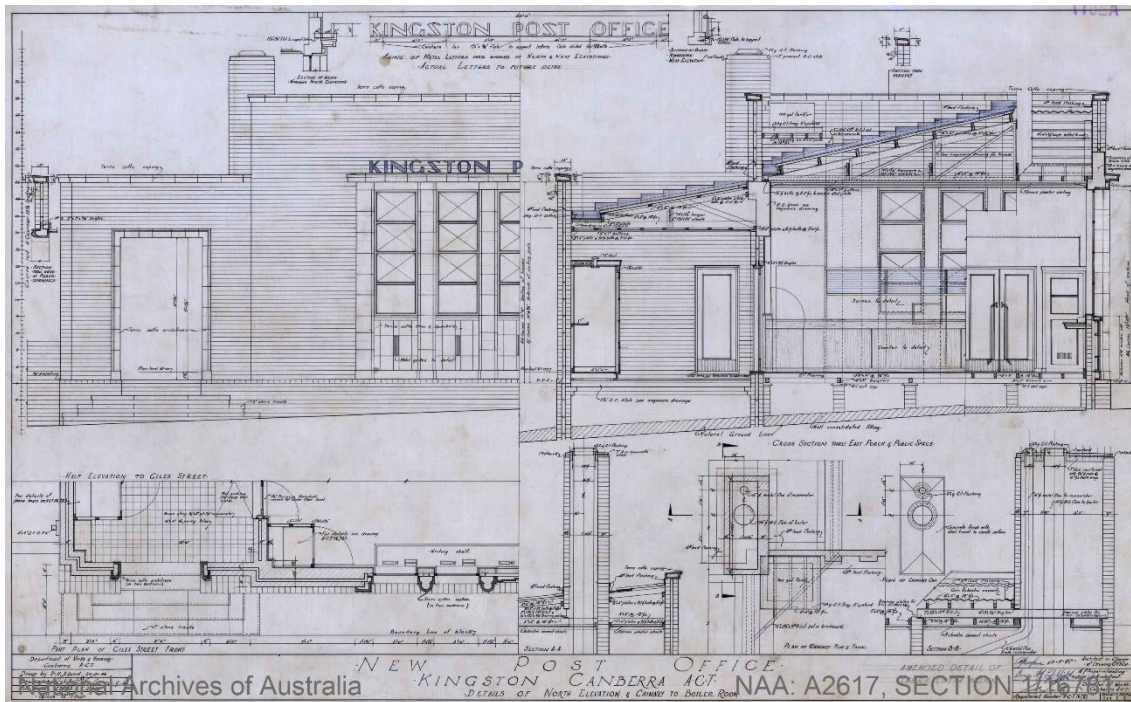
The proposed heritage registration, based on Criterion (a), is broadly supportable, though it is noted that some discrepancies exist between the background information (15 August 2023) accompanying this statement of significance and other publicly available sources. Secondary sources cited in the background document (15 August 2023) are not readily available for review. Preliminary research indicates that a re-examination of this information is warranted in terms of the planning and construction of the post office, as well as the name of the architect who led the works, to inform the assessment of Criterion (a) and revision of the statement of significance.

Research conducted in response to the provisional registration sheds light on the following key elements. Primary sources are appended to this document.

In 1926, the establishment of the Eastlake Post office enhanced postal services to the locality (*Canberra Times*, 11 Nov 1926, p. 1). From October 1944, this post office became known as the Kingston Post Office (*Canberra Times*, 6 Oct 1944, p. 2).

In 1944, a site at the corner of Giles and Jardine streets was selected and approved as the future home of a new post office, but the *Canberra Times* noted that this decision did not guarantee funding or completion of the building during the period of the war (*Canberra Times*, 30 May 1944, p. 4). This theme of eagerness in a time of limited resources continued. In 1946, the Postmaster-General expressed an anxiety ‘to build a new, modern Post Office at Kingston’, but observed that this could not take place immediately. He anticipated that the building was to consist of a single storey but that it would not include residential quarters, a workplace practice that had generally waned during the preceding 20 years (*Canberra Times*, 28 Feb 1946, p. 4). As the decade progressed, the existing postal facilities were deemed inadequate for demand, and the size of the existing building too small to accommodate an increase to the number of staff at the site (*Canberra Times*, 18 Jan 1949, p. 2).

The Department of Works began drafting plans in 1946. Primary sources available through the National Archives of Australia (see figures below) indicate that Bruce Litchfield served as the Superintending Architect, while DG Edwards executed some of the original drawings (‘New Kingston Post Office, Details of North Elevation and Chimney to Boiler Room’, NAA, A2617, Section 1/16781, Item number 5407776). Litchfield’s name also appears alongside designs for various features at the post office, as well as plans for the driveway (NAA, A2617, Items no 5407763, 5407802, 5407786, 5407793). This indicates his leading role in overseeing the design and construction of the Kingston Post Office, rather than DG Edwards, who appears to have fulfilled more of a draftsman’s role. In terms of biographical background, Litchfield is known as the ‘sole civilian architect’ employed to rebuild Darwin after World War II, and he also designed a number of buildings in Katherine during the post-war period (*The Mail*, 23 February 1946, p. 2). He was later involved in the development of the Australian National University.



Kingston Post Office, north elevation and chimney to boiler room, 1946, with close-ups showing the people involved in the plans.
 Source: National Archives of Australia, A2617, Section 1/16781, Item no 5407776

Plans were completed in August 1948, with the *Canberra Times* (31 August 1948, p. 2) reporting that 'residents welcomed the news of a larger post office' with 'increased telephone and private box facilities', and 'more public space than any other post office in Canberra'. In January, the *Canberra Times* (18 January 1949, p. 2) announced that 'a start will be made on a new post office building at Kingston within the next few weeks'.

The new Kingston Post Office was officially opened on 6 June 1951 by the recently elected Member of Parliament and Labor politician James Fraser. The *Canberra Times* observed that it was the 'first modern brick post office ... completed since 1940'. The building, 'of a most modern design', incorporated a 'spacious' public waiting area and counter space, generous staff amenities, and 'electrically heated lockers in which the clothes of outdoor staff will be dread in wet weather' (*Canberra Times*, 7 June 1951, p. 3).

Section 4 - Demographics

Your personal details are confidential and will not be publicly visible, but this is required for you to be kept informed and to be counted as an 'interested person' (refer to the Privacy Statement at the beginning of the document).

If you do not provide your identity or contact details then the ACT Heritage Council will be unable to give you notice of decisions as an interested person under the Act. Also, you may not be able to be identified as an interested person entitled to appeal rights under the Act.

First Name: Lovell Chen, on behalf of Australia Post

Last Name: NA

Preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Australia Post: [REDACTED]@auspost.com.au

Lovell Chen: [REDACTED]@lovellchen.com.au Ph: [REDACTED]

Age range: NA [Click to choose an age range.](#)

Relationship to the place: Lovell Chen are engaged by Australia Post to review the provisional registration and respond with comments to the ACT Heritage Council

Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations? Yes - many times

What next?

After you are happy with your comments and have saved this form it can be emailed to heritage@act.gov.au or printed out and mailed to:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601

Hekimian, Richard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 11 September 2023 4:05 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Kingston PO provisional registration submission
Attachments: ST Kingson PO.pdf

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Learn why this is important<<http://www.act.gov.au/emailsecurity>>

Please find attached a submission on the provisional registration of the Kingston Post Office



11 Sept 2023

Secretary,
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601
heritage@act.gov.au

Re: Provisional registration of the former Kingston Post Office

1. I value this opportunity to comment on the provisional registration of the Kingston Post Office (**the post office**).ⁱ
2. I make this submission in my personal capacity but I am a member of the Griffith Narrabundah Community Association (GNCA) and the Canberra District Historical Society (CDHS) and endorse their submissions. I have also read the submission of the Kingston Barton Residents Group (KBRG) and support their submission.
3. I strongly support the addition of the post office to the ACT Heritage Register. In fact, I am surprised the post office is not on the Commonwealth Heritage list, alongside post offices in other Australian states and territories, including the Bondi and Cronulla Post Offices (built in 1922 and 1924 respectively).ⁱⁱ This is because the post office is the last of the early ACT post offices and because of the role the post office, like others, has played and continues to play, in the social and cultural life of our community.ⁱⁱⁱ
4. The *Heritage Act* 2004 (**the Act**) s.10 provides that:

Meaning of heritage significance

A place or object has heritage significance if the place or object meets 1 or more of the following criteria (the heritage significance criteria):

- (a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;*
- (d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;*
- (e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;*
- (f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;*
- (g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;*
- (h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.*

5. These eight criteria derive from the National Heritage Convention held in Canberra in 1998 and are known as the HERCON criteria.^{iv} They provide a national standard for guiding heritage

significance assessments although the ACT and states have slightly adapted them to suit local needs.^v

6. The Explanatory Statement (**ES**) for the Act states^{vi}:

Provisional registration is a process to put in place immediate protection while the more extended registration process, including consultation and possible appeals, is undertaken. Protection of these provisionally registered places is provided through the notification process (s 32) and through the operation of Part 10.

The ES also includes, at Appendix A, a guide to the process of provisional registration.

7. The Assessment Policy (**the Policy**) used by the Council has been provided on the government's Yoursay website but I approach it with caution. Policy must reflect the legislation it is applying and this Policy appears to introduce additional tests that are not in the Act, requiring irrelevant circumstances to be taken into account. For example, in relation to criterion b, the Policy requires: a three tiered "basic test"; "further threshold indicators"; and prioritises the ACT's natural history over its cultural history. While a Policy can guide applicants and decision makers it cannot prevail over legislation that has been passed by elected representatives.^{vii}
8. The ACT's cultural heritage is referenced in six of the eight HERCON criteria In s.10. Section 10B prescribes the meaning of cultural heritage significance:

*A place or object has **cultural heritage significance** if it—*

(a) is—

(i) created or modified by human action; or

(ii) associated with human activity or a human event; and

(b) has heritage significance.

9. Although Australia is not yet a signatory to UNESCO's International Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, that document helpfully provides a definition (Art 2(1)):

The "intangible cultural heritage" means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.

Such heritage is manifested, among other things, in "social practices" (Art 2(c)). It is safeguarded through "measures aimed at ensuring the viability of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage." (Art 3).

