

NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).

This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.

Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.

Block 21 Section 22 KINGSTON KINGSTON POST OFFICE

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 also believed to be the oldest surviving suburban post office building in Canberra.

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 facing, also called faience, 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.