



ACT Heritage Council

Contact Officer: *Richard Hekimian*

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment and 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 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 7 April 2022 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 April 2022; 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 Have Your Say website, which was made active on 12 April 2022.

Public consultation was undertaken for a four week period.

24 submissions were received during public consultation, 18 in support of the provisional registration and six against.

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;	Provisional Register entry at <u>Attachment A(4)</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. However, the Council received considered comments during public consultation and will consider these in detail before determining whether amendments to the final registration decision are required. Council will report on its further considerations in a subsequent brief to you, which will include a proposed draft final registration document.
c	identifies issues raised in comments made to the Council before the end of the public consultation period;	24 submissions were received, see <u>Attachment A(1)</u>.
d	includes a copy of the written comments (if any); and	24 submissions were received, see <u>Attachment A(2)</u>.
e	identifies any other change the Council proposes to make to the registration having regard to the issues raised in the comments.	Council received detailed comments during public consultation and will consider these thoroughly before determining whether amendments to the final registration decision are required. Council will report on its further considerations in a subsequent brief to you, which will include a proposed draft final registration document.

I trust the above information has been of assistance. Please don't hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Yours sincerely



Edwina Jans
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)
ACT HERITAGE COUNCIL
5 July 2022

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In accordance with s37 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) conducted a four week period of public consultation, from 12 April 2022 to 9 May 2022. The Council must consider any comments made to it before the end of the public consultation period.

Twenty four submissions were received during the public consultation period. 18 submissions were received in support of provisional registration, one of which was a duplicate emailed in addition to completing a Your Say submission. Six submissions were received that did not support provisional registration, one of which was a duplicate emailed in addition to completing a Your Say submission. 20 submissions were received via the ACT Government's Your Say website.

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
1	<p>██████████ 9 May 2022 Via Your Say</p>	Yes	<p>In addition to stripped classical style it also has cuboid massing with contrasting horizontal and vertical elements of a modern style. Further design analysis would be beneficial for understanding other design influences, including potential reference to the streamlined modern.</p> <p>It was built post-war, so the inter-war title should be reviewed.</p> <p>Downpipe heads should be rainwater heads.</p> <p>The inclusion of the driveway is hard to understand.</p>	<p>The Council considered a number of styles and influences. Council has set a precedent in all previous assessments of using a standard textbook, <i>A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present</i> by Apperly, et al, in which the building falls into the Inter-war Stripped Classical Style.</p> <p>The Inter-war title refers to when the style was most in use and is not limited to when places were built.</p> <p>There is no clear nomenclature for these features at the time, however the Council will refer to architectural drawings of the time to confirm.</p> <p>Access for postal vehicles is a clear indicator of use and interpretation, so the Council has included this feature (note that only <i>evidence</i> of the driveway is</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>Being smaller does not make it any less important for the style.</p> <p>The use of architectural terracotta does not appear to have been assessed and it is not clear if this material was commonly used in the ACT.</p> <p>If aesthetics are not significant, then why are the architectural features of the style included in the list of important features?</p>	<p>required, not the driveway in its entirety to allow for future development). The Council will consider clarifying this in the final decision.</p> <p>The style was most common in public and institutional buildings, whose larger size allowed for greater expression, as seen in Old Parliament House or the Former Patent Office or the Former Institute of Anatomy.</p> <p>While Council did note the use of coloured glazed terracotta (faience) facing and low relief ornamental detail, Council is of the view that further research into this area would not alter the significance of the place.</p> <p>While it is not being registered for its aesthetic or architectural features, they are the physical embodiment of the place, without which it would be unrecognizable or lose its association with its past.</p>
2	<p>As president of the National Trust ACT 6 May 2022 Via Your Say</p>	Yes	Supports registration.	Noted.

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3	[REDACTED]	Yes	<p>It is important that the general heritage statement recognises the importance of being able to view the building from adjacent streets - the importance of this being that any developments should not block sightlines to the PO building.</p> <p>The building is unique in the inner south.</p> <p>It is valued by the community, particularly for its contribution to the streetscape.</p> <p>It is not diminished in value because of its smaller scale.</p> <p>Quantification of stripped classical buildings in the ACT and an objective assessment of the value to the</p>	<p>Heritage registration can only affect the recorded significant features within the identified boundary.</p> <p>Almost all buildings are unique to some degree. The Heritage Act recognizes significance at the Territory – and not local – level such as the inner south.</p> <p>Almost all places are imbued with a degree of community value. Heritage listing requires evidence of value to the ACT community as a whole at exceptionally high levels in order to meet significance criteria in accordance with the <i>Heritage Act 2004</i> (the Heritage Act) and the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>.</p> <p>The style was most common in public and institutional buildings, whose larger size allowed for a greater expression of the style, as seen in Old Parliament House or the Former Patent Office or the Former Institute of Anatomy.</p> <p>To meet this criterion, it must be shown that the aesthetic qualities are valued by the ACT community</p>

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	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			<p>community would be invaluable for meeting criterion (e).</p> <p>The building is an integral part or the wider Kingston Shopping Precinct heritage.</p> <p>Criterion (h) is unclear on how it reached this conclusion.</p>	<p>as a whole, which cannot be demonstrated in this instance. The Heritage Act recognizes significance at the Territory – and not local – level.</p> <p>Agreed. Council will consider this as part of its assessment of the wider Kingston Shopping Precinct assessment at a later date.</p> <p>The Council will consider clarifying its statement against criterion (h) in its final decision.</p>
4	<p>██████████ On behalf of the Kingston and Barton Residents Group Via Your Say 2 May 2022</p> <p>*██████████ emailed a later submission to the Heritage Inbox, included below at #24*</p>	Yes	<p>It is important on its own and as an iconic part of the Kingston Shopping Precinct.</p> <p>It is more endangered as it has lost its function as a post office.</p> <p>It is important for the local community.</p> <p>The Council's argument under criterion (h) seems to support meeting rather than not.</p>	<p>Council will consider the Former Kingston Post Office as part of its assessment of the wider Kingston Shopping Precinct assessment at a later date.</p> <p>The classification of 'endangered' refers to a type of place, not how likely this individual place is of being lost as per the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy 2018</i>.</p> <p>Council does not dispute this, however the Heritage Act recognizes significance at the Territory – and not local – level.</p> <p>The Council will consider clarifying its statement against criterion (h) in its final decision.</p>

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5	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 30 April 2022</p>	Yes	<p>Too much of old Kingston has been swamped by unsympathetic development.</p> <p>Disagrees that such building are well represented.</p> <p>The post office was an integral part of life growing up in the area in the 60s and 70s and was important to the community.</p> <p>It is a historical reminder of how Canberra grew.</p> <p>Notes disappointment at how Canberra has developed in general and links this to politics.</p> <p>It is not a “standard” building and has a lot more character than most newer buildings.</p> <p>It should be preserved as an exhibition area for Kingston’s history.</p>	<p>Noted, however Council can only consider the heritage significance of a place as it falls within identified boundaries.</p> <p>Post offices, stripped classical, or government buildings are well represented across the ACT. A narrower classification of this place would introduce too many descriptors against the requirements of the Council’s <i>Heritage Assessment Policy 2018</i>.</p> <p>Noted. This is why it has been assessed as meeting criterion (a).</p> <p>Noted. This is why it has been assessed as meeting criterion (a).</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, however, this is not the required level of information necessary to alter the statement of significance or assessment against significance criteria.</p> <p>Registration of the Former Kingston Post Office does not direct how the place is used, only that the significant features of the place are conserved.</p>

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			The Council's argument under criterion (h) contradicts its own conclusion.	The Council will consider clarifying its statement against criterion (h) in its final decision.
6	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 1 May 2022</p>	Yes	<p>It is important that it not be overshadowed by development to the north.</p> <p>It is important to list the streetscape for Kingston's broader heritage.</p> <p>Submission notes the architectural design, G Edward and the NCPDC and the Postmaster General (PMG), and the social history of the post office with the inner south community.</p> <p>Comments that it would be nice to have the Precinct fully registered by its centenary in 2025.</p> <p>There is not much stripped classical architecture in the ACT.</p>	<p>Council can only consider the heritage significance of a place as it falls within identified boundaries.</p> <p>The streetscape is not a feature of the heritage significance of the Former Kingston Post Office, however the Council is considering it as a part of the wider Kingston Shopping Precinct nomination.</p> <p>Noted. These are already included in the assessment.</p> <p>Noted, however this decision relates specifically to the Former Kingston Post Office, with the Kingston Shopping Precinct to be considered subsequently.</p> <p>Regardless of the number of examples, the Council is of the view that the Former Kingston Post Office is a significant example of the style.</p>

