

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH LOCAL HERITAGE INVENTORY

Management
Category

B

PLACE RECORD FORM

Prepared by *Heritage Today*, March 2000
Most recent update by City of South Perth, November 2015

Place No: SPCv 1 Angelo Street Post Office



(Heritage Today, 1999)

LOCATION

Name of Place	<i>Angelo Street Post Office</i>
Other / former names	
Address	59 Angelo Street
Suburb	South Perth
Local Government Authority	City of South Perth
Scope of listing	This heritage listing applies to the entire site.

LISTINGS BY OTHER BODIES

Name of Body	Reference No.	Grade of Listing	Date
Heritage Council of Western Australia	2372	Data base only - not listed	-

LAND DESCRIPTION

Reserve No.	Lot No.	Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio
-	123	P354	15257	V 1808 F 946

PERIOD	Inter-War
Design Style	Inter-War Stripped Classical
Construction Date	1939
Source/Details	Historical Notes from Brian Pope

USE(S) OF PLACE

Original	Post Office and Residential Quarters
Present	Post Office
Other / former	Telephone Exchange

HISTORICAL NOTES

From 1923, postal services for the part of South Perth to the east of the Zoo were provided at a receiving office in the Hayden Samuel shop formerly on the south-eastern corner of Forrest and Angelo Streets. The *Angelo Street Post Office* replaced this service, when it opened on 10 July 1939.

When it first began operating, the *Angelo Street Post Office* had living quarters, as staff were required to be available at all hours (for the receipt of telegrams etc.). However living standards in the Post Office deteriorated over the years and when staff were no longer required in the building at all hours, the space was dedicated to other purposes.

In the 1930s, post offices had to reflect community growth and needs. Between 1926 and 1955, the design and construction of post offices was undertaken by the Commonwealth Department of Works for the Postmaster General; however, very few post offices were built in the 1930s owing to the effects of the Depression. *Angelo Street Post Office* is therefore a rarity. The telephone exchange was built at a later date.

Minor improvements to the building have taken place over the years. In 2015, in response to an important duty of care to the community, the step in the front public entrance of the building was replaced with a permanent concrete ramp into the foyer, to enable those who are unable to negotiate the step to access the postal services within the building.

DESCRIPTION

The *Angelo Street Post Office* is situated in the retail/commercial strip near the intersection of Angelo Street and Coode Street. It has a telephone exchange adjoining, to the east. A number of places of heritage significance are in the vicinity and this Post Office is an important component of the locality. The building, owing to its somewhat forbidding appearance, has the capacity to imbue the streetscape with a level of harshness and bareness not conducive to pedestrian comfort.

The two-storey *Angelo Street Post Office* is built of reinforced concrete with a red and chocolate coloured pressed brick patterned façade. The building has a hipped Marseilles pattern terracotta tiled roof set behind a parapet.

DESCRIPTION (cont'd)

The main face of the building is red brick set one course behind the plinth. The main face is framed with chocolate-coloured bricks set back one course with a herringbone pattern and soldier brick frieze. The plinth to dado height is rusticated with unbonded header bricks. These are carried around the reveal linings of the doors and are recessed in three steps. The openings are protected by wrought iron grilles, which are notable for their design.

The building has been designed in the Inter-War Stripped Classical style, evidenced by the symmetrical façades, the vertical classical entablature and base, the simple surfaces and the subdued spandrels between storeys to emphasise verticality.

In the centre of the main façade is a pre-cast, pressed cement panel containing six windows. The panel is decorated with vertical fluting. The entrance porch has green terrazzo tiled paving, and stamp dispensers, which are of some significance.

The condition of the *Angelo Street Post Office* is good. Many changes to the function of post offices are evident, but this building is generally unchanged. Internally the postal hall has been faced with new fabric. However, it is thought that this may conceal most of the original fabric, which may still be intact. The integrity of the building has not been compromised by the installation of post boxes as have so many other post office buildings in Western Australia. The integrity is therefore classified as good, while the integrity of the façade, particularly the entrance recess, is high.

ASSOCIATIONS**ASSOCIATION TYPE**

Australian Postal Commission	Previous owner

HISTORIC THEME / Sub-theme**CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Transport and Communication / <i>Mail Services</i>	Aesthetic
	Historic
	Social
	Representative
	Rarity

RATING AND ASSESSMENT**High****Low**

Aesthetic value (streetscape, setting)	1	2 ✓	3	4	5
Architectural merit (design features)	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Rarity value	1 ✓	2	3	4	5
Value as part of a group/precinct	1	2 ✓	3	4	5
Condition	1	2 ✓	3	4	5
Integrity	1	2 ✓	3	4	5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Angelo Street Post Office* has aesthetic, historic, social, representative and rarity cultural heritage significance. Since 1939, the *Angelo Street Post Office* has been the base for the postal service to the surrounding area. Due to the lasting effects of the Depression, the building is one of a limited number of post offices constructed in Australia during the 1930s. The street façade is of interest owing to the design patterns and textures particularly of the brickwork and wrought iron. The building has high integrity, is a good example of post offices constructed in the 1930s and provides a demonstration of their accommodation and materials.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category B : Considerable significance