10. I note that the Heritage Council states^{viii}:

Each place must be assessed on its own merits, but understood in its broader context

The context of the post office

11. The following explain the context of the post office since it was built:

- The importance of letters and parcels to Canberra families who were separated from loved ones that were interstate and overseas. In particular, the importance of the post office to women and children and the migrants who arrived in increasing numbers after World War Two (**WW2**).
- The access to public telephones and telegraph services that were available at the post office.
- The changes in telecommunications since the post office was built including the decline in the use of letters and telegrams and the introduction of the internet and mobile phones.
- The previous need for trunk calls to telephone numbers outside Canberra.
- The relatively low incidence of telephone land lines in Canberra places of residence at the time the post office was built.
- The establishment of the post office when the community had just emerged from WW2 and was building its future.
- The importance of the post office to a developing community.
- The location of the post office at the busy Kingston shops.
- The value to the postal workers of a comfortable, specially designed workplace.

The boundary

12. The boundary identified by the Council should be retained.

The criteria

13. As requested in the Policy,^{ix} I have thoughtfully and rigorously applied the eight heritage significance criteria in s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* as follows:

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

14. In summary I:

- agree with the Council's comments about the importance of the building to the course of the ACT's cultural and natural history.
- agree with the Council's understandable emphasis on the importance of the post office to businesses in the area.
- draw attention to the importance of the post office to the domestic life and well-being of the local community.
- have applied the law and not the additional requirements in the Policy.

15. The following expands on the Council's explanation of why the post office was important to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural history. These facts also inform my responses to the other criteria.

- The post office, with its postal, telegraph and phone box services, was vital in a community where many families had been transplanted from interstate or overseas.^x
 - In 1960 49% of all communication was by letter,^{xi} whereas in 2004 letters were only 14% of Australia Post's business. When the post office was built, and in the years after, letters were a part of life.

- The national mobile phone network was not introduced until 1989 and, even in 1980, the Kingston post office was being advertised as a place where multi coin phones were available to make trunk calls.^{xii} When the post office was built, and in the years after, it was frequently used by various members of the community and visitors from interstate and overseas to make long distance calls.
 - Telegram usage in Australia peaked in 1945 with 35 million telegrams sent but this had halved by 1975. In 1945 Australia had a population of 7.4 million which equates to every Australian sending about 5 telegrams in 1945. The point is, when the post office opened, telegrams were a part of life.
- Post offices are still important today. They are still ranked as the third most trusted institution after doctors and the police and 73% of the Australian community say they are vital to accessing core services. The average Australian still has 16 visits a year to a post office and those with a disability are 3 times more likely to visit them.^{xiii} Now there is a far wider range of services than when the post office opened because, for example, people can pay utility and other bills, make passport applications and buy gifts. The post office is particularly helpful to those challenged by the digital divide.
- When the post office was opened the ACT population was 22,000. Unfortunately, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Year Books^{xiv} from that period, that show telecommunications usage by year, include ACT data with NSW. Nevertheless, they provide a useful picture of usage by an Australian population of 9 million and the NSW population of 3 million. Over a million letters, postcards and lettercards were sent in Australia meaning 148,000 were sent per 1000 head of population or 148 per person per annum. In the year ending June 1951 over 9 million telegrams were lodged and only 27% were by telephone. So 73% (6.5 million) were lodged in person at post offices. There were about 30,000 telephone subscribers in the whole of NSW who made an average of 11 daily calls. Assuming others, who were not subscribers, made one third of the number of calls per day, there would have been frequent use of the telephones at the post office.
- The use of the post office by women and children is evidenced by the report of the necessity to install a “letter receiver” on a nearby corner (near the Kennedy St and Eyre St intersection) to avoid the “dangers faced by women and children crossing busy streets to letter posting boxes at Kingston post office”.^{xv}
- The Council’s description of Kingston as “the premier shopping destination” is correct. It was common (as now) for men, women and children to use the post office while shopping, travelling past on their way to or from school, or socialising. It was also common (as now) for visitors to Canberra, office workers and other Canberrans to use the post office while shopping, eating or travelling past Kingston.^{xvi}
- From 1 May 1952 all mail to Griffith was delivered from the Kingston post office, like the mail to Kingston, Narrabundah and the Causeway. Previously some mail for Griffith had come from the Canberra Post Office.^{xvii}
- JB Youngs’ department store at Kingston occupied the first business site to be offered in Canberra.^{xviii} It was across the road from the post office and was integral to the shopping centre. So too were the Ganters fabric shop,^{xix} Sylvia Parsons dress shop, Chandlers jewellers, Cusacks furniture store and the pharmacies.^{xx} Some accounts are:
 - Thousands of women and girls “besieged” J.B.Youngs stocktake sale in 1953 causing sales 400% higher than any other trading day.^{xxi}
 - A penny drive to raise money for the new P & C at Yarralumla aimed to place pennies around the block at Kingston shops.^{xxii}
 - There were fashion parades^{xxiii} and visits by people such as Miss Australia.^{xxiv}

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

16. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion. The descriptors^{xxv} in this criterion are “uncommon, rare or endangered.”^{xxvi}The following factors are relevant:

- The post office is the last remaining purpose-built post office building in Canberra. This makes it an uncommon or rare aspect of Canberra's cultural history.
- There is no requirement in the criterion that a building be still in use for the purpose for which it designed so it is unclear why the Council considers its current status as a post office relevant. Arguably this is an irrelevant consideration.
- While the post office comes within the broad family of “government buildings” it belongs to different genus than large government buildings housing federal institutions. It is on a smaller, more domestic, scale being single storey with counters and waiting spaces. ^{xxvii} Its primary role was to serve a community.
- While there are other stripped classical buildings there are no examples of buildings on the scale of the post office.

(c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

17. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion. The Council appears to interpret this criterion as meaning that the building itself, rather than what it represents and embodies, must yield information. But the Act defines “the place” broadly. Place is defined in s.8 as:

place includes the following:

- (a) a site, precinct or parcel of land;
- (b) a building or structure, or part of a building or structure;
- (c) the curtilage, or setting, of a building or structure, or part of a building or structure
- (d) an object or feature historically associated with, and located at, the place.

18. I query the validity of the Policy's introduction of a “basic test” or rule that:

- replaces the word “potential” in s.10(c) with “reasonable likelihood”
- requires “substantial physical evidence not currently visible” and
- requires “evidence of a likely integrity and/or condition to yield information

19. Potentially the post office could yield important information about the ACT's history:

Australian history has been conspicuously silent on the examination of the history of technological subjects and the role technological development has played in the country's evaluation of social interconnections.^{xxviii}

20. Australia Post has a heritage strategy^{xxix} that has resulted in 20 post offices being listed on the Commonwealth register. It is not clear why the Kingston post office is not included as it has special characteristics. Australia Post has also commissioned studies on the importance of postal services in communities.^{xxx}

21. Arguably work on the history of telecommunications in Australia, the role of post offices in the fabric of society and the role of this post office in the development of Canberra is just

now emerging. For example, the availability of records on Trove enhances studies and understanding. As my preliminary research shows, this post office has the potential to yield important information about the ACT's cultural heritage.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

22. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion. The Act provides that the object has heritage significance if it is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects. Unlike the Policy, the Act does not require the characteristics to be "evident in the physical fabric of the place" nor for it to "important in the ACT's cultural or natural history, having made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution".^{xxxii}
23. The post office should be assessed against the class of community facilities built immediately after WW2 to provide vital services for areas attracting families, businesses and government.
24. The fact that the building no longer supplies postal services is irrelevant. The issue is whether the building demonstrates the characteristics of a building that did.
25. This is what was said when the post office was opened^{xxxii}:

Mr. Fraser handed the key of the post office to Mr. N. Mason, who is the new postmaster.

Prior to unlocking the door, Mr. Mason said that it would be his aim, and the aim of his staff to uphold the traditions of the post office with constant attention to courtesy, efficiency and service.

Electrically heated lockers in which the clothes of outdoor staff will be dried in wet weather, are a feature of the staff quarters in the new post office.

The staff quarters, according to postal workers are the most modern in Australia.

Both men's and women's retiring rooms are provided, while a dining room is an added feature.

The post office extends for more than 75 feet from its frontage on Giles Street. Spacious counter and waiting space has been included in the building.

A boiler room, storeroom and electrical room have been provided at the rear of the front office.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

26. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion.
27. There is extensive philosophical debate on aesthetics and I do not engage with this. The Policy, without explanation, takes a traditional approach of "artistic excellence" and

“judgement” about “beauty. ..evocativeness” etc. It also acknowledges that “sensory perceptions” play a role.

28. The Act does not define community so the dictionary definition applies. The ACT community is correctly described in the Policy as “the broad community of the ACT.”

29. The evidence of the value of the aesthetic characteristics of the post office to the ACT community includes this submission and others from community groups and residents.

30. I suggest that the building evokes a strong response because it embodies the period when Kingston was developing and thriving as a busy commercial hub. It is a place where we reached out to loved ones from our new lives in a new city. The building represents the period immediately after the Depression and World War Two when our community was moving ahead with confidence. Its form reflects this.

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

31. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion because of its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative and technical achievement in responding to needs of postal workers in a cold climate who were meeting high demands for service.

32. Unlike the Policy, the Act does not require “visible physical evidence” of achievement.^{xxxiii}

33. The Council’s opinion is belied by the pride of the government, the postmaster, the postal workers and the community in the new post office – see extract above.

34. The “Inclusion Guidelines” in the Policy could, but do not, include guidance about a “creative solution to challenges faced by the workforce using the building.” As the extract above shows, the postal workers considered the structure “the most modern in Australia” with its heated lockers for drying wet gear, retiring rooms and a dining room.

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

35. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion. I apply the Act and not the Policy’s added requirement that the place provides the ACT community with “a shared sense of place and/or a sense of identity and/or story through collective experience or history”.^{xxxiv}

36. I make the following comments about the “strong and special association with the ACT community”:

- 1) The question is whether the post office has a special association with the ACT community. Its association “in its heyday” is only relevant insofar as it informs whether it has a strong association now.
- 2) The current social, cultural or spiritual reasons for a strong or special association are relevant. These reasons can be influenced by what occurred in the past. The descriptions above show not only past connections but also current connections. For example, it is still

common for Canberrans to visit the easily accessible post office in Kingston when they come to Kingston to visit the stores or services there such as the library, the gym, Silo, Lavender and Lace, the IGA or Purnells. They come, in part, because they like the history of the Precinct and the post office is part of the history.

