

SUMMER HILL MAIN STREET STUDY 1993

INVENTORY

Address: 152 Smith Street		Item No. 14	Page No. 1/6
Name of Building: Summer Hill Post Office			
Former Name:			
Owner:			
Lessee/s:		Current Use/s: Post Office	
Date of Construction: 1900	Architect: W.L. Vernon	Builder:	
<p>History: The first Post Office at Summer Hill was opened for business on 24 April 1882 in Woodhill & Murray's store in Lackey Street (now the site of the pedestrian plaza). A new Office was established in the railway station in 1886. A further move was made to premises on the south side of Smith Street, between Nowranie and Morris Streets, in the 1890s. In 1897 tenders were accepted to build a free-standing Post Office in Sloane Street, but before work was started the site was exchanged for the present one, where the present building was opened in November 1900.</p>			
<p>References: Ashfield Heritage Study, 1993.</p>			
<p>Description: A fine Federation Free Style two-storeyed building erected to the design of Walter Liberty Vernon, the first NSW Government Architect. Its corner position is emphasised by a dominant polygonal colonnaded porch with Tuscan columns, above which is a pilastrated and arcaded verandah with brick balustrading, surmounted by a pyramidal roof. The main Smith Street facade is symmetrical with parapet-gabled side sections flanking a single-storeyed segmental bay above which there is a carved sandstone cartouche under the projecting eaves. Ground floor windows are casements with toplights and stone lintels; first floor windows are double-hung and flat-arched. Sandstone copings, bands, sills and Classical detailing are all finely worked. The former residence abutting the building in Moonbie Street has been considerably altered, especially by the additional structure necessary to house post boxes and former telephones.</p>			
<p>Modifications: The Post Office is in very good condition and, apart from the modifications to the residence, is very intact.</p>			

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		Name of Building: Summer Hill Post Office				
Contribution To Streetscape:	<i>Appropriate Scale/mass</i>	<i>Compatible Form/shape</i>	<i>Harmonious Style</i>	<i>Compatible Materials</i>	<i>Existing Colour Scheme</i>	<i>Existing Shop Fronts</i>
	1	1	1	1	3	4
<i>1= Excellent 2= Good 3= Fair 4= Poor 5= Disruptive</i>						
Heritage Listings	LEP Yes	NT Yes	AHC	Heritage Study Yes	Other	
Statement of Significance:						
<p>* A fine corner public building in a distinctive architectural style by W. L Vernon, first Government Architect of NSW.</p> <p>* An eminent streetscape component lending great dignity and scale to the intersection of Smith, Moonbie and Hardie Streets.</p>						
Recommendations For Conservation Action:						
<p>(a) <i>Immediate:</i> If the Post Office function is removed, remove verandah of former residence facing Moonbie Street and reconstruct the bay.</p> <p>(b) <i>Medium Term:</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Long Term:</i> If the Post Office function is removed, remove verandah of former residence facing Moonbie Street and reconstruct the bay.</p>						
Desirable Planning Objectives: The building should continue in its present use.						
Additional Comments: Reinstatement of residential occupation of the first floor would increase the commercial return to Australia Post and reduce the economic imperative for the closure of the Post Office.						

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1993 PHOTOGRAPH

Address: 152 Smith Street

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Name of Building: Summer Hill Post Office



Photograph taken by
Robert Irving

Roll No. 92-065-3

Neg No.

