

Ashfield Heritage Study Inventory Sheets 2010

Name of Item	Former Post Office	Reference N°	10/12
Other Names		Land Title	
Address	11-13 Hercules Street		
Locality	Ashfield	Postcode	2131
Item Type	Building	Owner/s	
Group Name			
Statement of Significance		Condition as observed from street —	
<p>The aesthetic significance of this building now lies only in the effective townscape value of its well-scaled Georgian Revival facade and in the remaining architectural quality of the original postal hall within.</p> <p>It is historically significant as a work of the architect John Smith Murdoch (1862-1945) who was chief architect for the Commonwealth of Australia from 1919 to 1929.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Intact Minor alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic Major alteration — <input type="checkbox"/> Sympathetic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unsympathetic	
Summary of Significance		Modifications —	
	Rare	Associative	Representative
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Neglect. Erection of intrusive rooftop addition. Removal of contents and one entrance. Intrusive bus shelters in front of facade.



Surveyed by

RI

Survey Date

20/3/2010

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<p>Current Use Appears to be empty and unoccupied.</p>	<p>Reference N° 10/12</p>
<p>Heritage Listing Ashfield Local Environmental Plan 1985, Schedule 7</p>	
<p>Themes : Local Industry, commerce and retail trade</p>	<p>Themes : State Cultural and social life</p>
<p>Historical Notes</p> <p>The Post Office was erected in 1926, replacing the older building of 1889. A Telephone Exchange was built behind this, also in 1926, extending to Fox's Lane. Acquisition of the site to the north made a further Exchange possible in 1963. The Exchange on the west side of Fox's Lane was erected in 1987.</p> <p>This 1926 building was designed by John Smith Murdoch. chief architect for the Commonwealth from 1919 to 1929 and who, as well as designing post offices, was responsible for many important buildings including the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra and major projects in other capitals including Forrest Place, Perth.</p> <p>The Post Office site eventually extended behind the sites of 5, 7 and 9 Hercules Street. In more recent years, with changes to post office and telecommunications policies, the building was closed and vacated. At the present time it is still unoccupied.</p>	
<p>Physical Description</p> <p>The building is a simple reinforced concrete framed structure in several more-or-less self-contained parts. Its general character is that of a utilitarian building containing the former postal hall, with some evidence of original plaster detailing and finishes, and a pleasing facade.</p> <p>The facade, designed in the Inter-War Georgian Revival style of architecture, is two-storeyed. symmetrical in form and detail, with five bays in face brickwork and two entablatures of painted cement render</p> <p>A large addition, erected on the roof behind the parapet, intrudes into the streetscape presence of the building, as do two bus shelters built on the footpath in front, which obscure the facade.</p>	
<p>Information Sources</p> <p>Heritage Assessment by Godden Mackay Pty Ltd, January 1998. Conservation Management Plan by Architectural Projects Pty Ltd, 2003. NSW Heritage Branch website, http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07-subnav-01-2.cfm?itemid=1020119. Ashfield Council, Ashfield Town Centre Study, 2005. 'The Former Ashfield Post Office', report by Robert Irving for Ashfield Council, May 2005. For John Smith Murdoch, see the <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i>.</p>	