3) I question the validity of the Council's conclusion that "the Precinct has been relegated to servicing its local neighbourhood" and that "(t)his smaller local role is consistent with the original planning intention." No evidence has been provided to support this conclusion. The contrary evidence is:

- The designation of Kingston as a Group Centre in ACT Planning documents.
- The presence in the Precinct, during lunch, dinner and the weekend, of a wide range of Canberrans and interstate and overseas visitors. This is evidenced by vehicle number plates. Other evidence could be obtained through interviews with shop keepers. For example, the Bock Cow proprietor could speak about attendees at functions there. I recently attended one with an interstate speaker and school teacher/librarians from all over Canberra and Queanbeyan.
- The Precinct is now, and always has been, a place that Barton residents and office workers visit after walking through Telopea Park. This is evidenced by observation.
- The development of Kingston foreshore has increased, not lessened, its role. So too has the increase in hotels and air bnbs in the area and the re-design of Manuka oval. This is evidenced by accessing booking websites.

4) The fact that the original post office has not been functioning as a post office since 1989 is irrelevant to the association it has with the ACT community.

5) The link between local businesses and the post office has not changed since "the heyday". In fact there are probably more businesses using the post office now. This could be tested by obtaining evidence from the post office about post office box usage etc

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

37. I disagree with the Council that the post office does not meet this criterion. I apply the words of the legislation: "a special association with the life or work of a person..important to the history of the ACT". Unlike the Policy, the Act does not require:

- That the person or people who were important in the ACT's history "made a contribution" in their "life or work." It requires a "special association with the life or work" and that the person was "important to the history of the ACT."
- That the association is evident in the physical fabric of the place and/or in documentary research and/or in oral history". While that evidence may be useful it is not part of the "basic test."
- That the association "directly relates" to "achievements of the person relating to the place or object."xxxxThe Act does not require a "direct" relationship. It requires a "special association".

38. The CDHS submission states that there is evidence that the post office was designed in the Department of Works and Housing, Canberra. Architects involved were the Assistant Director of Works David Limburg, Principal Architect Edgar L. Miller, and Senior Architect Bruce Litchfield. I support this submission.
39. I would be happy to provide any elaboration or further assistance to the Council.

Yours faithfully



ⁱ Notifiable Instrument NI2023-492

ⁱⁱ https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/heritage-strategy.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ Malcolm M Rea 'Communication Across the Generations: An Australian Post Office History of Queensland' espace.libraty.uq

^{iv} ACT EPSDD Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 Summary Statement https://www.environment.act.gov.au/heritage/publications-and-resources/heritage_legislation_amendment_bill_2013_summary_statement

^v Id

^{vi} www.legislation.act.gov.au

^{vii} See discussion in *Minister for Home Affairs v G* [2019] FCAFC 79; 266 FCR 569 that cites *Drake v Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs* [1979] FCA 39; 24 ALR 577 and *Plaintiff M64/2015 v MIBP* [2015] HCA 15, 258 CLR 173 para 54.

^{viii} ACT Heritage Council *Heritage Assessment Policy* p.9: https://hdp-au-prod-app-act-yoursay-files.s3.amazonaws.com/5916/0556/9580/Heritage_Assessment_policy.pdf

^{ix} Id Part 3.1 p.8

^x In 1913 Canberra's population was 13,000 and by 1954 that had grown to 30,000.

<https://demography.cass.anu.edu.au/events/canberra-celebrates-its-centenary-100-years-population-change>

^{xi} A Quamral and R.Grose "Australia Post: a successful gbe" Chap 8 in *Regional Business in a Global Economy* Routledge 2002

^{xii} *Canberra Times* 25 Aug 1980 p.22

^{xiii} The Value of Post Offices in Australia: Australia Post 2021' Deloitte Access Economics

https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/the-value-of-post-offices-in-australia.pdf

^{xiv} The 1950-51 data is in the 1954 Yearbook:

[https://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/free.nsf/0/4C70173B4170D3D4CA2573AD00200495/\\$File/13010_1954%20section%205.pdf](https://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/free.nsf/0/4C70173B4170D3D4CA2573AD00200495/$File/13010_1954%20section%205.pdf)

^{xv} *Canberra Times* 18 May 1962 p.14

^{xvi} Based on personal experience and observation. I have used Kingston Post Office, sporadically, since 1963 while living in Lyneham, Downer, Garran, Barton and Narrabundah and working in the Parliamentary Triangle and elsewhere.

^{xvii} *Canberra Times* 12 April 1952 p.4

^{xviii} *Canberra Times* 23 May 1956 p.4

^{xix} *Canberra Times* 23 May 1956 p.4

^{xx} *Canberra Times* 2 July 1987 p.16

^{xxi} *Canberra Times* 24 July 1953 p.4

^{xxii} *Canberra Times* 15 May 1956 p.4

^{xxiii} *Canberra Times* 24 Oct 1958 p. 11, *Canberra Times* 10 July 1954 p.5

xxiv *Canberra Times* 24 Oct 1958 p. 11, *Canberra Times* 10 July 1954 p.5

xxv Described as “threshold indicators” in the Policy.

xxvi N.iv Part 3.2 p.9

xxvii *Canberra Times* 7 June 1951 p.3

xxviii Ann Moyal ‘The long term performance of a utility: the case of the Australian Post Office’ Vol 19 Issue 3-4
Competition and Regulation in Network Industries

xxix https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/heritage-strategy.pdf

xxx See n.ii above

xxxi N iv p 19

xxxii *Canberra Times* 18 January 1949 p.3

xxxiii N iv p.24

xxxiv N iv p.26

xxxv N iv p.28

Hekimian, Richard

From: Brie Purnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 11:55 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: SUBMISSION: FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE HERITAGE LISTING
Attachments: 14092023115133-0001.pdf

Importance: High

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached submission in support of the of the Former Kingston Post Office being listed in the ACT Heritage Register.

Yours sincerely,
Brie Purnell-Santos

Brie Purnell - Santos

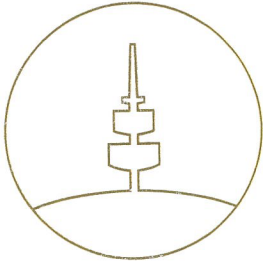
Director | Property Management

Ph: 6295 2011

E: [REDACTED]

PURNELL

SINCE 1987



The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

13 September 2023

SUBMISSION: FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE PROVISIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

As directors of Purnell R/E Pty Ltd and tenants of the Former Kingston Post Office, Nick Purnell and I strongly support the said building being added to the ACT Heritage Register.

We believe it is imperative that significant buildings such as the Former Kingston Post Office should be protected from re-development and their historical value preserved. We have secured a ten-year lease on the building and intend to continue to respect the building's character for many years to come.

The building has a special association not only to our family but to generations of local Canberran's who have grown up with the building, we are honoured to be able to use the building for our growing locally owned family business with strong community ties. We often have passersby who come into our premises express their joy at seeing the building being occupied and restored in line with its pre-war architecture.

We have recently undertaken an extensive internal renovation in keeping with the building's 1920's style. We have a strong appreciation and respect for the building's heritage & history to the Kingston suburb with our family having ties in Kingston going as far back as the 1920's. Our grandmother grew up on Kennedy Street and worked at both JB Youngs and Heney's pharmacy on Giles Street. Our father Kevin Purnell played AFL for Eastlake on the Kingston oval; our children now play for the club.

The building has been a constant for generations of local residents and its heritage value must be recognised and protected.

Yours sincerely

Nicholas Purnell & Brie Purnell-Santos

PURNELL
SINCE 1987

(02) 6295 2011
PO Box 4267 Kingston ACT
property@purnellcitywide.com.au
ABN: 15 122 545 480

Hekimian, Richard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 1:51 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Submission- Support of Former Kingston Post Office to Heritage Register
Attachments: Genette & Kevin Purnell Submission- Kingston Post Office.pdf

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached our submission in support of the Former Kingston Post Office being added to the ACT Heritage Register.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Regards,
Genette Purnell

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

13 September 2023

SUBMISSION: FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE PROVISIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

We, Genette & Kevin Purnell as Directors of Purnell Real Estate Pty Ltd wish to formally submit our support of the listing of the Kingston Post Office building on the Heritage Register.

We have a 5+5 year lease through Australia Post and have recently refurbished and renovated the premises at considerable cost, in a manner which reflects the heritage architecture and style of the building.

Our association with the Kingston suburb is long and dates back to the 1920's when my mother grew up in a government house in Kennedy Street. She went on to work at JB Youngs and Hearney's pharmacy on Giles Street after leaving Telopea Park School.

Purnell Citywide Real Estate opened its office in 1987 in Giles Street and subsequently moved to the premises of the Former Kingston Post Office.

We value the "village" feel of the Kingston area and feel that if this listing does not succeed the ambience of the suburb will be lost.

Therefore we strongly implore the Heritage Council to register the building as heritage building.

Should the Heritage Council be interested to discuss our concerns or inspect the interior of our office premises, we would be very happy to discuss. I can be reached on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Genette Purnell & Kevin Purnell

Hekimian, Richard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 9:11 AM
To: Heritage
Subject: Listing of the Former Kingston Post Office - Letter in support.
Attachments: Kingston Post Office.docx

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The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council

Please find attached my letter in support of the above proposed listing.

[REDACTED]

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE – PROVISIONAL HERITAGE LISTING

I am writing to add my support of the decision by the Heritage Council to add the Former Kingston Post Office to the ACT Heritage Register.

I was born in Canberra in the early 1950's and grew up in the Kingston /Narrabundah area. As a "local" I have always appreciated the limited amount of recent history that is evident in the Canberra area. I continue to use the Kingston shopping precinct and the current Post Office on a regular basis.

The old Kingston Post Office represents a part of the early history of Canberra that is not often evident to new arrivals and visitors in the city. Apart from the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings in Civic, the Manuka pool and a few of the old hotels and hostels there are not many examples of early non-residential buildings still evident to the casual observer in the city. The old Kingston Post Office represents a unique example of Canberra's architecture and one that should be preserved.

The exterior of the building has been fortunate to have avoided being altered significantly over its lifetime and this is something that should be protected. In addition to the building itself the neighbouring building environment should also be restricted to development that is in sympathy with the old Post Office Building itself.

I am sure there are other technical and historically related reasons that would further reinforce the decision to list the building, but I will leave others to address those issues.

I look forward to seeing your decision to add the building to the Register confirmed.

Yours sincerely



Hekimian, Richard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 4:58 PM
To: Heritage
Subject: Submission regarding heritage listing of the Kingston Post Office

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Dear ACT Heritage,

I write to register my opposition to the heritage listing of the Kingston Post Office.

I am a resident of Canberra and I have no particular interests in relation to the site of the Kingston Post Office.

I previously made a submission in relation to the provisional heritage listing of this property.

I would like to reiterate my previous points in relation to this matter:

I do not believe that the building offers significant heritage value to the Australian Capital Territory. The building is a relatively nondescript brick structure.