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			Suggests that it does have aesthetic value to the local Kingston community and more broadly across the ACT.	Council notes the possibility that the local community values its contribution to the streetscape, but there is insufficient evidence that the wider ACT community values the aesthetics as required under the Heritage Act.
7	<p>█ Via Your Say 29 April 2022</p>	No	<p>It's an ugly, insignificant brick building.</p> <p>Expresses surprise at the inclusion of the driveway.</p>	<p>The Council's assessment of the place having heritage significance is based on its role in history and the effect it had on the growing community. The architectural features included in the description of place are the distinctive elements that make the place recognizable for future generations.</p> <p>Access for postal vehicles is a clear indicator of use and interpretation, so the Council has included this feature (note that only <i>evidence</i> of the driveway is required, not the driveway in its entirety to allow for future development). The Council will consider clarifying this in the final decision.</p>
8	<p>█ Via Your Say 26 April 2022</p>	Yes	<p>The post office was more important than stated as it was significantly more utilised in people's everyday lives in the past than in recent years and for many, Kingston was essentially the center of Canberra, making the post office one of the most important destinations in the ACT for many decades.</p> <p>Suggests it should meet criterion (b) due to a lack of other old post offices in the ACT.</p>	<p>Council has noted this in its assessment under criterion (a).</p> <p>Post offices, stripped classical, or government buildings are well represented across the ACT. A more narrow classification of this place would</p>

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			<p>It does contribute significantly to the character of the Precinct and should meet criterion (e).</p> <p>Suggests that it should meet criterion (g) as its reach went well beyond the locality and even today it is still a destination for meeting with friends and shopping.</p> <p>The Council's assessment against criterion (g) contradicts itself and should be met.</p>	<p>introduce too many descriptors against the requirements of the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy 2018</i>.</p> <p>Council notes the possibility that the local community values its contribution to the streetscape, but there is insufficient evidence that the wider ACT community values the aesthetics as required under the Heritage Act.</p> <p>The argument submitted applies to the larger precinct, rather than the individual place of the Former Kingston Post Office. Council will take this into consideration when it assesses the Kingston Shopping Precinct.</p> <p>The Council will consider clarifying its statement against criterion (h) in its final decision.</p>
9	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 25 April 2022</p>	Yes	<p>It should be listed in its entirety to prevent development and maintain the feel of old Kingston.</p> <p>It is a unique building due to its location and history and should meet criterion (b)</p>	<p>Heritage registration does not prevent development and only applies to the registered boundary. Council notes that the description of the place is sufficient to conserve the important elements of the place.</p> <p>Post offices, stripped classical, or government buildings are well represented across the ACT. A more narrow classification of this place would introduce too many descriptors against the</p>

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			<p>It should meet criterion (d) because it is a later and smaller example of the type.</p> <p>It is valued for its aesthetics and contributes to the character of the Precinct.</p> <p>It is important to leave some vestiges of old Canberra.</p>	<p>requirements of the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy 2018</i>.</p> <p>On consideration of the evidence contained in the Background Information document, Council is of the view that the place does not meet criterion (d).</p> <p>Further information on thresholds against this criterion can be found in the <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
10	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 25 April 2022</p>	Yes	As a resident of old Kingston I think the post office is a beautiful building and value its presence in the precinct.	Noted.
11	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 25 April 2022</p>	Yes	<p>It has been, and still is, an important destination for Canberrans.</p> <p>The building is Kingston with iconic brick work on a major intersection in Kingston.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

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12	██████████ Via Your Say 25 April 2022	Yes	The building is a significant part of the fabric of Kingston and Old Canberra. We cannot let these things be lost- they are too important to our understanding of the city now and into the future.	Noted. This is the basis of the Council's assessment under criterion (a).
13	Anonymous Via Your Say 25 April 2022	Yes	Supports registration.	Noted.
14	██████████ Via Your Say 25 April 2022	Yes	<p>Concern about dominance, overshadowing and out of character design by potential neighboring development.</p> <p>The PO is an integral element of the Kingston Shops heritage precinct and should be recognized as part of it.</p> <p>An important part of its heritage is the service it provided in the days when so much business was done by mail. Staff at the PO were part of a vital social hub for the exchange of gossip!</p>	<p>Council can only consider the heritage significance of a place as it falls within identified boundaries.</p> <p>Noted. The Council has indicated that it will be considered as a part of the larger Kingston Shopping Precinct nomination when it is assessed.</p> <p>Noted. This is covered by the assessment under criterion (a).</p>
15	██████████ Via Your Say 24 April 2022	Yes	n/a	Support noted.

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16	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 24 April 2022</p>	Yes	n/a	Support noted.
17	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 24 April 2022</p>	Yes	It does contribute to the character of old Kingston.	Noted. The Council has indicated that it will be considered as a part of the larger Kingston Shopping Precinct nomination when it is assessed.
18	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 19 April 2022</p> <p>* ██████████ emailed an earlier version of his submission to the Heritage Inbox, included below at #19*</p>	No	<p>The building is a relatively nondescript brick structure.</p> <p>It is not notable and doesn't show up in other publications.</p> <p>It does not enhance the aesthetics of the area.</p> <p>The primary justification for listing appears to be its age.</p>	<p>A feature of the stripped classical style is a pared back aesthetic, relying on massing and symmetry with plain surfaces. It has an important part in the history of architecture in Australia, however the Council have not assessed the place as having aesthetic value, rather it has historical value as noted in criterion (a).</p> <p>The place has been listed for its role in the history of the ACT, and not its architectural values.</p> <p>The Council is of the view that the place does not meet criterion e for aesthetic values.</p> <p>The Council has listed the place for its significance and contribution to the development of the ACT.</p>

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			<p>Much of the description/features are purely functional, so why are they being included?</p> <p>We risk freezing Canberra in time.</p> <p>It would not have been considered significant on the day as it is just a typical post office building.</p> <p>While the establishment of the Kingston Post Office may have had some local impact on the ACT's history, the specific architectural features proposed</p>	<p>While it is not being registered for its aesthetic or architectural features, they are the physical embodiment of the place, without which it would be unrecognizable or lose its association with its past.</p> <p>Heritage registration is about conserving what is significant from our past for the benefit of future generations. It does not freeze a place in time or stop development, it means that development would respect the features that make the place significant.</p> <p>Council has demonstrated the importance of the place in the cultural history of the ACT under criterion a, in accordance with the <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>. Post Offices had a much higher standing in the past and were an invaluable part of life for communication, lifestyle and business. As the first permanent dedicated post office building, with a considerable investment from the PMG, after WWII it was an important symbol in the ACT after a time of austerity.</p> <p>Council is of the view that the place meets heritage significance criterion (a), and is significant at the Territory level. The listed architectural features</p>

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			<p>to be preserved by this listing are not important to the course or pattern of the ACT's history.</p> <p>Archival recording and interpretive signage would be more appropriate than heritage registration.</p> <p>The residents of Kingston would be better served by a functional post office in an upgraded, environmentally sensitive building.</p>	<p>reflect this. Further information on identification of significant features and thresholds can be found in the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>.</p> <p>Archival recording and interpretive signage can occur in addition to heritage registration, if required and feasible. However, these do not afford the protection and recognition that registration provides for places that meet significance criteria.</p> <p>This can be achieved by adapting the existing building. It is not a requirement that the building remain a post office in perpetuity, simply that the heritage-listed features are conserved appropriately.</p>
19	<p>██████████ Via email 8 April 2002</p> <p>██████████ posted a later, more detailed submission on Your Say, included above at #18*</p>	No	As per ██████████ Your Say submission.	As above at number 18.
20	<p>██████████ Via Your Say 14 April 2022</p>	Yes	Local shops in each suburb were an important part of early Canberra planning and each place has its own feel, largely due to the characteristic architecture of each place. The Post Office is a part of the feel of Kingston.	Noted. The Council has indicated that the Post Office will be considered as a part of the larger Kingston Shopping Precinct nomination when it is assessed.

