

BRISBANE STREET POST OFFICE, PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Brisbane Street Post Office
Other names	North Perth Post Office
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	1971
State Heritage Register:	30 Sept 1994
Other Listing:	Classified by the National Trust Classified 08 Mar 1994 Statewide Post Office Survey Completed 01 Mar 1992 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	6/115 Brisbane St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 6 STR: 29323
Vol/folio	2048/191
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The post office demonstrates Temple-Poole's efforts to architecturally express civic and domestic functions in a modest sized suburban building.</p> <p>The Brisbane Street Post Office (fmr) is the most intact example of a late 1890s inner suburban post office, in Perth.</p> <p>The post office demonstrates Temple-Poole's efforts to architecturally express civic and domestic functions in a modest sized suburban building.</p> <p>The building demonstrates the state government's provision of postal services to a suburban population rapidly expanding north of the railway line in the late 1890s.</p> <p>The building demonstrates the operation of a inner suburban postal office and the living conditions of a postal officer in Perth at the turn of the century.</p> <p>The building has social value as a demonstration of an earlier way of life in a rapidly changing neighbourhood and contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE

Original use	Transport & Communications: Post or Telegraph Office
Current use	Commercial: Other
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction date	1896;
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated sheet metal
Architectural Style	Federation Romanesque Federation Arts and Craft
Physical description	The single storey building is residential in scale with a hipped iron roof, face brickwork and a distinctive brick verandah with three unadorned arches facing the street. The integral former post master's residence faced a side yard and is distinguished with an Arts and Crafts style side verandah. The post office triple arched entry is at zero setback. The residential section is setback behind a low cyclone mesh fence with lawns and garden in the setback area.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The place is one of only 5 remaining examples in Metropolitan Perth of a suburban post office which incorporated a post master's residence. It was one of a series built to serve the rapidly expanding suburban area during the gold rush period. Other post offices built in the same period included Aberdeen Street, Leederville, Victoria Park and Hay Street (now demolished). All exhibited a similar style, adapted for their sites.

George Temple-Poole was the Government Architect at the time, responsible for the design and construction of the post offices. Temple-Poole held the title of 'Colonial Architect' from 1891 until he retired at the end of 1896. These postal buildings were amongst the last government buildings he designed.

Tenders were called for the North Perth (Brisbane Street) Post Office in April 1896, and a contract was let on 27 May 1896 to James Finlay for £1,111. Finlay was one half of the contracting partnership of Franklin & Finlay (contractors and timber merchants), which also constructed the North Perth Police Station in Angove Street in 1908.

The Post Office was completed on 28 September 1896. It was renamed Brisbane Street Post Office in 1897, when the Perth North-West Post Office (later known as Northbridge Post Office) was built on the corner of Aberdeen and Brisbane streets.

It was first listed in Wise's Post Office Directories in 1898 when Mrs F. W. Stokes is recorded as postmistress. She was there for a number of years.

In 1915, it was listed as Post and Telephone Office and Commonwealth Savings Bank, with Thomas Donahoe as postmaster. The Commonwealth Post and Telephone Stores Department was also listed as being either at the same address or right alongside and John Saunders was in charge of that. In 1949 it is just listed as the Brisbane Street Post Office. The trend toward centralizing public services eventually brought about the closure of the Brisbane Street Post Office.

The building was sold and converted to commercial premises c.1994. Across the back of the site five residential units were constructed, and a carport now occupies the side yard facing Brisbane Street.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Infrastructure: Transport and Communications Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	George Temple Poole	Architect
Sources	P1971 Brisbane Street Post Office Assessment Documentation, DPLH, 1994.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