The nomination form indicates that the building is a "notable example of a building in the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style with Art Deco details". I would contest that the building is not, in fact, notable. No references to the Kingston Post Office building can be found in guides to notable Canberra architecture that are found online, for example: <http://www.canberrahouse.com.au/> does not list the building as a notable example of inter-war architecture.

The building is a squat brick structure that does not enhance the aesthetic qualities of the nearby streets. Visitors to the area do not seek out the building or take photos of it. Local real estate ads do not use it as a positive when advertising the area.

The primary justification for listing the building appears to be its age, being a very nondescript and typical example of functional architecture of the time.

If Canberra chooses to heritage list every piece of architecture that is a nondescript and typical example of the functional architecture of its time, we will rapidly become a city frozen in time.

I would further like to add the following points:

The justification under criterion (a) is weak. There are no distinctive events identified that are associated with the site. It is not the first building to serve as a post office in Canberra, not even the first post office in Kingston. The point regarding the "high-quality build" and "Punchbowl Orange bricks" being an "important contribution to the character of the area" is particularly weak - noting that the Council finds that criterion (e) regarding aesthetic characteristics isn't satisfied. This seems like an excuse for the Council to register a place that doesn't meet the benchmark of "outstanding" aesthetic characteristics.

The listed attributes being considered for registration are excessive in scope. In particular, including "scale and massing of the original single storey form" goes beyond what is necessary to protect the site's identified significance

under criterion (a), given that the criterion (a) assessment focuses on the role of the building in the history of the ACT as evidenced through other architectural and material elements of the building.

The aesthetic and structural features of the building should not be considered under criterion (a). These features should only be considered against criteria (d), (e), or (f). Using these features as justification for listing under criterion (a) means that the Heritage Council has failed to abide by its own governing legislation.

Registering this building would be detrimental to the continued development of Kingston as a group centre, and would have impacts on environmental sustainability, liveability and economic prosperity. It would likely effectively prohibit future mixed-use developments on the site that are in line with modern planning principles. Such developments could provide additional housing supply in a highly-liveable, well-located part of Canberra, and additional space for businesses that benefit from the agglomerative effects of co-location.

In registering this building, the ACT Heritage Council has significantly exceeded its statutory remit in terms of the need to protect heritage in the ACT.

The fact that this building is nondescript should be considered an agreed fact, given the Heritage Council's agreement that the building does not meet criteria (d), (e), or (f) for heritage listing.

The Minister's Statement of Expectations for the ACT Heritage Council requires the council to have regard to the Government's policy priorities. In particular, listing of this building would conflict with two stated areas of ACT Government policy priority:

Emissions reduction and climate change sustainability. Preserving this building and preventing the development of higher-density residential or commercial facilities in a group centre such as Kingston will reduce the capacity of the ACT to address transport emissions. It is clear that higher-density neighbourhoods allow residents to address more of their transport needs through

Housing affordability and preserving Canberra's place as a city of choice to live and work in. The preservation of this building will prevent development of a higher-density residential, commercial, or mixed use building or set of buildings on the property. This means that the Kingston area will not benefit from significant amounts of new affordable housing or high-quality commercial property on the site.

The Council's own assessment on criterion (a) notes the importance of the Former Kingston Post Office as being "integral to the continuing success of businesses in the Precinct". By preserving this building in its current built form, the Heritage Council is damaging the prospect for the continued success of retail businesses in the Kingston Precinct that will rely on a growing local population of residents and workers. It is clear from other failing group centres around Canberra that sufficient density and local population is vital to the success of any retail precinct. It thus is ironic, but not surprising, that the heritage listing of this building risks damaging the very business precinct listed in the council's own justification for heritage listing.

Kind regards,



Hekimian, Richard

From: Ryan, Melanie
Sent: Wednesday, 4 October 2023 6:10 PM
To: Hekimian, Richard
Cc: Jeffress, Stuart
Subject: Engagement data - Former Kingston Post Office engagement
Attachments: Responses - Former Kingston Post Office.pdf; Data - Former Kingston Post Office.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Assessments

OFFICIAL

Hi Richard

Engagement on the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office closed 14 September 2023. A Listening Report is not required for this engagement, however I have pulled the survey responses and data (attached), and highlighted key analytics below.

- Engagement period: 18 August to 14 September 2023
- Views: 218
- Visitors: 136
- Contributions: 18
- Contributors: 18
- Key demographic of contributors: equally male and female; aged 45-54 and 65-74; living in Inner South
- Those who support the proposed heritage registration: 52.94% (9 contributors)
- Those who do not support it: 41.18% (7 contributors)
- Those partial/conditional: 5.88% (1)

Regards
Mel

Melanie Ryan

Assistant Director, Communications and Engagement – Environment, Heritage and Water

 [Microsoft Teams](#) | EPSDD Media Mobile: 0401 766 218

Communications, Engagement and Media | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 4 (Snow Gum), 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

www.environment.act.gov.au | www.planning.act.gov.au | www.climatechoices.act.gov.au

I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

Closed

Have YourSay on the Provisional Registration
Former Kingston Post Office

18
Contributors

18
Contributions

Contribution Summary

1. Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text | Skipped: 6 | Answered: 12 (66.7%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

2. Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text | Skipped: 9 | Answered: 9 (50%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

3. Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

4. Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

5. Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

6. Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

7. Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

8. Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text | Skipped: 10 | Answered: 8 (44.4%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

9. Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text | Skipped: 11 | Answered: 7 (38.9%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

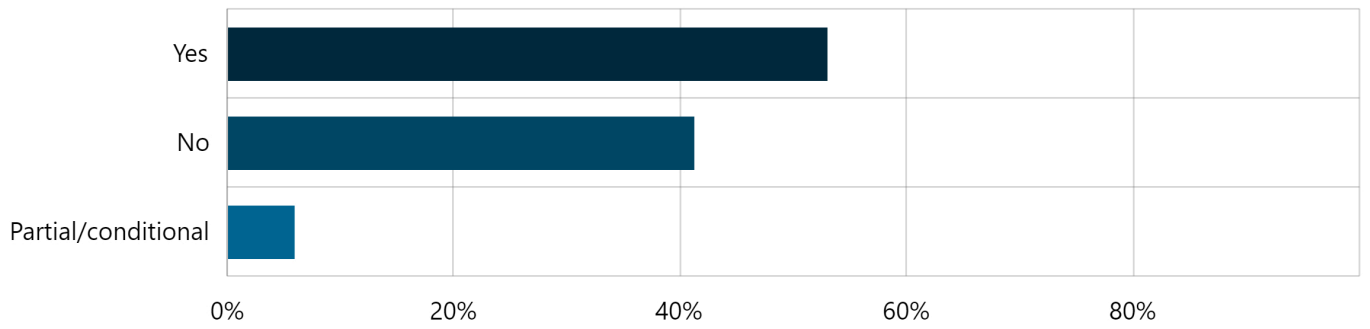
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

10. Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box | Skipped: 1 | Answered: 17 (94.4%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	52.94%	9
No	41.18%	7
Partial/conditional	5.88%	1
Total	100.00%	17

11. Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 13 (72.2%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

12. First Name

Short Text | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)

 Contribution 15 of 15 | 14 September 2023

 Contribution 14 of 15 | 13 September 2023

 Contribution 13 of 15 | 13 September 2023

 Contribution 12 of 15 | 2 September 2023

 Contribution 11 of 15 | 28 August 2023

 Contribution 10 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 9 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 8 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 7 of 15 | 26 August 2023

 Contribution 6 of 15 | 25 August 2023

 Contribution 5 of 15 | 25 August 2023

 Contribution 4 of 15 | 24 August 2023

 Contribution 3 of 15 | 23 August 2023

 Contribution 2 of 15 | 22 August 2023

 Contribution 1 of 15 | 21 August 2023

13. Last Name

Short Text | Skipped: 3 | Answered: 15 (83.3%)

 Contribution 15 of 15 | 14 September 2023

 Contribution 14 of 15 | 13 September 2023

 Contribution 13 of 15 | 13 September 2023

 Contribution 12 of 15 | 2 September 2023

 Contribution 11 of 15 | 28 August 2023

 Contribution 10 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 9 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 8 of 15 | 27 August 2023

 Contribution 7 of 15 | 26 August 2023

 Contribution 6 of 15 | 25 August 2023

 Contribution 5 of 15 | 25 August 2023

 Contribution 4 of 15 | 24 August 2023

 Contribution 3 of 15 | 23 August 2023

 Contribution 2 of 15 | 22 August 2023

 Contribution 1 of 15 | 21 August 2023

14. Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 14 (77.8%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

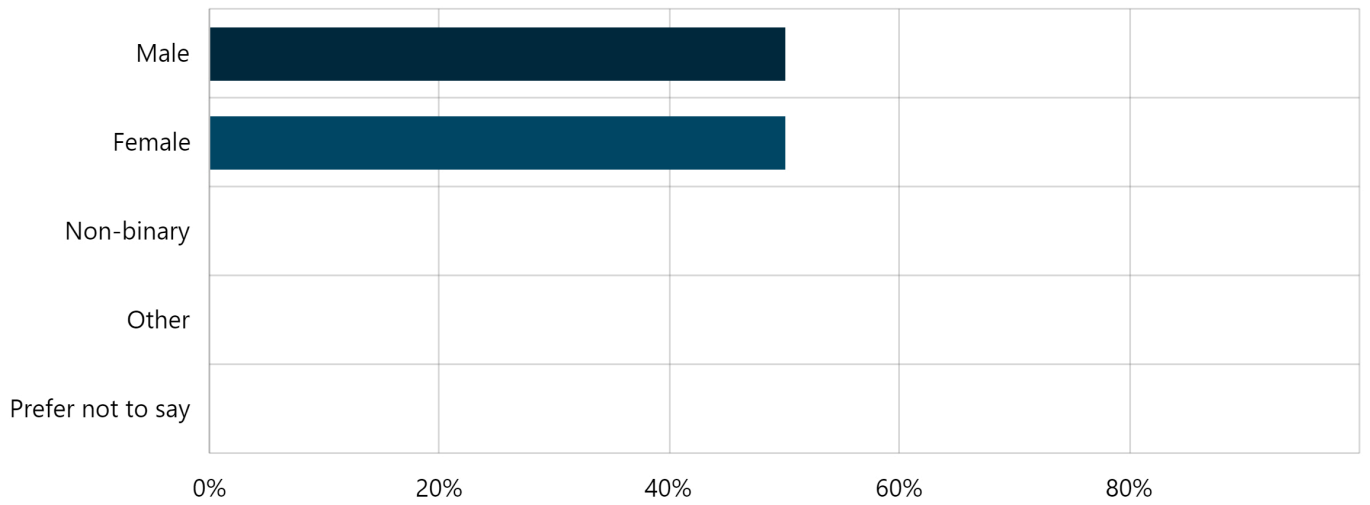
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