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21	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Via Your Say 19 April 2022</p>	No	<p>I accept that there may be a case for protecting the style, colour, and facade of the building on this site, which represents architectural cultural heritage. However, I think protecting the scale of the building and imposing height limits falls outside the reasonable limits of heritage protection, as does the notion of applying heritage protection to a driveway.</p> <p>While design features of the post office building are desirable and it would be nice for them to be maintained, I feel that on balance applying heritage registration to the site would be too limiting a restriction on development around the Kingston shops. In my view, the value to the community of heritage protection of this site does not outweigh the potential value of development. I would be happy to see development on this site that retains some of the facade or architectural features of the old post office.</p>	<p>Heritage registration will require future expansion or development be designed in order that the significant features can be conserved. Access for postal vehicles is a clear indicator of use and interpretation, so the Council has included this feature (note that only <i>evidence</i> of the driveway is required, not the driveway in its entirety to allow for future development).</p> <p>Heritage registration is about conserving what is significant from our past for the benefit of future generations. It does not freeze a place in time or stop development, it means that development would respect the features that make the place significant.</p>
22	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Via email 16 April 2022</p>	No	<p>There are no distinctive events identified that are associated with the site.</p>	<p>The place was the first permanent post office building from the NSW PMG following World War II and was an integral part of day-to-day life. It does not require a single important event to be to important to the cultural heritage of the ACT. Further information on thresholds and significance criteria can be found in the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>.</p>

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			<p>The point regarding the "high-quality build" and "Punchbowl Orange bricks" being an "important contribution to the character of the area" also seems quite weak - noting that the Council finds that criterion (e) regarding aesthetic characteristics isn't satisfied.</p> <p>The listed attributes being considered for registration are also 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.</p>	<p>The place has been listed for its role in the history of the ACT, and not its architectural values. The architectural features included in the description of place are the distinctive elements that make the place recognizable for future generations.</p> <p>Heritage registration will require future expansion or development be designed in order that the significant features can be conserved.</p>
23	<p>██████████ Via email, using the Your Say feedback template 30 April 2022</p>	No	<p>The entire heritage listing is inappropriate and will have high costs for the Territory over the coming decades and centuries if the listing is allowed to stand.</p> <p>Regarding the driveway, there is no rationale to preserve redundant car infrastructure.</p>	<p>The listing is based on the criteria as set out in the <i>Heritage Act</i> as determined by the Council as an independent body of heritage experts and community representatives. Listing will facilitate high quality adaptive reuse and expansion ensuring the retention of this heritage resource for future generations.</p> <p>Access for postal vehicles is a clear indicator of use and interpretation, so the Council has included this feature (note that only <i>evidence</i> of the driveway is required, not the driveway in its entirety to allow for future development).</p>

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			<p>If the listing is allowed to continue, it should be reduced to only the footprint of the actual building</p> <p>The scale and massing of the original single storey form should not be considered an element of the heritage listing as it is needlessly restrictive to sympathetic heritage reimaginings of this site.</p> <p>The post office is too small and the community will only grow, so it needs to be able to expand.</p> <p>There are parcel lockers on the west wall of the extension that would be a disservice to remove due to heritage aesthetics.</p> <p>Doubts that it reaches a territory level of significance, only local.</p>	<p>As the listing still allows appropriate development over the wraparound driveway, the boundary to the block dimensions is required to contain all significant features of the place and ensure referral of future developments to Council under planning and heritage legislation.</p> <p>The inclusion of the scale and massing does not restrict future expansions out or up, rather it ensures that heritage reimaginings are sympathetic to the original building and do not diminish what makes it recognizable.</p> <p>Heritage registration does not freeze a place in time, and does not direct how the place is used, only that the significant features of the place are conserved.</p> <p>Registration does not require reversal of a place to previous condition before listing. Council did consider the lockers during its assessment and found they do not compromise heritage significance of the building.</p> <p>Council is of the view that the place meets criterion (a) for its role in post war Canberra. Further information on thresholds and significance criteria can be found in the Council's <i>Heritage Assessment Policy (2018)</i>.</p>

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			<p>Most would be unaware that it was ever a post office, rather as a real estate agent or doctors office.</p> <p>The role which the former Kingston Post Office played with regards to local businesses on Jardine Street was completely unremarkable and shared by every other post office in every other locality of Canberra at the time.</p> <p>The role it played was not unique, rare, distinct, rare or otherwise notable, and it did not perform the function for overly long (serving for 40 years).</p> <p>Heritage listing impose massive costs on subsequent generations by freezing land use, preventing future architectural expression, and creating difficulties to building modernisation that could allow for more energy efficient and higher quality structure. It is a loss of potential to freeze it in time.</p>	<p>Current-day use does not change the role the place had in post war Canberra's development.</p> <p>Council has demonstrated in its assessment that the Kingston Post Office was distinct from other post offices of the time, as it was:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the first official post office constructed in Canberra after the Second World War; 2. the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period; and 3. the oldest surviving suburban post office building designed for the federal capital. <p>See comment and points 1-3 directly above.</p> <p>Registration does not freeze a place in time, it does encourage very high quality architectural expression and there are many examples of high quality, energy efficient building modernisations of heritage listed buildings across the world.</p>

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24	<p>██████████ President, Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc. Via email 8 May 2022</p> <p>██████████ posted a earlier submission via Your Say, included above at #4*</p>	Yes	<p>It is a highly visible and important part of the character of Kingston.</p> <p>Suggests that detailed advice be obtained from heritage architect Eric Martin.</p> <p>Kingston was the first center to get a permanent post office.</p> <p>The form and detailing set precedents for the rest of Jardine Street.</p> <p>Suggests a more substantial effort at gauging how the community values the place should be conducted, referencing engagement on social media.</p>	<p>Noted. The Council has indicated that it will be considered as a part of the larger Kingston Shopping Precinct nomination when it is assessed.</p> <p>The Council is an independent body of experts and is required to draw its own conclusions on significance. It is not clear from the submission what level of information should be sought from an external consultant.</p> <p>Noted. This was included in the Councils assessment.</p> <p>Noted. This was included in the Councils assessment.</p> <p>Social media responses are an indicator of select community sentiment, but it is not possible to tell how representative this is (often it is self-selecting based on shared interest) and is not an indication of true value. As noted by the ACAT Tribunal in regards to the Flynn Primary School, "The decision-maker would require some tangible evidence to demonstrate that the object or place was valued or highly valued. There are many examples of what evidence might show that a place is valued or highly valued. These could include long term promotion, substantial investigative work, the expenditure of time, effort or money and the attendance as a</p>

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Summary of Public Consultation Responses

	SUBMITTED BY	SUPPORT	ISSUES RAISED	COUNCIL RESPONSE
			The provisional registration fails to mention the contribution of the architect David Edward Limburg to the design of the Kingston PO.	witness before the decision-maker. A letter asserting that a place is valued is not sufficient. It must be demonstrated more tangibly." Noted. The Council will consider this prior to final registration.

Submissions for the Kingston Post Office Public Consultation

Yoursay.act.gov.au

Note: this document contains personal details that are protected by the [Information Privacy Act 2014](#) and EPSDD's [Information Privacy Policy](#) and extraneous details have been removed for expediency (e.g. IP address or null responses).

Add your name:

Date Submitted May 09, 2022, 09:37 PM

Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:

Whilst the building incorporates some elements of the stripped classical style, it also has cuboid massing with contrasting horizontal and vertical elements that are indicative of modern influences. From the information provided, it is not understood how the building compares to other stripped classical buildings in Canberra. Further design analysis would be beneficial for understanding other design influences, including potential reference to the streamlined modern. Given the building was constructed in the Post-war period, it is suggested that reference to Inter-war be reviewed.

It is also suggested that downpipe heads be amended to rainwater heads. No information has been provided in the background information on the historic format of the driveway. This makes it difficult to assess the appropriateness of the reference to the driveway (and the proposed heritage boundary)

Please add your comments on criteria (a)

Agree that the Kingston Post Office meets this criterion.

Please add your comments on criteria (c)

Agree.

Please add your comments on criteria (d)

As per previous comments, the assessment could review other influences in the design. Modern and functionalist buildings are possibly less common within the ACT.

It is respectfully suggested that a smaller building does not make it any less important in demonstrating particular characteristics.

The use of architectural terracotta does not appear to have been assessed and it is not clear if this material was commonly used in the ACT (this may be better assessed under a different criterion).

It is also a bit confusing when the style and architectural features of the building are identified in the list of significant features though these attributes don't appear to have been identified as important features in the assessment of significance.

Do you support the proposed heritage registration?

Partial/conditional

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

Yes the place should be listed, though improvements could be made to the heritage assessment and background information.

Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED]
Age Group	30-34
Relationship to place	Interest group
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
<hr/>	
Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	May 06, 2022, 04:58 PM
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	president@nationaltrustact.org.au
Relationship to place	Interest group
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	Yes - many times
<hr/>	
Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	May 03, 2022, 07:26 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Proposed boundary seems suitable. It is important that the general heritage statement does recognise the importance of being able to view the building from adjacent streets- the importance of this being that any developments should not block sightlines to the PO building.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	I support this view and I consider the statement against this criterion is well-expressed and easy to comprehend.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	While I would agree that the former Kingston PO is not uncommon as a PO, stripped classical building etc it is unique in Kingston and the inner south of Canberra and if it was not accorded heritage status and was removed or blighted by inappropriate development then residents would lose significant heritage amenity. The building is strongly valued by the community- it gives character to the area especially since it is next to the heritage-nominated Kingston shops and with beautiful mature trees. This combination of buildings and trees is rare in Canberra and is regularly endangered by inappropriate development proposals in the vicinity.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	I agree that it is not likely to meet this criterion.
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	The former Kingston PO is not diminished in value because of its smaller scale- we need to preserve small architectural gems in the suburbs, not just the bigger or more prominent buildings in the Parliamentary Zone.