Conservation essential. Reflects the highest level of local cultural heritage significance. Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity and authenticity. Demolition or significant alteration to a place in Management Category B of the Heritage List is not permitted. Any alterations or additions are to be guided by a Conservation Plan, if any, and reinforce the heritage values of the place.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION / BIBLIOGRAPHY

- City of South Perth Municipal Heritage Inventory (No.1) 1994.
- Reviews of Municipal Heritage Inventory by *Heritage Today* in 2000 and 2006.
- Pope, B, Bush, F, Broomfield, W, and Kelsall, D M, *Historical and Architectural Assessment of Post Offices in Western Australia as at 21 July 1991*, National Trust of Australia (WA), 1993.
- Florey, Cecil C. *Peninsular City: A Social History of the City of South Perth*, City of South Perth, WA, 1995.

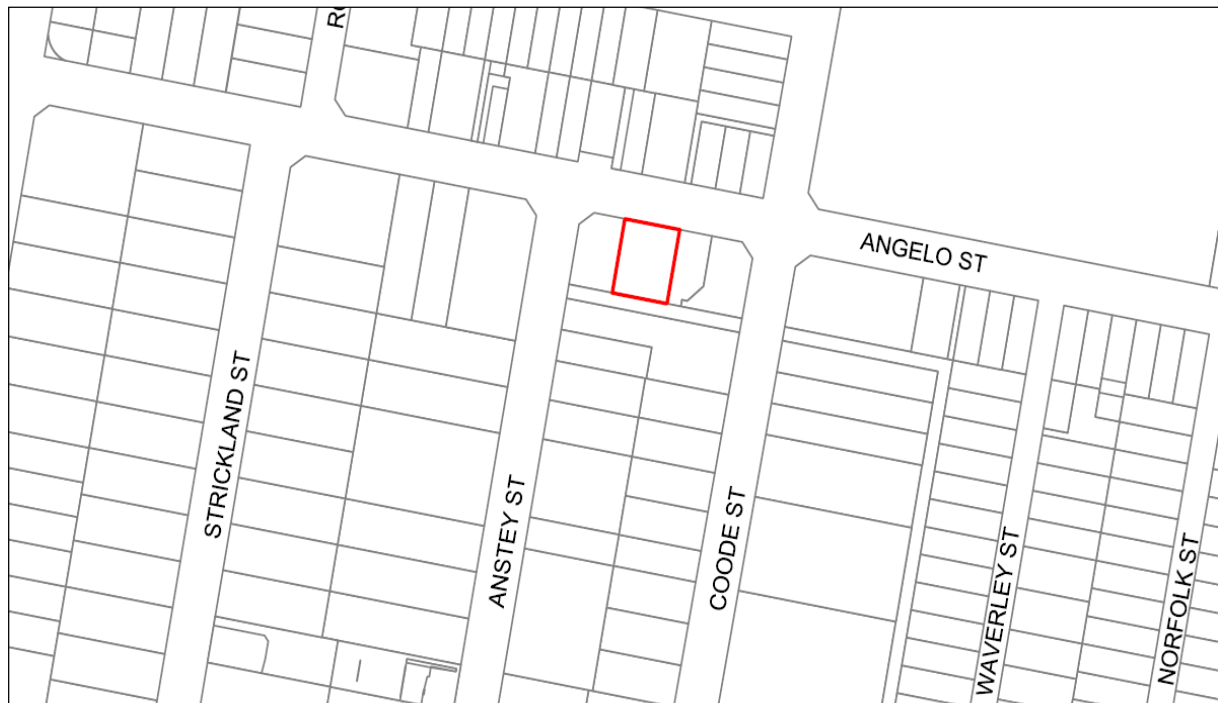
HISTORY OF HERITAGE LISTING BY CITY OF SOUTH PERTH

	Date Adopted by Council
Initial listing in MHI	December 1994
Update of MHI	February 1996
Update of MHI	December 1996
Update of MHI	December 1997
Review of MHI by <i>Heritage Today</i>	June 2000
Update of MHI	June 2002
Update of MHI	March 2003
Review of MHI by <i>Heritage Today</i>	February 2006
Interim Heritage List – Policy P313 ‘Local Heritage Listing’	April 2013
Updated in renamed LHI	November 2015



The Angelo Street Post Office, in 1940, about a year after construction.
(Florey, page 213.)

LOCATION MAP



(Digital Cadastral Data supplied by Landgate, WA. P295)