15. Which of the following best describes your gender? Required

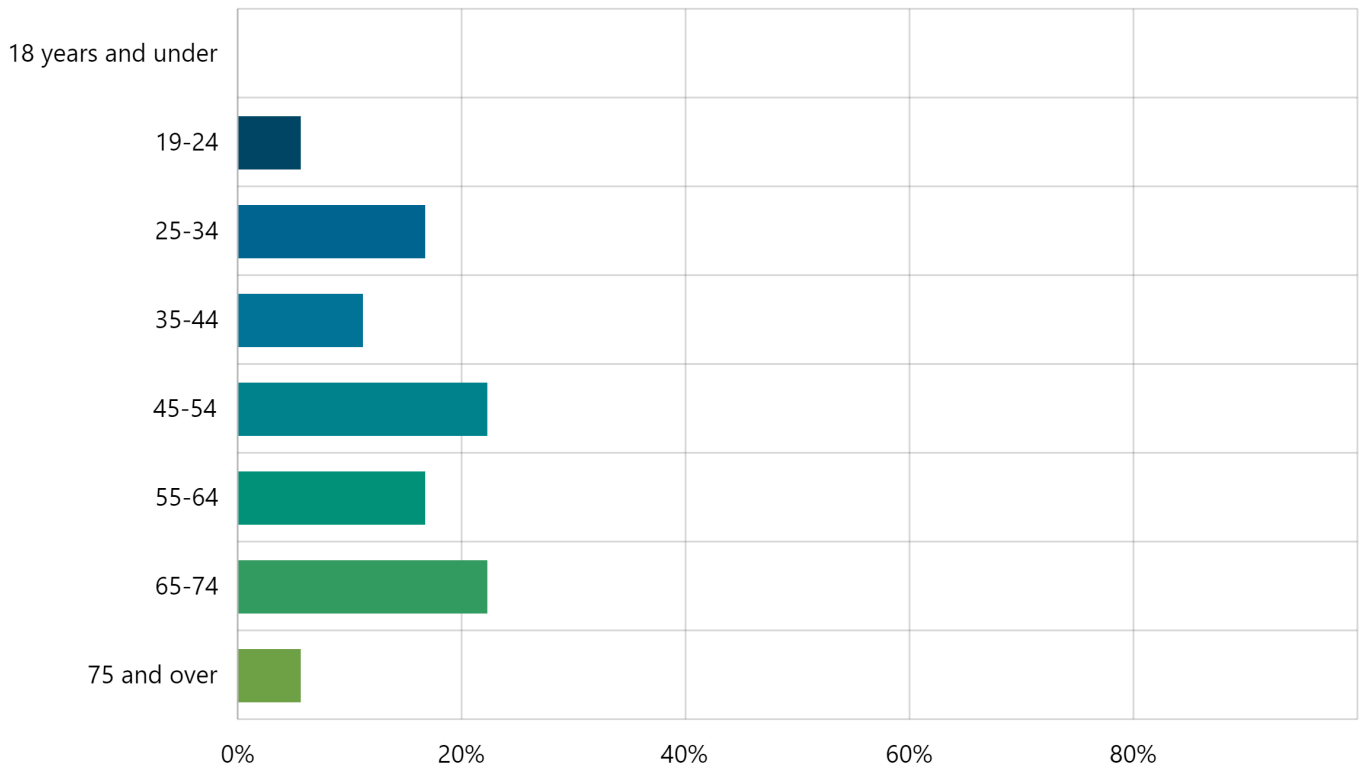
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Male	50.00%	9
Female	50.00%	9
Non-binary	0%	0
Other	0%	0
Prefer not to say	0%	0
Total	100.00%	18

16. What is your age? Required

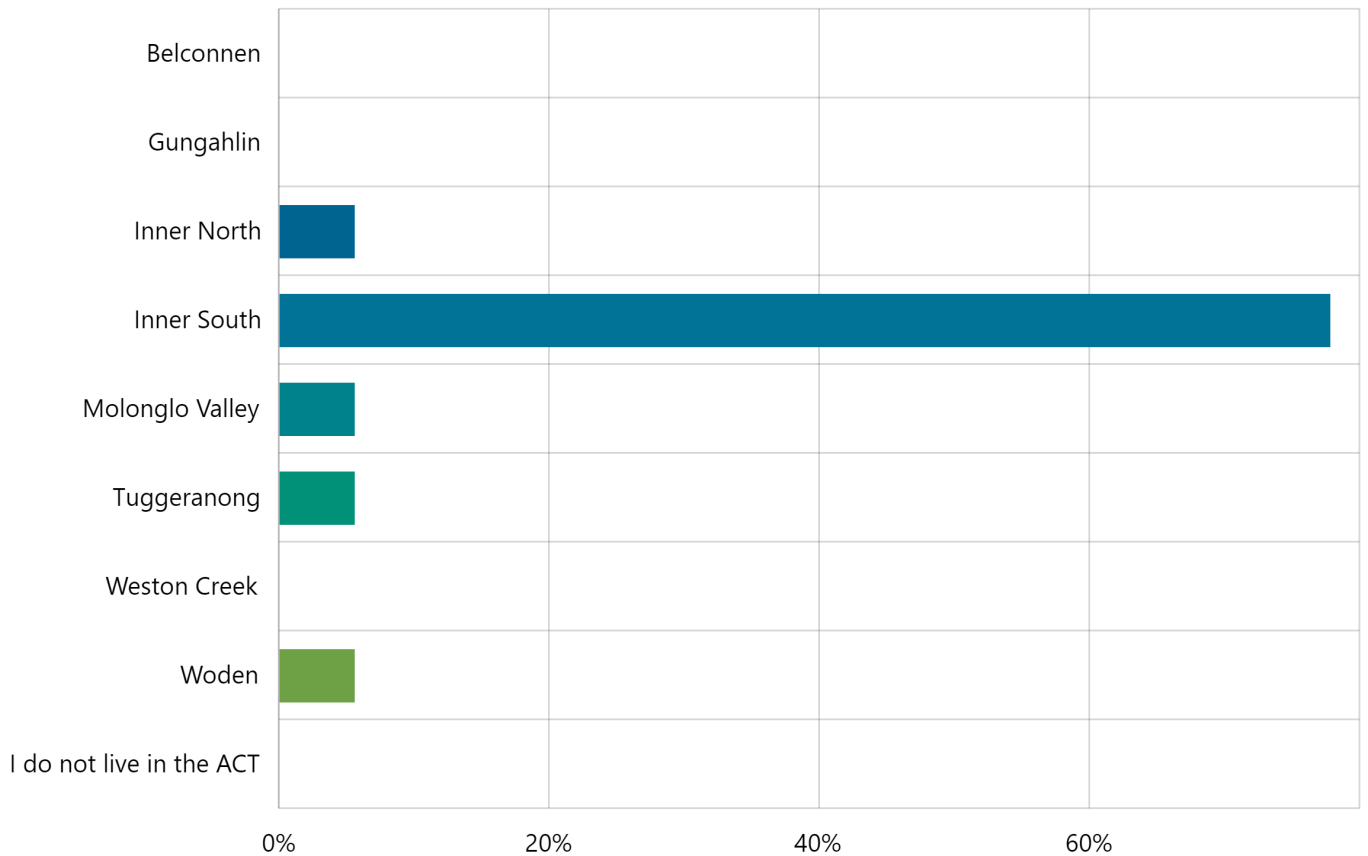
Select Box | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
18 years and under	0%	0
19-24	5.56%	1
25-34	16.67%	3
35-44	11.11%	2
45-54	22.22%	4
55-64	16.67%	3
65-74	22.22%	4
75 and over	5.56%	1
Total	100.00%	18

17. Where do you live? Required

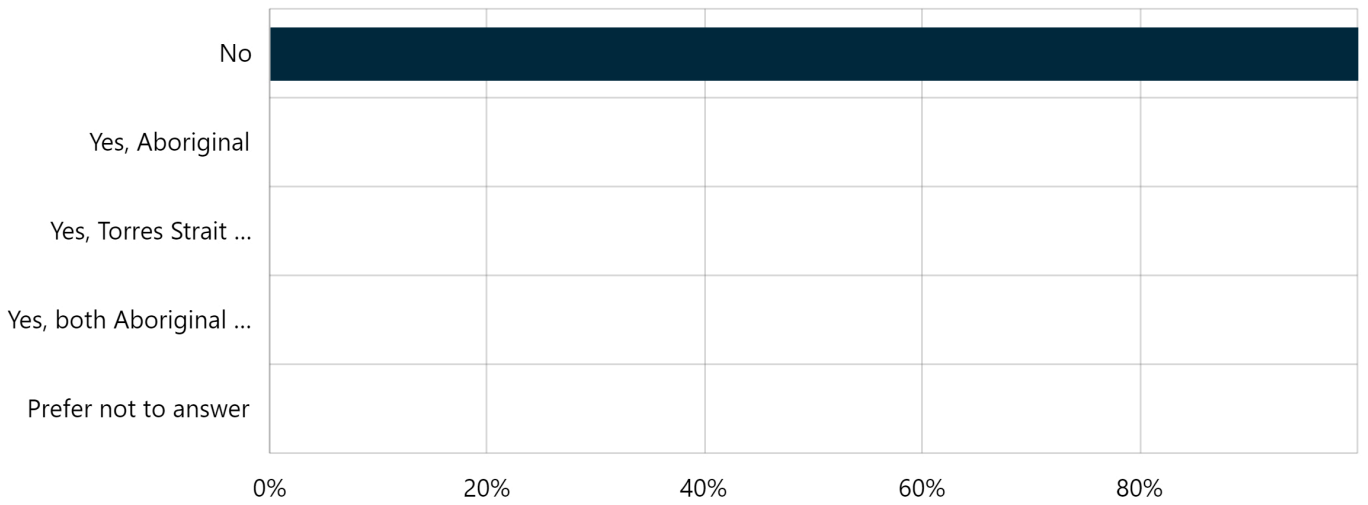
Multi Choice | Skipped: 0 | Answered: 18 (100%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Belconnen	0%	0
Gungahlin	0%	0
Inner North	5.56%	1
Inner South	77.78%	14
Molonglo Valley	5.56%	1
Tuggeranong	5.56%	1
Weston Creek	0%	0
Woden	5.56%	1
I do not live in the ACT	0%	0
Total	100.00%	18

18. Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

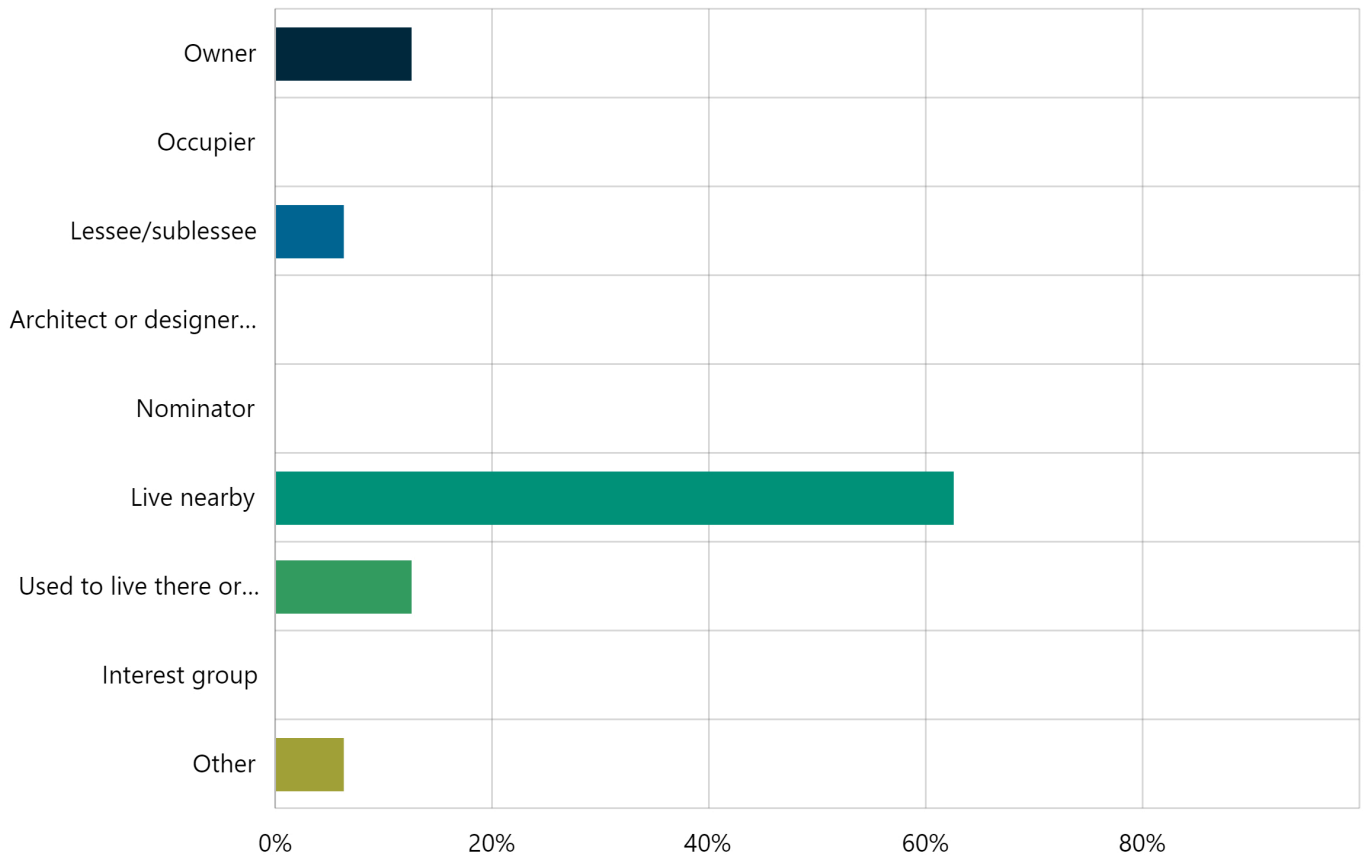
Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 16 (88.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
No	100.00%	16
Yes, Aboriginal	0%	0
Yes, Torres Strait Islander	0%	0
Yes, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	0%	0
Prefer not to answer	0%	0
Total	100.00%	16

19. Relationship to place

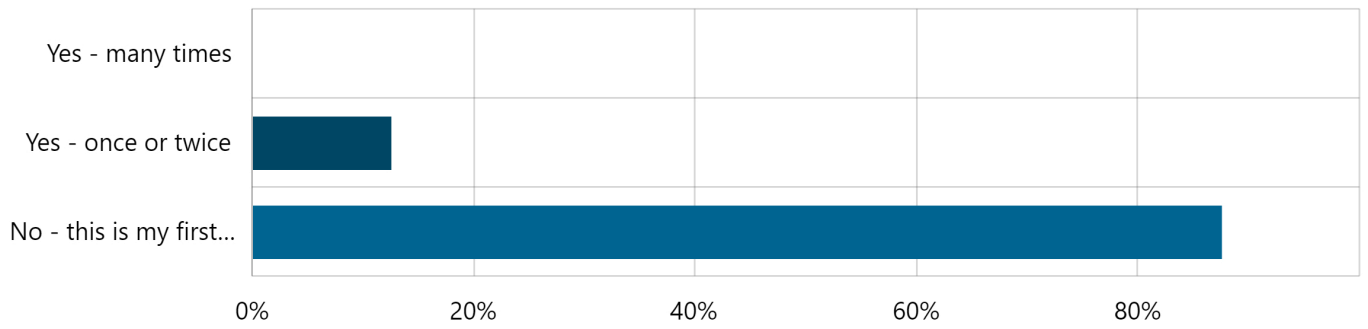
Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 16 (88.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Owner	12.50%	2
Occupier	0%	0
Lessee/sublessee	6.25%	1
Architect or designer of place/object	0%	0
Nominator	0%	0
Live nearby	62.50%	10
Used to live there or nearby	12.50%	2
Interest group	0%	0
Other	6.25%	1
Total	100.00%	16

20. Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 16 (88.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes - many times	0%	0
Yes - once or twice	12.50%	2
No - this is my first time providing comments	87.50%	14
Total	100.00%	16

YourSay ACT

Have YourSay on the Provisional Registration

Aug 18, 2023 - Sep 14, 2023

Project: Former Kingston Post Office

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 1227

Exported: Oct 04, 2023, 05:59 PM

Exported By: MelanieRyan

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

The attributes listed go above what is required to demonstrate the claimed significance under criterion (a). Given that the case for aesthetic value under criterion (e) is very weak, including specific design elements (i.e. Punchbowl orange facebrick; cream tiles around major openings) is not necessary to preserve the heritage aspects of the building. Most significantly however the "scale and massing of the original single storey form" is completely unrelated to what is needed to protect the site's identified significance under criterion (a). Listing this as a defining feature would only serve to limit the site's future potential use.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

The case for heritage listing the Kingston Post Office Building under criterion (a) is unconvincing. The building was not the first post office in Canberra nor even in Kingston, limiting its historical significance. The case presented above contains mostly conjecture and supposition about what the role of the Post Office would have been (supporting industrial areas and business). In doing so, it fails show how the Post Office Building delivered this role by referencing particular events, cultural groups or historical personalities. To support the heritage listing and demonstrating the unique historical value of the site, this link would have to be much stronger.

Were the Former Kingston Post Office to be listed as a heritage site this would significantly alter the potential uses of the site and the potential it has to contribute to the vibrancy and liveability of the Kingston area.

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

I accept this assessment, there is no particular aesthetic value of the Former Kingston Post Office Building, and there are more impressive examples of similar architecture (such as those listed under criterion d).

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

I accept this assessment

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

I have been a resident of Kingston for the past 5 years, currently residing on Gosse St. The case for heritage registration is weak, as I have outlined in my previous comments.

I have great concerns about implications this heritage listing would have on the role of Kingston as a thriving business precinct, and prevent future uses such as mixed use development, in the context of the ongoing housing crisis. The Heritage Council cannot be blind to these considerations.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box

25-34

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice

Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

No - this is my first time providing comments

Response No:
2

Contribution ID: 99635
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Sep 13, 2023, 03:37 PM

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Agree

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

I consider this building to be a classical building of significant architecture importance

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Disagree

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Disagree

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Disagree. It is a significant building and is an integral part of the Kingston community

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Didagy

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Disagree

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

I have submitted a submission that as a Director of Purnell Real Estate Pty Ltd and we are the current tenants of the building on long term lease, we have renovated and refurbished the interior in a style complimentary to the era in which the building was built

Q12 First Name

Short Text

██████████

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

██████████

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

████████████████████

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 65-74

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Lessee/sublessee

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box Yes - once or twice

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

I support the proposed boundary.
I am particularly concerned to ensure that any development on adjacent sites is complementary to the building. It would be a disaster if any adjacent development was any higher than current Kingston buildings ie three stories. The Kingston Tower and The Carrington serve as a permanent example of inappropriate planning and approvals.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

The building is one of the few remaining historical buildings in the Kingston precinct and must be retained at any cost. We can't allow another disaster like the Capitol Theatre demolition to happen. The ACT must ferociously retain its historic buildings.

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

I support the Council's view.

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

I support the Council's view.

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

I support the Council's view

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Disagree.
The building definitely exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics, not evident elsewhere in the Kingston precinct.

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Agree with the Council's view

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Disagree... the Post Office served as an important hub to the Kingston community. A walk along Jardine Street reminds you of the importance of community and village. The Post office building has and is central to that.

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Agree with the Council's view.

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

Q12 First Name

Short Text

█

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

█

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box

65-74

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice

Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text The boundary appears much too large; it wouldn't matter if the car access was removed, for example, nor the extension

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box Partial/conditional

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text Maintaining the facade seems nice, but I'd rather the listing be limited to just that at most (in particular to allow residential development to increase density and allow more affordable housing in Kingston). I'm a Kingston resident and live on a place very nearby on Jardine St, and while it's lovely to know about the history of the built environment and I appreciate maintaining that character where possible, it seems unfair to the many folks who'd like more affordable places to live in areas like Kingston to limit development (especially the larger building and nearby car park!)