Please add your comments on criteria (e)	It is unfortunate that there is no quantification of the numbers of stripped classical buildings in Canberra nor any objective assessment of how the community values this building- I do of course understand the limited resources applied to the Heritage Council but it would be helpful to assess the value to the community in more detail as I believe the building may meet this criterion. The adjacent Kingston shops are nominated for heritage listing and by retaining the architectural features of this part of Kingston particularly with the lively mix of local businesses nearby this building may be a key element of a heritage precinct, not just a single building. It is important to consider what may be lost if this building is not listed- the prime site could mean the building is demolished or insensitively changed.
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	I agree with the assessment.
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	While it may be difficult to demonstrate that this building has significance across the ACT its importance to the community of inner south Canberra is very strong. Those who live or shop in the area appreciate the appearance and contribution of the building to the urban landscape. I believe it may meet this criterion since there are relatively few stripped classical buildings in suburban settings and the building has served the local community for a long time.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	I agree with the assessment a presented but it is not stated what research has been done to reach this conclusion.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	I consider that the building may meet additional criteria for registration and I believe that the building is highly valued by the community.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	65-69
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	Yes - once or twice
<hr/>	
Add your name:	
Date Submitted	May 02, 2022, 09:49 AM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Support. It is not only important in its own right (the first public post office on its own site in Canberra) but also for its consistency in scale with the Kingston Shopping Precinct and its familiar and much-loved, iconic form on this important street corner (Jardine/ Giles Streets).
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	Supported. The Council's assessment demonstrates the high level importance of the former Kingston Post Office, its function as part of Canberra's first shopping centre and its contribution to the architectural integrity of the current buildings in this precinct.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	It perhaps should be noted that the building has lost its important function as the Kingston Post Office which is regrettable and because of that is more 'endangered'.

Please add your comments on criteria (e)	The last sentence is important for the local community. See my comments under point (a). It is an essential component of the visual character of the Kingston Shopping Precinct.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	The Council's comments above are supported and seem to demonstrate that the former Kingston Post Office actually does have significance in regard to this criterion.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	Submitted by [REDACTED], B.Architecture, Dip. Town & Country Planning, Dip. Environmental Studies, Life Fellow Planning Institute of Australia, on behalf of the Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED]
Relationship to place	Interest group
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
<hr/>	
Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 30, 2022, 02:19 AM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Definitely should be heritage listed -- too much of "old" Kingston has been swamped by unsympathetic development.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	It is definitely part of Kingston's history and should remain so.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	Disagree -- we are losing too much of Canberra's historical fabric I disagree that such buildings are well represented -- look at Civic!
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	Disagree! Ask anyone like myself, born in Canberra in [REDACTED], about their memories of shopping in Kingston -- going to the PO and banks as well as JB Youngs was an integral part of our lives. Definitely a part of the growing Canberra life after the war and during the 50s and 60s.
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	WRONG! Canberra is rapidly losing its ambience of Walter Burley Griffin's vision. Gems such as the Kingston PO are historical reminders of how Canberra grew. Looking at the Parliamentary triangle's degradation is enough to insist the we preserve what's left. The wretched government oversight since Kate Carnell's dreadful leadership has seen Canberra bow to short term gain for long term pain. Hence the need to stop the rot and keep such gems as the Kingston PO.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	Rubbish! Anyone who has long memories of Canberra would say it has value to the community -- it's an integral part of the history of Canberra. Does it have to go the way of other parts of Kingston and become a soulless facade?
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	It is an integral part of what Kingston represented, whatever the assessment of it as a "standard" building. It has far more character than much of the newer development in the area -- does CHARACTER mean nothing?

Please add your comments on criteria (g)	Again, RUBBISH! Kingston is one of the original suburbs and deserves that recognition. It could be preserved and used as an exhibition area for Kingston's history, instead of the paltry gesture to the history of the area that the info panels in Kennedy Street and other spots provide -- pathetic excuses for wiping out parts of a foundation suburb in the name of (greed) development.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	You have defeated your own criterion, listed as "h", with the following paragraph explaining its place in Canberra's developing history!!
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	So much of Canberra's development in the last 30 years has destroyed the visual elegance and dignity of the city as the national capital -- the latest abomination being the Civic-Woden tram, adding to the total destruction of Northbourne Avenue for the Gungahlin tram!
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	70-74
Relationship to place	Born in Canberra, lived or visited this city all my life, now retired here.
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	Yes - once or twice
<hr/>	
Add your name:	
Date Submitted	May 01, 2022, 06:57 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	I support the proposed boundary, especially noting the proposed development on Giles Street. The space to the (north) east will help ensure that this important building is not overshadowed or lost by any adjacent multistorey development. It is also important that the streetscape/treescape is considered for separate (or combined) heritage listing to protect Kingston's broader heritage.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * firstly, its physical attributes and design - Stripped Classical style with Art Deco details * secondly, the history of the development of Canberra and its early planning - the design by G. Edward of the Department of Works and Housing for the PMG's Department and acknowledging the influence of Canberra's architectural development by the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (NCPDC) * thirdly, the social history and connection of the post office to the Inner South community and its location within the oldest shopping precinct of Canberra * fourthly, this listing - if combined with the broader Kingston Shops heritage listing - would be fabulous in advance of the precinct's centenary in 2025.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	There is little stripped back classical architecture heritage listed in Canberra, I would propose that unless we start to list some, we may lose a significant representation for future generations.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	The post office did play a role in Canberra's early business and social history.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	The aesthetic is a valued by the Canberra Community and this building is an important part of Old Kingston. If it were to be lost, it would be a huge loss to both the local community in Kingston, and more broadly across Canberra.

Please add your comments on criteria (g)	please see previous comments above.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED]
Age Group	45-49
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
<hr/>	
Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 29, 2022, 07:33 AM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	It's an ugly, insignificant brick building. Surely this submission was in jest and mistakenly taken seriously? Including the driveway? Really? Give me a break
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	Nil cultural or natural importance.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	Agree, does not meet criteria
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	No
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED] 2906
Age Group	30-34
Relationship to place	Used to live there or nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
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Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 26, 2022, 12:22 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	I consider the proposed boundary and attributes to be good and sufficient.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	The former Kingston Post Office is very important to the ACT's history. It was not only important to the businesses in Kingston but also to the people who lived and/or worked in the surrounding areas. indeed, its importance went way beyond that. It was the first shopping centre developed in the ACT and was a most important shopping destination. If, like my family, you came into Canberra by train and caught the bus that met the train, Kingston shopping centre was the first place you went to. Indeed. my parents arriving that way from Goulburn in 1955 thought it was the centre of the city and we spent our entire time there until returning to the railway station. In later years I worked for a long time within easy walking distance of Kingston shopping centre and it was a key destination for me. My destinations almost always included the post office.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	I am puzzled as to why the Council would reach such a conclusion. Where are the other old post offices in other parts of Canberra? The first post office in Ainslie, the original post office in Civic and the post office in East Block are all long gone. In my view Kingston PO is uncommon in the ACT.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	I have no comments to add here.
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	I have no comments to add here.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	I strongly disagree with the Council's view that the post office does not contribute to the character of the Precinct. It is an integral part of the precinct and any changes to it would significantly alter the overall character of the precinct.
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	I have no comments to add here.
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	What is Council's definition of a local neighbourhood? Kingston shopping precinct and its post office were frequented by me and many others who lived in other parts of the city but worked in surrounding areas (particularly Barton). This was well after "the period immediately after WWII" - in my case it was through the twenty years 1961-1980. It remains a shopping centre that I visit regularly, mostly to eat out with friends - like me, none of them live anywhere near the precinct.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	The Council's own comments absolutely contradict its assessment. I am at a loss to understand how the Council can consider the ACT's first official permanent post-war post office is not likely to meet this criterion when they say it is "a testament to the faith in the importance of the developing capital" and "the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period".
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	80-84

Relationship to place	First shopping centre ever visited in the ACT. Worked nearby and visited/shopped there most working days for twenty years - including regularly using the post office itself. Continue to shop in the precinct every so often now.
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
Member Status	Active
Member ID	16119
Member Username	[REDACTED]
Member Email	[REDACTED]
Gender	Man
Age Group	65 years and over
Where do you live?	Belconnen

Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 08:01 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	This Post Office should be Heritage Listed in its' entirety for its historic value and to maintain something of the original feel of Kingston. The alternative would be further development which few would deem appropriate.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	I agree with the councils assessment.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	It is a unique building regardless of other examples of similar architecture. Much as Blundells Cottage is not the only settler building of its kind its location and history makes it unique. The same applies for the former Post Office.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	Again it is unique.
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	It is a later and much smaller example and in a suburban setting so is significant in it's own right.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	This building does exhibit 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.
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	This building is valued by the community.
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	It is important to leave some vestiges of the old Canberra.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	For the reasons outlined above the building should be retained.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	History will judge us harshly if we do not retain more of the essence of our history.

Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	60-64
Relationship to place	Used to live there or nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 07:36 PM
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	Supportive
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	As a resident of old Kingston I think the post office is a beautiful building and value its presence in the precinct.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes

Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	25-29
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 07:07 PM
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes

Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	I'm [redacted] and lived in Kingston I grew up and used the post office all my life including last week. The building is Kingston with iconic brick work on a major intersection in Kingston
--	--

Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	70-74
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 06:24 PM
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	Strong support. We let too many of these buildings be demolished. A city that forgets it's past forgets who it is!
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	Strong support
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	Strong support
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	Strong support for heritage listing the PO. The building is a significant part of the fabric of Kingston and Old Canberra. We cannot let these things be lost- they are too important to our understanding of the city now and into the future.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	35-39
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	Anonymous
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 05:07 PM
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Age Group	40-44
Relationship to place	Used to live there or nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 25, 2022, 12:20 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Appears to take in all the important features. Concern about dominance, overshadowing and out of character design by potential neighbouring development.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	This PO was probably the first purpose built stand alone PO in the ACT. Manuka did not have a purpose built PO until the 60s.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	The PO is an integral element of the Kingston Shops heritage precinct and should be recognised as part of it. An important part of its heritage is the service it provided in the days when so much business was done by mail. Staff at the PO were part of a vital social hub for the exchange of gossip!
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED]
Age Group	70-74
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	Yes - many times

Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 24, 2022, 06:47 PM
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	[REDACTED]
Age Group	60-64
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 24, 2022, 05:58 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Yes the whole site should be heritage protected.

Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	50-54
Relationship to place	Interest group

Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 24, 2022, 05:08 PM
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	Agree.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	Do not agree.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	It absolutely contributes to the character of old Kingston and should be preserved.
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	An important historical building which has ties to Kingston and beyond.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	While continued development is changing old Kingston, it is even more important than ever to retain links to the past - particularly the post office which is an important feature.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	50-54
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments

Add your name:	
	note this submission was also emailed verbatim as per criterion (a), however further information has been provided for other criteria in this submission
Date Submitted	Apr 19, 2022, 10:03 AM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	Dear ACT Heritage, I am writing to register my opposition to the provisional 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 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.

The extended description of the proposed heritage boundary proposes to list a "driveway for postal vehicles" and "vent grilles and downpipe heads" - purely functional aspects of the site. Are we seriously going to use a heritage listing to preserve driveways?

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.

Kind regards,



Please add your comments on criteria (a)

I disagree that this building meets this criteria. The building is a squat, nondescript piece of functional architecture. It would not have been considered significant at the time, being a typical post office building. There is no record of this building in any online listing of significant Canberra architecture prior to this heritage process.

In assessing whether the proposed heritage listing is appropriate under this criteria, the Heritage Council should have consideration to whether the specific architectural aspects being preserved have "importance to the course or pattern of the ACT's history".

While the establishment of the Kingston Post Office may have had some local impact on the ACT's history, the specific architectural features proposed to be preserved by this listing are not important to the course or pattern of the ACT's history.

For example, the listing proposes to preserve a "driveway", "vent grilles", and "downpipes" - all minor functional aspects of the building site. It is hard to see how preserving these aspects will improve ACT residents' ability to understand their local history.

This is not to say that the remaining features of the site have any particular historical value.

	<p>If it is deemed necessary to record the history of the Kingston post office, an exhibit in the Canberra museum or a local heritage sign with photographs would be more appropriate.</p> <p>The residents of Kingston would be better served by a functional post office in an upgraded, environmentally sensitive building.</p>
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	Agree that this will not meet this criteria.
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	No
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	30-34
Relationship to place	Canberra resident / regular Kingston visitor
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
<hr/>	
Add your name:	
Date Submitted	Apr 14, 2022, 03:35 PM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	I agree with the proposed heritage boundary
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	As the earliest shopping precinct developed for the ACT, the Kingston shops play an important role in the history of the region. Having 'local shops' in each suburb was an integral part of Canberra's early urban planning. Moving here in the early 1980s, I remember how the various 'shops' all had a different feel to them.

	Preserving significant the Kingston post office with its characteristic architecture helps preserve the unique character of the suburb.
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (f)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	No comment
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	No comment
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	Yes
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	I agree with the ACT heritage council. Kingston has its own unique history and 'feel' to it. It would have been extremely sad to have had that history and identity replaced by another geocon clone.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	Tel: [REDACTED]. Address: [REDACTED], ACT, 2604
Age Group	55-59
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments
<hr/>	
Add your name:	[REDACTED]
Date Submitted	Apr 19, 2022, 10:06 AM
Please add your comments on the proposed boundary and features that describe the significant attributes of the place:	I accept that there may be a case for protecting the style, colour, and facade of the building on this site, which represents architectural cultural heritage. However, I think protecting the scale of the building and imposing height limits falls outside the reasonable limits of heritage protection, as does the notion of applying heritage protection to a driveway.
Please add your comments on criteria (a)	No problems with this
Please add your comments on criteria (b)	I agree with this assessment
Please add your comments on criteria (c)	I agree with this assessment
Please add your comments on criteria (d)	No problems with this
Please add your comments on criteria (e)	I agree with this assessment

Please add your comments on criteria (f)	I agree with this assessment
Please add your comments on criteria (g)	I agree with this assessment
Please add your comments on criteria (h)	I agree with this assessment
Do you support the proposed heritage registration?	No
Please include any further comments you would like to add to your submission:	While design features of the post office building are desirable and it would be nice for them to be maintained, I feel that on balance applying heritage registration to the site would be too limiting a restriction on development around the Kingston shops. In my view, the value to the community of heritage protection of this site does not outweigh the potential value of development. I would be happy to see development on this site that retains some of the facade or architectural features of the old post office.
Add your preferred contact details (phone, email, postal address):	
Age Group	25-29
Relationship to place	Live nearby
Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations?	No - this is my first time providing comments


Submissions for the Kingston Post Office Public Consultation

Emailed comments sent to the Heritage Inbox

The following submissions were emailed directly to heritage@act.gov.au, one of which used the comments template from the Your Say consultation page, while the other three are open format letters.

Note that [REDACTED] emailed submission was verbatim as per his response to criterion (a) on his Your Say survey, which also had more detailed responses to other criteria.

Council is required to consider *all* written comments.

From: 
To: [Heritage](#)
Subject: Opposition to heritage listing of Kingston Post Office
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 1:12:10 PM

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.

Dear ACT Heritage,

I am writing to register my opposition to the provisional 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 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.

Kind regards,



From: 
To: [Heritage](#)
Subject: Comment on Former Kingston Post Office Provisional Registration
Date: Saturday, 16 April 2022 12:47:55 AM

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.

Dear Heritage Council

I object to the registration of the Former Kingston Post Office. I make this comment in my individual capacity as a 29-year old resident of the Kingston/Griffith area for the last 7 years, for about half of which I lived on Jardine St within one block of the post office, and for the other half living within a 10 minute walk of the post office.

The justification under criterion (a) seems quite weak to me. There are no distinctive events identified that are associated with the site. The point regarding the "high-quality build" and "Punchbowl Orange bricks" being an "important contribution to the character of the area" also seems quite weak - noting that the Council finds that criterion (e) regarding aesthetic characteristics isn't satisfied.

The listed attributes being considered for registration are also 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 other architectural and material elements of the building.

Yours sincerely



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 12 April 2022 and no later than 11:59pm on 9 May 2022

The Council has provisionally registered 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?

Former Kingston Post Office has the following attributes:



Figure 1 – Proposed Heritage Boundary

- The original Kingston Post Office Building:
 - Punchbowl orange facebrick
 - Cream tiles around major openings, windows and roof line
 - Vent grilles and downpipe heads, consistent with the Kingston Shopping Precinct
 - 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 center of the western facade
 - Evidence of the rear wraparound driveway for postal vehicles.

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

As covered below, the entire heritage listing is inappropriate and will have high costs for the Territory over the coming decades and centuries if the listing is allowed to stand, and for that reason this site should not be permanently listed.

Boundary

However, additional to these general concerns, the inclusion of the *driveway* in the heritage listing is completely inappropriate, has no heritage value, and serves to impose substantial costs on the community for no describable benefit. It is essentially a rear facing concrete slab that has no use, and is not part of what the community would consider part of the building worth preserving. There is no rationale to preserve redundant car infrastructure, which may have serious implications for evolving community use of the site that would otherwise be sympathetic to the site.