Frame No. 15

SUMMER HILL MAIN STREET STUDY 1993

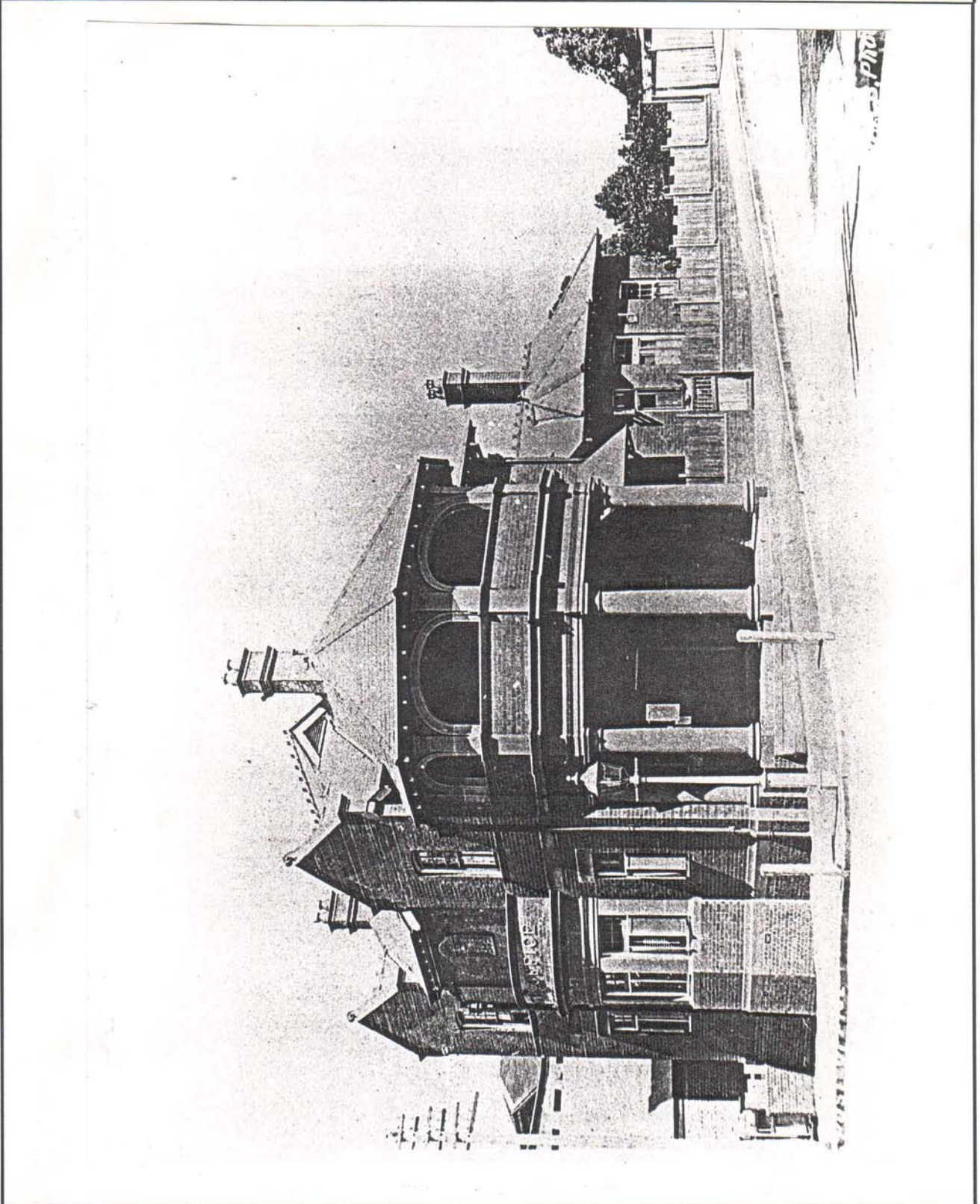
1993 PHOTOGRAPH

Address: 152 Smith Street	Item No 14	Page No 3b/6
Name of Building: Summer Hill Post Office		



Photograph taken by Robert Irving	Roll No. 92-065-3	Neg No.	Frame No. 16
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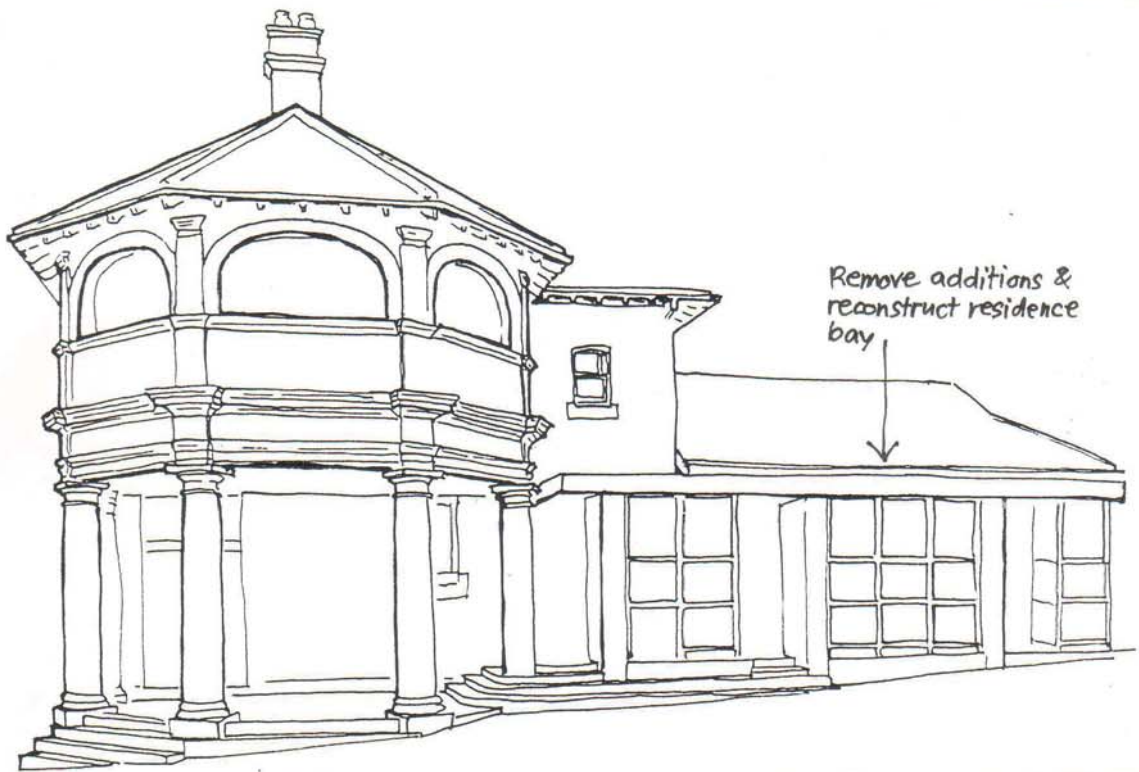
Source ADHS Collection	Photographer Broadhurst	Date c.1910
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Name of Building: Summer Hill Post Office



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1. SKY exposed rafters, soffit, visible gable end
2. MIDDLE BRONZE GREEN. downpipes, window frames
3. BEIGE window frames.
4. Existing brickwork. to remain unpainted.
5. Existing sandstone.

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4. Existing brickwork.
5. Existing sandstone.