Q12 First Name

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 25-34

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Owner

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text I don't find the features that original, fascinating or worth keeping. There are plenty of buildings just like this. Seeing value in any of the infinite combinations of variation would render everything heritage. The side of the building has big red new post boxes, and the windows have advertisements. Would they be removed? I don't want to impede on the operations and functionality of the postal service.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text I'm sure a lot of businesses were essential during this era, like bakers and butchers. Is their memory less worthy of preserving because they happened to not get a unique building? I don't consider the post office important as a story for the history of Canberra, especially not to keep forever and impede on future economic prosperity of Kingston. It is ironic that this building was a functional business providing for the economy and now we want to limit its potential future in kingston, preventing it from renovating and evolving to serve the people in a different way

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text Agree

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text Agree

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text Agree

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text Agree

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text Agree

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text Agree

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text Agree

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text Cities need to evolve, we will harm kingston by preventing it's potential. Whether that's renovations or rebuilds in 100 years. Who knows what future residents value. This structure is nothing of value to the people, they pass it daily and think nothing of it. I doubt anyone would pay an entry fee if it were a museum

Q12 First Name

Short Text

█

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

█

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box

25-34

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice

Inner North

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Used to live there or nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text Boundary is too wide and may negatively affect capital improvements to current post office/ non original post office area which would improve services for local citizens.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text This does not carry significant value to ACTs history, it's simply an old post office and as described below it's not unique in terms of architectural significance.

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text Agree with assessment- Not rare.

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text Agree- won't yield important information.

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text Agree with assessment.

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text Agree with assessment.

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text Agree with assessment

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text Agree with assessment

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text Agree with assessment

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text This building fails to meet the threshold that should be required for a listing which would prevent future development and improvement of amenities in the Kingston shops area. There are more pressing social and community needs eg housing supply that should take precedence over preserving an old but unremarkable building.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

██████

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

██████████

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

██

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 35-44

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Response No:
7

Contribution ID: 96550
Member ID:
Date Submitted: Aug 27, 2023, 04:54 PM

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 55-64

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Response No:
8

Contribution ID: 96548

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Aug 27, 2023, 12:54 PM

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text Excellent to see that the context of the building is protected with the site boundary not just the original building.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text Actually the first post office built in all of Australia, post-war not just Canberra. Article is in Trove from 1950s

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text Excellent amount of information. Great to see the new Heritage Council doing good things.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 45-54

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Tuggeranong

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Other (please specify): Interested Canberran

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 45-54

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Woden

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Owner

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

For the reasons outlined under criterion 1 above, the Post Office building should be retained as representative of a style and scale suitable for preservation of Kingston's unique character.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

█

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

█

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

█

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 45-54

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text The most significant attribute is that this is an ugly building for which there is no case for registration.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text Disagree. The building was a functional and boring construction, never intended to be a permanent feature of the streetscape. Its demolition could lead to the construction of a building genuinely worthy of preservation. Every heritage listing burdens future generations and this building is not worth imposing the burden.

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text Agree

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text Agree

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text Agree

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text Agree

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text Agree

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text Agree

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text Agree

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text The proposal to heritage list this dull and ugly building is not worthy of consideration. We should not burden future generations with buildings that are neither beautiful or useful, or historic in any meaningful sense.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 75 and over

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box Yes - once or twice

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

I fully support listing of the post office, the history attached to the building is important to keep alive. We are still a new city and will remain so if we don't respect and protect our past.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

Q12 First Name

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

[Redacted]

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 55-64

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text Agree

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text Important part of Canberra and Kingston heritage. Will keep Kingston history relevant whilst modern apartments built

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 55-64

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text No the current post office and the building in is in needs to stay where it is and I love how old and heritage it is it makes Kingston home

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 19-24

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 65-74

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

No

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

I can't support heritage registration without knowing the effect of such registration. For example, would registration rule out:

- retaining the existing building as the ground floor of a multi-story building?
- building a multistory building on the remainder of the site?

This is an important site in Kingston and should be available for, in particular, residential use, the benefits of which have been clearly demonstrated by the commercial and residential development on the former carpark on the corner of Jardine and Eyre streets.

I am a local resident and walk past this building everyday. I have no interest in or any association with the property or its owner (in fact I don't know who owns the site).

Q12 First Name

Short Text

█

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

█

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Male

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box

65-74

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice

Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box

No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box

Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box

No - this is my first time providing comments

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text I view this heritage registration as appropriate and well deserved. Image 1's registration boundary and original post office building location is supported. The features listed seem to be only the exterior elements and I would stress that the interior also needs to be protected and restored.

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text It would be hard to find a more deserving heritage building in the Kingston shopping precinct.

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text Agreed.

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text Agreed.

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text I still think this building is beautiful and needs protection.

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text I have always loved this building for its architecture. I feel it is a valued part of the Kingston precinct's cultural heritage and holds so many memories from the community.

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text This is beautiful design that created a standard for the area. I think it is worthy of protection.

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text I really love this building and appreciate it regularly on my walks of the area. I feel that it is a loving memory of the community that grew up and built Kingston. This has always been a well-used building when it was a post office and would have a lot of significance for the community that has come and gone.

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text An example of when NCDP did good! It is a great record of history and a beautiful building that should continue to exist in Kingston.

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text It would be hard to find a more deserving heritage building in the Kingston shopping precinct.

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 35-44

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Molonglo Valley

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Used to live there or nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments

Response No:
18

Contribution ID: 96315

Member ID:

Date Submitted: Aug 19, 2023, 12:12 PM

Q1 Comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Long Text

Q2 Comments on criteria (a):

Long Text

Q3 Comments on criteria (b):

Long Text

Q4 Comments on criteria (c):

Long Text

Q5 Comments on criteria (d):

Long Text

Q6 Comments on criteria (e):

Long Text

Q7 Comments on criteria (f):

Long Text

Q8 Comments on criteria (g):

Long Text

Q9 Comments on criteria (h):

Long Text

Q10 Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Select Box

Yes

Q11 Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:

Long Text

Q12 First Name

Short Text

Q13 Last Name

Short Text

Q14 Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):

Short Text

Q15 Which of the following best describes your gender?

Select Box

Female

Q16 What is your age?

Select Box 45-54

Q17 Where do you live?

Multi Choice Inner South

Q18 Do you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?

Select Box No

Q19 Relationship to place

Select Box Live nearby

Q20 Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?

Select Box No - this is my first time providing comments



Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

23/110563

The Secretary

ACT Heritage Council

heritage@act.gov.au

Dear Secretary

Thank you for providing me with the ACT Heritage Council report of November 2023 on public consultation for the Former Kingston Post Office. I received your report on 14 November 2023.

I note that the public consultation was undertaken as required under Section 37 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, and that all issues raised during the consultation period have been adequately addressed.

As there were no further issues raised in, or arising from, the Council's report or relating to its functions, I do not require the Council to further consider issues related to the registration of the Former Kingston Post Office.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

17/11/2023

From: [EPSDD Legal Policy](#)
To: [Chaston, Daisy](#)
Cc: [Swetekelly, Maryclare](#)
Subject: CLEARED Legal Policy - RE: Notifiable Instrument for Clearance
Date: Monday, 27 November 2023 3:21:27 PM

OFFICIAL

Dear Daisy

We have reviewed the Notice of Registration and have track changed a couple of amendments. The main change to note is that PCO has particular requirements in relation to font size (see information in the Sample Notifiable instruments here: [Templates and checklist for the notification of registrable instruments on the ACT legislation register](#)).

This instrument is considered cleared, subject to these tracked changes being accepted.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss.

Kind regards

Olivia Gould-Fensom (she/her) | A/Director
Legal policy | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | **ACT Government**
Phone: (02) 620 75834

I acknowledge the the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

I respectfully acknowledge the past and present Traditional Custodians of the land upon which I work, the Larrakia people. It is a privilege to be working on Larrakia country.

From: Chaston, Daisy <Daisy.Chaston@act.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:28 PM
To: EPSDD Legal Policy <EPSDD.LegalPolicy@act.gov.au>
Cc: Swetekelly, Maryclare <Maryclare.Swetekelly@act.gov.au>
Subject: Notifiable Instrument for Clearance

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Legal Policy,

Can you please review the attached Notifiable Instrument.

Would it be possible to have cleared by **Friday 1 December**.

Please let me know if that date conflicts with your timeframes.

The Heritage Council needs to make a decision on the attached at its final meeting for 2023

which will be held in the week starting **4 December**.

With thanks,

Daisy

Daisy Chaston | Manager | Heritage Council Secretariat and Registrar | ACT Heritage

Phone: 6207 7379 | Email: daisy.chaston@act.gov.au

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | **ACT Government**

480 Northbourne Avenue | Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601

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Schedule

(See sections 3 and 4)



ACT Heritage Council

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE REGISTER
(Registration)**

For the purposes of s40 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, an entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

Former Kingston Post Office

Block 21, Section 22, Kingston

DATE OF REGISTRATION

[registration date] Notifiable Instrument: [Year]–[Number]

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at ACT Heritage. For further information please contact:

The Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone 13 22 81

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the place as required in s12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Kingston Post Office is significant for its strong associations with the post-World War II development of Canberra. An earlier post office existed in Kingston from the 1920s, but with increasing demand for its services after WWII, ~~in 1947~~ the government planned and ~~in 1951~~ built the current building ~~in 1947~~ on the other side of Jardine Street where the shopping precinct would eventually expand with a new row of banking and commercial services buildings that referenced the Post Office in their design. The choice of a high-quality design is also a significant reminder of the investment made by the Post Master General in the post-war growth of Canberra. It was the first official post office constructed in Canberra after WWII and operated until 1989. The Former Kingston Post Office was the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the post-WWII period of urban development of the capital. It is the oldest surviving post office building designed for the federal capital.

This statement refers to the location of the place as required in s12(b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Former Kingston Post Office, Block 21 Section 22, 19 Jardine Street, Kingston.

This statement refers to the description of the place as required in s12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The attributes described in this section form part of the heritage significance of the place. For the purposes of s12(c) of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the boundary of the place is at Image 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

Former Kingston Post Office, consisting of the following attributes:

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The original Kingston Post Office Building, as indicated in Image 1, including ~~of~~:

- Punchbowl orange facebrick
- Detailing including horizontally emphasized hood mouldings above windows, tiled surround to portico openings, spandrel panels to main window and stepped detail capping the parapets
~~Cream tiles around major openings, windows and parapet roof line~~
- Vent grilles and rainwater heads
- Inter-war stripped classical overall design with minor art deco embellishments, including:
 - Elements arranged symmetrically;
 - Cylindrical mullions used in the main window, alluding to vestigial classical columns and emphasising verticality;
 - Stepped end bays to the building's western elevation referencing a classical portico
~~Stepped end bay along the building's western external wall implying a classical portico;~~

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- ~~Vertically arranged metal framed windows divided into horizontal panes~~~~Ornamental metal windows;~~
 - Coloured glazed terracotta (faience) facing; ~~and Low relief ornamental details.~~
 - ~~Scale and stepped massing of the original single storey section~~~~Scale and massing of the original single storey form~~
- The flagpole, either in its current position above the entrance or in its original position extending horizontally from top of the centre of the western facade
 - The rest of the physical material of the place, e.g. the extension and vehicular access as well as ~~the non-original interiors/fabric~~, are not considered to be significant heritage features. The larger registered boundary is considered an appropriate heritage curtilage for conserving the scale and massing of the original building while allowing controlled ~~complimentary~~ complementary development.