For these reasons, if the listing is allowed to continue, it should be reduced to only the footprint of the actual building, and not the 'evidence of the rear wrap around driveway for postal vehicles'.

Features

On the features, the "the scale and massing of the original single storey form" should not be considered an element of the heritage listing. It is needlessly restrictive to heritage sympathetic reimaginings of this site that would otherwise be possible when this site is renovated and rebuilt (as all heritage listed sites eventually must be, if in the 2050s or the 2150s).

Kingston is at the heart of Canberra, proximate to the parliamentary triangle and plays a vital role in serving the Commonwealth government and its officers. As Australia continues to grow, Canberra will also grow, and the size of the community that the inner south and Kingston will serve will inevitably expand, with increasing residential density and commercial activity.

This site should be able to play an active role in servicing that community. As a Kingston resident, my experience with the Kingston Post Office has always been one of frustration - it is too small to serve the community that currently lives here, and parcels are frequently redirected to Fyswick. Retaining the driveway and the massing requirements would principally work to prevent the future utilisation of this site in conjunction with the current post office site in the extension next door into a future post office that could service the needs of the community.

Additionally, the current Post office in the extension has parcel lockers on the west facing wall.

These are highly valuable to the community and the site's functionality as a post office, and it would be extremely detrimental if there is an attempt to remove them because of this heritage listing.

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 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 Former Kingston Post Office against criterion (a) and is satisfied that the Former Kingston Post Office 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 success of businesses in the Precinct as well as an effective drawcard service to attract people to the area.

The Former Kingston Post Office was the most important outlet for business and residents for South Canberra during the post-war period. 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 forms and services that businesses of the day depended on. 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 stripped-classical style of architecture and the solid building material of brick and concrete. The high-quality build is an important contribution to the character of the area recognised by the NDC 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.

Your Comments on criterion (a):

The Heritage Assessment Policy notes that the threshold of significance required for listing is one of “territory significance”, and that the operative question for determining this is “would the loss of the place or object significantly impoverish our Territory heritage?” The Heritage Policy names the Kingston Power House as one such example.

The clear answer to this question is that the loss of the place would not significantly impoverish our Territory heritage. This is a mid century brick building that served as a suburban post office over three decades ago, and the vast majority of the community would be unaware had ever been a post office. Most of us know it as a well built but otherwise unremarkable doctor’s or real estate’s office.

The former Kingston Post office was a post-office, not dissimilar from dozens of other post offices which have been built to serve local communities over the years. It performed its function, just as post offices throughout the territory did. The role which the former Kingston Post Office played with regards to local businesses on Jardine street was completely unremarkable and shared by every other post office in every other locality of Canberra at the time, and is not a reason for heritage listing.

If this is a reason for listing, then any post office older than half a century old may be heritage listed. There is no discernible reason why not on the precedent this sets. This is not a special post office. The role it played was not unique, rare, distinct, rare or otherwise notable, and it did not perform the function for overly long (serving for 40 years).

In particular, the Kingston Post Office is not (unlike the Garden city precincts and the Kingston Power House) examples of the early history of Canberra or the City Beautiful or Garden City principles.

This site does not meet this criterion.

4

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion.

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion.

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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 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 with its symmetrical massing and classical composition with a minimum of classical motifs and Art Deco decorative elements; however, as a late and relatively small example of this kind, it is not considered to be important for demonstrating these characteristics. The post office compares to other examples of the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style including the Former Institute of Anatomy and Robert Garran Offices, formerly the Patent Office, Barton. However, it is a later and much smaller example. Also, these other examples are under Commonwealth planning control. The Former Kingston Post Office does not meet the thresholds 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):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion.

5

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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 and may be further referenced in a

decision for the Precinct.

Your Comments on criterion (e):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion. This is an unremarkable brick building and should not be frozen in place for all time on aesthetic characteristics.

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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 achievement beyond being a well-made, solid building. This means that it is of a standard design for its time and cannot be considered to demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement for its time.

Your Comments on criterion (f):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion. This was a typical building, and is not remarkable or distinguishable.

(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 Former Kingston Post Office 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 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. As a consequence of the local role of both the precinct and the Post Office today, the latter has not maintained a strong or special association to the broader ACT community.

6

Your Comments on criterion (g):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion.

(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 Former Kingston Post Office is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office building is associated with the urban development of the ACT immediately following the end of World War II, the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (the NCPDC) and Australia Post.

The Former Kingston Post Office was built in 1947 as Canberra's first permanent post-war post office. Its predecessor had been located in one of the shops in the Precinct along Giles Street, and before that, the first post office in the Kingston area had opened in 1918 at Eastlake, near to the power station. Development in the ACT was severely restricted during the 1930s and the early years of the Second World War. After the war's end, the Former Kingston Post Office Building was the first official permanent post office constructed in the ACT. While it was not the first post office established, it is the earliest remaining post-FCT post office 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 building was planned and to process increasing business transactions in the inner south of the city. The Former Kingston Post Office was the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period.

Your Comments on criterion (h):

I agree that this site does not meet this criterion.

7

Section 3 – General Comments

I support the proposed heritage registration? No.

Please include any further comments to your submission:

Heritage listing is not free. Heritage listing impose massive costs on subsequent generations by freezing land use, preventing future architectural expression, and creating difficulties to building modernisation that could allow for more energy efficient and higher quality structure.

Heritage listing a place is an expression that what currently exists there is of greater significance than *any possible future use of the land*. Often, that is a reasonable call, and Canberra has many such sites that should be preserved for every succeeding generation, including Old Parliament House and the War Memorial.

A former post office of unremarkable construction, from an unremarkable and not too distant period of Canberra's history that had a typical post office function does not meet

this bar.

What this listing instead represents is a loss of potential. It is a stunning example of 2070s architecture that will never be able to be built. Given its position in the employment heart of Canberra, this listing will contribute to the housing crisis by forming another barrier to the creation of urban infil housing in the heart of Canberra, and will in turn contribute to higher housing debts and housing costs for my generation *and every generation to come*.

This site is unremarkable and has limited heritage value, not rising to the level of Territory significance required for listing. It should not be listed.

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: [REDACTED]

Last Name: [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

Age range: 26

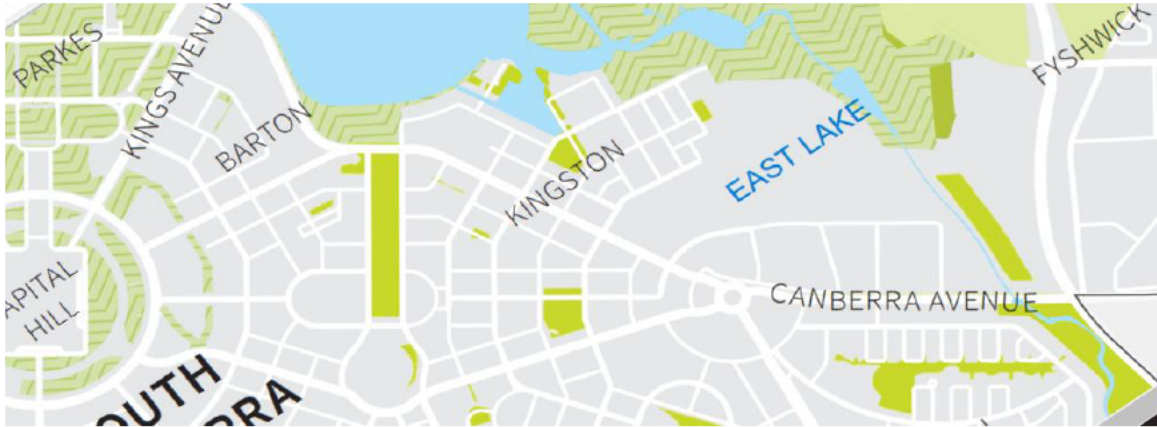
Relationship to the place: Local resident.

Have you ever provided comments on other heritage registrations? No.

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



K
B
R
G

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

Email: heritage@act.gov.au

Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc.

11/1 Sydney Avenue Barton ACT 2604

kingstonandbarton@gmail.com

FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE Submission about heritage listing

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

The highly visible former PO 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.

It is our opinion that the building has heritage significance and is worthy of listing on the ACT Heritage Register. We understand that respected heritage architect Eric Martin and Associates is of the same opinion and suggest, if not already done, that his detailed advice be obtained.

The significance of the building is in the fine design by Limberg and its history as part of South Canberra and the role it has played in delivery postal services after World War II.

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. 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.

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, which enhances a person's identity with the public role of this building.

(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 Kingston PO to meet this criteria. 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 and Barton Residents Group and Canberra & District History posted the news of the provisional registration on their Facebook pages 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.

(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 PO. He was appointed Assistant Director of Works in 1947. It is one of Limberg's fine buildings in Canberra with others such as Albert Hall and Girls Grammar Boarding School.

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

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

Yours sincerely



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

President, Kingston and Barton Residents Group Inc.

8 May 2022

Former Kingston Post Office

Pre-decision Engagement

DATE	STAKEHOLDER	MEDIUM	ISSUES DISCUSSED	ACTION REQUIRED
19/11/2020	Australia Post (note that the original post office section of the building was unoccupied at the time)	Letter delivered by hand to the front desk	Courtesy letter informing stakeholders that the Council has nominated the area and providing links and information and contact details if there are any further questions	None – for information only
24/03/2022	Australia Post	Email to information.requests@auspost.com.au and via online enquiry form and via generic contact hotline/phone	Courtesy contact regarding the upcoming decision and inviting response and asking for confirmation of building manager. Note: phone contact was to a general information desk who said they will track down who needed to find the information and return the call (which did not happen)	None
24/03/2022	Janet Purnell Purnell Real Estate	Phone	Courtesy call to occupier that the Council would be making a decision soon on the nomination. Had a brief discussion about process and then enquired after the property manager and was given details.	None
30/03/2022	Jones, Lang LaSalle Property managers for the Australian Postal Corporation at Kingston.	Email and post	Courtesy letter informing them that the Council plans to make a decision on the assessment in the near future and inviting comment or questions. Note: several attempts were made to contact the line area manager directly via phone at JLL on the 25 th and 28 th , hence a generic letter to the parent company.	None

Former Kingston Post Office

Official four week period public consultation period under section 37 of the *Heritage Act 2004*

12 April to 9 May 2022.

None additional to the public consultation submissions included in [Attachment A\(ii\)](#)

Post official public consultation period

Under section 37(4)(b) of the Act, the Council may consider any written comments made after the end of the public consultation period.

None.

Schedule
(See sections 3 and 4)



ACT Heritage Council

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
HERITAGE REGISTER
(Provisional Registration)

For the purposes of s 33 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a provisional 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 DECISION

7 April 2022

DATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

8 April 2022 Notifiable Instrument: 2022–

PERIOD OF EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Start Date: 8 April 2022 End Date: 7 September 2022

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 location of the place as required in s 12 (b) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

LOCATION OF THE PLACE

Former Kingston Post Office, Block 21, Section 22.

19 Jardine Street/82 Giles Street, Kingston.

This statement refers to the description of the place as required in s 12 (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 s 12 (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:

- The original Kingston Post Office Building:
 - Punchbowl orange facebrick
 - Cream tiles around major openings, windows and roof line
 - Vent grilles and downpipe heads, consistent with the Kingston Shopping Precinct
 - 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 center of the western facade
 - Evidence of the rear wraparound driveway for postal vehicles.

This statement refers to the heritage significance of the place as required in s 12 (d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Kingston Post Office from 1947 is significant for its strong associations with the post-World War II development of Canberra, and for its Inter War Stripped Classical style with Art Deco details.

The Former Kingston Post Office building is situated on the corner of Jardine and Giles Streets and adjacent to the Kingston Shopping Centre. While an earlier post office existed in Kingston from the 1920s, with increasing demand the government planned and built the 1947 Kingston Post Office Building. It was also the first official post office constructed in Canberra after the Second World War 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 urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period. It is the oldest surviving suburban post office building designed for the federal capital.

The 1947 building is a notable example of a building in the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style with Art Deco details. Following the principles of the style, the building features components of symmetrical planning; for example, the corner porches that are placed equidistantly around a central space. The mullions of the large window along the western wall are cylindrical in form, alluding to vestigial classical columns and also emphasise verticality, while the stepped end bay along the building's western external wall implies a classical portico. The building is decorated with ornamental windows, extensively uses coloured glazed terracotta (faience) facing, and low relief ornamental detail. These are all principal components of the Art Deco Style. Details such as vent grilles and downpipe heads are of an attractive design consistent with the style of the building.

Since its construction, the building has undergone sympathetic renovation, upholding the integrity of the place.

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 s 25 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 PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

The Council has assessed the Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston against the heritage significance criteria and is satisfied that the place is likely to have heritage significance when assessed against criterion (a) under s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The Council's assessment against the criteria specified in s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004* is as follows.

In assessing the heritage significance of Former Kingston Post Office, Kingston, the Council considered:

- The original nomination and documentary evidence supplied by the nominator(s) for the Kingston Post Office;
- The Council's *Heritage Assessment Policy* (March 2018);
- Information provided by site inspections on 11 September 2019 by ACT Heritage; and
- The report by ACT Heritage titled, *Background Information Former Kingston Post Office*, April 2022, containing photographs and information on history, description, condition and integrity.

Pursuant to s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, 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 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 success of businesses in the Precinct as well as an effective drawcard service to attract people to the area.

The Former Kingston Post Office was the most important outlet for business and residents for South Canberra during the post-war period. 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 forms and services that businesses of the day depended on. 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 stripped-classical style of architecture and the solid building material of brick and concrete. The high-quality build is an important contribution to the character of the area recognised by the NDC 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.

(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 (g) 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.

(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 (g) 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.

(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 (g) 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 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 with its symmetrical massing and classical composition with a minimum of classical motifs and Art Deco decorative elements; however, as a late and relatively small example of this kind, it is not considered to be important for demonstrating these characteristics. The post office compares to other examples of the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style including the Former Institute of Anatomy and Robert Garran Offices, formerly the Patent Office, Barton. However, it is a later and much smaller example. Also, these other examples are under Commonwealth planning control. The Former Kingston Post Office does not meet the thresholds 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 (g) 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 and may be further referenced in a decision for the Precinct.

(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 (g) 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 achievement beyond being a well-made, solid building. This means that it is of a standard design for its time and cannot be considered to demonstrate a high degree of creative or technical achievement for its time.

- (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 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 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. As a consequence of the local role of both the precinct and the Post Office today, the latter has not maintained 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 is not likely to meet this criterion.

The Former Kingston Post Office building is associated with the urban development of the ACT immediately following the end of World War II, the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (the NCPDC) and Australia Post.

The Former Kingston Post Office was built in 1947 as Canberra's first permanent post-war post office. Its predecessor had been located in one of the shops in the Precinct along Giles Street, and before that, the first post office in the Kingston area had opened in 1918 at Eastlake, near to the power station. Development in the ACT was severely restricted during the 1930s and the early years of the Second World War. After the war's end, the Former Kingston Post Office Building was the first official permanent post office constructed in the ACT. While it was not the first post office established, it is the earliest remaining post-FCT post office 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 building was planned and to process increasing business transactions in the inner south of the city. The Former Kingston Post Office was the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period.

SITE PLAN



Image 1 Former Kingston Post Office site boundary



ACT Heritage Council

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE (BLOCK 21, SECTION 22, KINGSTON))

At its meeting of 7 April 2022 the ACT Heritage Council decided that the Former Kingston Post Office was eligible for provisional registration.

The information contained in this report was considered by the ACT Heritage Council in assessing the nomination for the Former Kingston Post Office against the heritage significance criteria outlined in s10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

HISTORY

Postal Services in Canberra

The first post office in Canberra was established in Ginninderra in 1859 (Dale 1958). Other offices were established shortly after by NSW postal authorities: these included Duntroon (1863), Lanyon (1860) and Canberra (1863), situated at the corner of Limestone Avenue and Allambee Street (Dale 1958).

From Federation in 1901, the Postmaster General's Department (PMG), a Commonwealth Department, was responsible for communication services and systems throughout Australia, including postal services, telegraph and telephone systems (Australia Post 1975:17). A decade later, the PMG provided an allocation for a postal office in Duntroon to service the employees working at the Royal Military College, while also opening the Acton Post Office. In 1913, the name of the Acton Post Office was changed to Canberra and the original Canberra office was changed to Ainslie (Dale 1958). The Acton Post Office, comprising a weather board building with a corrugated iron roof, was demolished in 1926 (Canberra Times, 5 December 1953:4).