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CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Former Kingston Post Office shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact ACT Heritage on 13 22 81.

REASON FOR REGISTRATION

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office against the heritage significance criteria and is satisfied that the place has heritage significance when assessed against criterion (a) under s10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

In assessing the heritage significance of Former Kingston Post Office, the Council considered:

- the original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator;
- the Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (March 2018);
- information provided by a site inspection on 11 September 2019 by ACT Heritage; and
- the report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Former Kingston Post Office*, December 2023, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity;
- information and comments received during the public consultation period under s37 of the Act on the provisional registration of Former Kingston Post Office, consisting of 27 submissions ~~inclusion on the Heritage Register.~~ Council considered all submissions in their original format and decided to

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[register the Former Kingston Post Office with minor amendments based on those submissions.](#)

Pursuant to s10 of the Heritage Act, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

(a) importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (a) and is satisfied that the place meets this criterion.

The Kingston Shopping Precinct was the ~~first-premier shopping precinct developed for the ACT and was the premier shopping~~ destination in the new capital for many decades, providing a central hub for services, socialising and business development in Canberra. The Former Kingston Post Office was integral to the continuing success of businesses in the Precinct during the period of growth following WWII, as it was needed to process a predicted increase in business transactions, as well as being an effective drawcard service to attract people to the area. Its predecessor had outgrown its location in one of the shopfronts in the Precinct along Giles Street, and before that, the first post office in the Kingston area had opened in a house in 1918 at Eastlake, near to the power station, but neither was suitable to the task and a purpose-built facility was needed.

Development in the ACT was severely restricted during the 1930s and the early years of the Second World War. After the end of the War, the Former Kingston Post Office Building was the first official purpose-built post office constructed in the ACT. While it was not the first post office established, it is the oldest surviving post office building designed for the federal capital and was the first significant post-war project for the NSW Post Master General, making it a testament to the faith in the importance of the developing capital.

The high-quality building was the NSW Post Master General's first significant investment since the start of WWII. The commitment of resources and faith in its establishment of significant services in the ACT is demonstrated in the Inter-war Stripped Classical style of architecture and the solid building material of brick and concrete. While other important buildings of the time were using modernist designs, classicism was still seen as prestigious and emblematic of permanent and institutional buildings as evidenced by such examples as Old Parliament House (J. S. Murdoch's design that influenced elements of his concept plans for early Kingston Shopping Precinct along Giles and Kennedy Streets), the Former Institute of Anatomy, the Former Patent Office as well as the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical examples that followed such as the National Library. The high-quality build is an important contribution to the character of the area recognised later by the NCDC stipulating that the rest of the Jardine Street Banking and Commercial Row had to use the same Punchbowl Orange brick as the Post Office as one of the key unifying features. The choice of architectural style and the materials used are significant, not just as evidence of the post-war recovery and investment in the region, but also for its enduring effect on the surrounding architecture that has continued to this day with nearby modern developments referencing the original post office following community consultation.

In a time of economic recovery, the Kingston area, including the Precinct and the

surrounding industrial areas, was one of the main business centres in the ACT and there was a high reliance on the Former Kingston Post Office for delivering and receiving orders, invoices, cheques, legal documents, and various other services that businesses and community of the day depended on. It was also relied upon by the community for social purposes as a place that people congregated around, not just for business, but also personal communications interstate as well as packages, and various other aspects of everyday life that, unlike today, required a central physical location.

(b) has uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the ACT’s cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (b) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. Careful consideration was given to what aspects of the ACT’s cultural history the Former Kingston Post Office has and all are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates. Council also considered other aspects that may be present, including technological features, designs to accommodate postal work and as a post-war purpose-built stand-alone post office building, among others; however, the place was considered not to have these aspects any more, or that it used so many descriptive qualifiers such that it became too specific to be appropriate as a category to compare uncommonness or rarity. The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to be uncommon, rare or endangered as a post office, a stripped classical building, or as a government building. All of these types are represented across the ACT and from a wide range of dates.

(c) potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT’s cultural or natural history;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (c) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

As a well-documented built place, it is unlikely that any new information will be garnered from the material fabric of the place that would be considered a significant contribution to our existing knowledge. The Former Kingston Post Office does not have the potential to yield important information that will contribute to an understanding of the ACT’s cultural history.

(d) importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or objects;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (d) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office is not considered to demonstrate the principal characteristics of a post office as all of these functions have now moved into the new extension and the original interior post office section retains no evidence of its past use.

As a type of architecture, it does demonstrate the principal characteristics of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style (although it was built post-war, the style was most prevalent and synonymous with the inter-war period) with its symmetrical massing and classical composition with a minimum of classical motifs and Art Deco decorative elements; however, as a late (i.e. it was built after the style was falling out of favour) and relatively small (for a style that is exemplified by large institutional buildings that allow a greater expression of the style) example of this kind it is not considered to be important for demonstrating these characteristics. Significant examples of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style include the Former Institute of Anatomy, the Robert Garran Offices, formerly the Patent Office, Barton and Old Parliament House. The Former Kingston Post Office does not meet the threshold for inclusion under this criterion as either a post office or an example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style of architecture.

(e) importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by the ACT community or a cultural group in the ACT;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (e) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

Whilst the Council recognises that the Former Kingston Post Office Building is an example of the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style with Art Deco characteristics, there is insufficient evidence before the Council at this time to indicate that this exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities that are valued by the community or a cultural group. It does contribute to the character of the Kingston Shopping Precinct, but there is not enough existing evidence of the building being aesthetically valued in and of itself.

(f) importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for a particular period;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (f) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office was built in a solid, standard, method of construction for its time. It is a brick and timber frame construction. Its design includes provision for movement and loading of postal vehicles, although these features have not been retained in the extant structure of the original building. While the stripped classical design testifies to its government origins, there is nothing that distinguishes it as a post office or shows any special achievement beyond being a well-made building of considered and classical design. There is no evidence at this time that the design meets the threshold demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement for the period.

(g) has a strong or special association with the ACT community, or a cultural group in the ACT for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (g) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

In its heyday, the Former Kingston Post Office had an important role to play in supporting businesses and attracting shoppers to the Kingston Shopping Precinct, which was the premier shopping destination in the ACT in the period immediately after WWII. As such it would certainly have had a strong and special association with the ACT community as a social and economic hub at that time, but as the city has expanded, the Precinct has been relegated to a smaller role servicing its local neighbourhood. This smaller, local role is consistent with the original planning intention. The original post office building has also not been functioning as a post office since 1989, when that role was moved into the extension. As a consequence of the local role of both the precinct and the original post office building today, the latter does not have a strong or special association to the broader ACT community.

(h) has a special association with the life or work of a person, or people, important to the history of the ACT.

The Council has assessed Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (h) and is satisfied that the place does not meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office building is associated with the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (the NCPDC), [the Department of Works & Housing \(including D. G. Edward, Bruce Litchfield and David Limburg as the architects most closely associated with the design and documentation\)](#), the NSW Post Master General (PMG) and Australia Post, but not in a way that could be considered a special association, i.e. above the ordinary carrying out of their duties, that would satisfy the threshold for meeting this criterion.

The NCPDC was the advisory body to the Minister for the Interior that helped the planning and development of the ACT. They had a role in the development of the Post Office, but there is nothing to suggest that it was a special association above and beyond their usual involvement in any other planning and development issue in the ACT at the time.

[Similarly, the Department of Works & Housing and the architects assigned to the design, drawing and project management of the Former Kingston Post Office were involved as a part of their regular work duties with no indication that they were involved in any way that could be considered special and not a regular part of their job. This includes D. G. Edward, Bruce Litchfield and David Limburg as the architects most closely associated with the design and drawing of the place.](#)

The PMG and more recently the Australian Postal Corporation as the owner and developer of the Post Office certainly have an association with the place and are important to the history of the ACT. To meet this criterion, that association would have to be special, i.e. above and beyond the ordinary, however, there is no evidence that the association is special.

SITE PLAN

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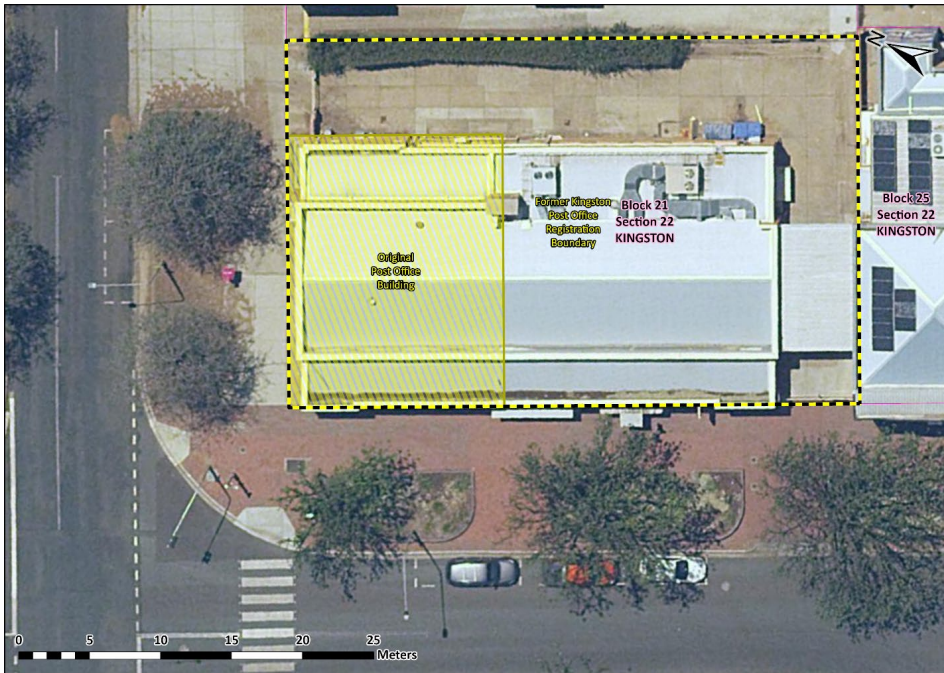


Image 1 Former Kingston Post Office boundary – the shaded/hatched area contains the original post office building and the features that make up the significance of the place as noted in the description of the place; while the larger black/yellow dashed line along the block boundary indicates the registered curtilage.