As the capital's population grew, there was increasing demand for postal services and the post office emerged as a vital administrative and business hub for local communities and critical to its long-term development. By the late 1920s, there were at least four post offices in Canberra and these included Westlake (Yarralumla), Molonglo (Queanbeyan), Canberra and Eastlake (Kingston) (Mercury, 27 May 1927, p 10). Once Parliament moved to Canberra, the Canberra post office was moved from Acton to the East Block of the Government Offices in Parkes, serving both the public and Parliament (Dale 1958). Meanwhile, constant submissions were made by residents and community groups to the PMG to allocate provisions and establish new permanent offices in other suburbs, such as Ainslie (Canberra Times, 6 March 1947:3; 22 April 1950:3). Where the PMG refused to establish post offices, temporary, non-official post offices were opened.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, the Postmaster General's Department accepted the responsibility of carrying out specialised tasks for the Defence Force and as a result, they limited their works and projects (Australia Post 1975: 18; Commonwealth of Australia 1958: 44). Once the war ended, the Department faced much pressure to provide services in Canberra and throughout Australia "...at a rate sufficient to overtake arrears created by the low rate of development which necessarily occurred during the war years..." and meet the rapid industrial, commercial and population growth (Chippindall 1958:5). Their response included establishing more buildings, of "...various sizes and types..." to accommodate "...additional staff, equipment and stores..." (Chippindall 1958:44). In Canberra, the PMG constructed and relocated post offices as well as established many non-official offices in suburbs during this period, including Narrabundah, O'Connor and Griffith. By 1954, the Department employed more than 70,000 full-time official staff, making it the largest business in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia 1954).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE

The chronological sequence of the opening of non-official and official post offices in Canberra after Federation and up to 1957 can be summarized through the following timeline (after Dale 1958):

16th December 1911	Duntroon
1st November 1912	Canberra City (formerly Acton)
c.1918	Eastlake (Kingston, ACT)
1922	Molonglo Workmen's Settlement
1st of May 1923	Yarralumla (formerly Westridge)
6th April 1925	Westlake
1927	Eastlake, Kingston Shopping Centre and East Block Office
1935	Manuka
22nd June 1943	Harman Navy Station
30th June 1947	R.A.A.F Station
1947	Kingston Post Office, Jardine and Giles Street
1st August 1949	Narrabundah
1st May 1950	Ainslie
1st August 1950	O'Connor
15th July 1957	Throsby Crescent, Griffith

In 1975, the PMG was split into two groups, the Australia Postal and Telecommunication (Telecom) Commissions, and were later privatised. In recent times, the importance of suburban post offices has been substantially diminished as rationalisation of Australia Post properties and their outlets throughout the country has occurred.

The 1947 Kingston Post Office (Section 22 Block 21)

The Eastlake (renamed Kingston post-1928) Post Office, being located in the preeminent shopping area, was the most important post office outlet for business and for residents of south Canberra during the urban development of the capital, and in particular the post-World War II period. The first post office was established at the end of the First World War and operated in premises close to the Kingston Power Station, providing telephone facilities (Dale 1958). By 1924, its status was elevated to 'allowance post office' and money order and banking facilities were installed. However, it continued to operate as a 'subsidiary office' until the PMG's office created an official post office in 1925, when it became one of two offices that conveyed mail in the capital (the other was Acton), a function previously carried out by the office at Queanbeyan (*Canberra Times*, 11 November 1926:1). In 1927, the post office was moved to a shop front along Giles Street within the recently built Precinct (Dale 1958). In 1944, the post office received its official title, Kingston ACT (*Canberra Times*, 6 October 1944:2).

In the following years, there was significant population growth and number of business transactions at the Kingston Post Office. Meanwhile, Manuka shopkeepers and residents alongside of residents from Forrest and Griffith made repeated submissions over two years to the PMG, requesting that a post office be established in the Manuka shopping precinct, as the Kingston Post Office was too far for them to travel in order to carry out their transactions (Hyslop 1985:9; *Canberra Times*, 4 January 1935:6, 14 September 1935:2; 27 September 1935:4). Until 1945, the PMG office refused the request, stating that the Manuka area was "...adequately served from the Canberra East Office." (*Canberra Times*, 31 October 1933:2). A non-permanent office was opened in the Newsagent's Shop 1935 and received banking facilities (*Canberra Times*, 2 May 1935:1; Dale 1958). However, by 1943, a request was made to relocate the Manuka Post Office as the non-official postmaster was experiencing great difficulty in gaining staff (Dale 1958). In 1945, the Manuka post office finally obtained official status.

After the Second World War the PMG officially announced plans to relocate the Kingston Post Office to the corner of Giles and Jardine Streets, opposite the shopping centre, determining that the premises along Giles Street were too small and limited the number of employees required to process the transactions (*Canberra Times*, 18 January 1949:2). In 1951, the *Canberra Times* reported that this was the "...first permanent post office erected by the N.S.W [sic.] postal authorities since the early war years." (*Canberra Times*, 7 June 1951:3). At the same time, the PMG department conducted a 'survey' of the block adjacent to the Capitol Theatre in Manuka, finally proposing to erect a new post office building there (*Canberra Times*, 18 January 1949:2).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE



Figure 1 Photograph of the Former Kingston Post Office, Giles and Jardine St, 1951 (National Library of Australia).

The Kingston Post Office was erected on the block that had been provisionally allocated for a public hall in the 1920s. Completed in 1947, the present building is in a Stripped Classical style with Art Deco details and was designed by G. Edward of the Department of Works and Housing for the PMG's Department (Garnett & Hyndes 1992:112). During this period, Canberra's architectural development was influenced by the National Capital Planning and Development Committee (NCPDC) which was formed in 1940. This advisory committee guided growth in the Territory until it was abolished in 1957 when the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) was formed.

Soon after the opening of the new Kingston Post Office other offices were established in adjacent suburbs; for example, the permanent Manuka Post Office, adjacent to the Capitol Theatre, was built after 1949 (*Canberra Times*, 4 May 1949:4). Non-official post offices were opened in Narrabundah in 1949 and Griffith in 1957.

In February 1989, the crown lease held by the Australian Postal Commission was surrendered to the ACT and plans for the building's development into a health care center and post office were approved. This development involved the refurbishment of the interior for the health care facility and an extension to the east in the same style to house the post office. The Post Office still leases the eastern extension as of 2021.

DESCRIPTION

The Post Office

The Former Kingston Post Office Building is situated on the corner of Giles Street and Jardine Street, opposite the Kingston Shopping Precinct. The site has access from both streets for postal vehicles and a large paved area at the rear.

The original section, built in 1947, is a rectangular single storey brick building, 18.75m long by 13.75m wide. The exterior consists of a simple colour scheme comprising Punchbowl orange bricks (setting the standard for the rest of the Jardine Street buildings through the 1950s) with cream tiles placed around major openings and the roof line. The main entrances of this building are situated on the southern and western walls of the building, facing Giles and Jardine Streets.

The building is in the Inter-War Stripped Classical Style featuring some decorative elements derived from the Art Deco Style. Following the principles of the style, the building features components of symmetrical planning; for example, the corner porches that are placed equidistantly around a central space. The windows feature large, simple panes of glass. The building also comprises features that have some resemblance to the Classical Style. For example, along the

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE

western wall, the mullions of the main large window are cylindrical, alluding to vestigial classical columns and also emphasise verticality, while the stepped end bay along the building's western external wall implies a classical portico. The building is decorated with ornamental metal windows, extensively uses coloured glazed terracotta (faience) facing and low relief ornamental detail, and these are all principal components of the Art Deco Style (Apperly et al. 1989: 167,190). Details such as vent grilles and downpipe heads are an attractive design consistent with the style of the building. Originally, the building also featured stylised signage.



Figure 2 Former Kingston Post Office building as seen from the corner of Giles and Jardine Street. Minor modifications to the building are observable, including the replacement of the stylised lettering (ACT Heritage Unit, October 2021).

Since 1988, the building has been modified and extended (Garnett and Hyndes 1992: 112). The north-west porch has been filled in and a 10.5m by 18.75m extension was built to the east. These have been done in a sympathetic manner; matching bricks and feature cream tiles around the windows are used. Other minor changes include the installation of a ramped entry, repositioning the flagpole vertically above the corner entrance, and the removal of the original signage. The original large (~2.2x1.2m) chimney remains in the eastern corner of the original building, but now appears to sit centrally on that wall due to the extension. The extension is not included in this registration.

Physical condition and integrity

The Former Kingston Post Office is in excellent condition and retains most of its integrity. All changes and modification have been completed in a sympathetic manner and the original material of the building has been retained with only minor changes as noted above.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE

SITE PLAN



Image 1 Former Kingston Post Office site boundary

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – FORMER KINGSTON POST OFFICE

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Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

22/84030

Ms Edwina Jans
A/g Secretary
ACT Heritage Council
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Dear Ms Jans

I refer to the ACT Heritage Council report of July 2022 on public consultation for the Former Kingston Post Office. I received your report on 11 July 2022.

I note that the public consultation was undertaken as required under s37 of the *Heritage Act 2004* (Act). Pursuant to s39(1)(a) of the Act. I require the Council give further consideration to the issue(s) raised in, or arising from, its report on public consultation.

In particular, the Council should give thorough consideration to the detailed comments provided in the 24 submissions from the ACT community on the provisional registration of the Former Kingston Post Office. I require that Council report to me on the outcomes of their deliberations in due course.

I require that Council further consider the above matters before making a final decision on the registration.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

1/8/2022

