

Item Details

Name

Former Prospect Post Office

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

Address

23 Tarlington Place PROSPECT NSW 2148

Local Govt Area

Blacktown

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

Item Type

Built

Group/Collection

Postal and Telecommunications

Category

Post Office

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
23	Tarlington Place	PROSPECT/NSW/2148	Blacktown	Unknown	Prospect	Cumberland	Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The building is one of the last physical structures from the village of Prospect and is a reminder of the development of the area that has connection with the earliest establishment of the district.

With the surviving church, the building provides a physical link to the history of the area and allows an understanding of the nature of the village and the relationship of the village to the church.

The building was the home of the Watts family, a prominent local family who were instrumental in the development of the village and local commerce and community facilities.

Criteria a)**Historical Significance**

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(Davies 1996)

Criteria b)**Historical Association Significance**

The building has been associated with the local community through its function as post office and a store, and through its close association with the adjacent butchers shop and dance hall. The building demonstrates the physical development of the village and provides continuity with the early development of the area.

The building was the home of the Watts family, a prominent local family who were instrumental in the development of the village and local commerce and community facilities.

(Davies 1996)

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is a good representative example of building design from the mid Victorian period and demonstrates the aesthetic preferences and aspirations of a small village society. The building has well designed detail, particularly around the ship front and is generally a pleasing building of good proportion and form.

The building is one of the last remnants of an early picturesque village, retaining its relationship to the original road alignment, that can demonstrate the relationships of site, building and road and the 'picturesque' nature of the building in the landscape.

(Davies 1996)

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is one of the central buildings in the village of Prospect from the 1870s to the time of the village's demise in the late 1950s. As the post office, general store and butchers, it was the business centre of the village and the point of contact for many of the residents.

(Davies 1996)

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The connection of the former Prospect Post Office with early industry, the butchers shop and ancillary facilities and in particular the slaughterhouse and yards nearby is of scientific significance.

(Davies 1996)

The archaeological resource associated with the Prospect Post Office Precinct as the site of a part of Prospect village has the potential to contribute to the existing body of information concerning the development of rural communities during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in New South Wales. The Prospect village site has the potential to provide physical evidence relating to the development of community interactions within a rural population during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

(Godden Mackay Logan 2002)

Criteria f)

Rarity

The Prospect Post Office Precinct contains an archaeological resource that has the potential to enhance the current information concerning the historical and social development of rural communities in NSW and in particular, the outer Sydney region. Archaeological investigations of rural communities have been infrequent, thus contributing to the rarity of the potential archaeological resource contained in this site.

(Godden Mackay Logan 2002)

Criteria g)

Representative

The Prospect Village site is a representative example of a rural village site for which the archaeological resource is yet to be investigated.

(Godden Mackay Logan 2002)

Integrity/Intactness

High

Owners

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

Builder/Maker

Physical Description

Updated

The property currently contains the brick post office building and the remains of a timber collapsed structure to the rear of the building.

The site retains substantial potential for archaeological research with a large number of know former associated buydiligns on the site including :

- Original Post office and Butchers shop
- Original Cottage
- Sulky Shed
- stables
- workers cottage
- house treadmill
- well
- sausage mincing and smnoking house.
- Toilet

The remaining post office building includes 10 rooms within a full brick building with a 5 room core under a Pyramidal roof with an added frontage facing gable and room and a rear lean too kitchen and servants rooms. The buidling has a bullnosed verandah to the front. The frontage and gable room are rendered but the remainder of the building is face brick.

The site is currently vacant

Physical Condition

Updated

Modifications And Dates

- 1980s verandah to shop removed
- Verandah floor concreted and verandah altered

Further Comments

Current Use

Residence

Former Use

Post office and adjoining butcher shop (now demolished)

Listings

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262

Records Retrieved: 1

Procedures/Exemptions

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

Records Retrieved: 0

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

James Watts was born in England in 1830 and arrived in Sydney in 1852. He went to work at Veterans Hall, Prospect where he met his future wife Mary Ann. In 1873 he purchased land on the western road and appears to have built a timber building on the site around that time. He had been in possession of the land a few years earlier. James and Mary Ann operated a general store from the building.

Between 1870 and 1880, the timber building burnt down and the present building was constructed in brick. A well was at the rear of the building and a grain silo and other storage buildings were in the rear yard. The business provided a separate shop and post office area from the family home. The store and post office became the focus of the small village of Prospect. The township never reached its full potential after being bypassed by the railway in 1869.

The business included a general store, newsagency and post office located in the front corner of the shop. A partition separated the post office activities from the rest of the shop. The shop appears to have had a stone flagged floor, below the floor level of the house. A telephone box was located under the front awning.

Watts operated the general store and post office until his death in 1898. The business continued under the management of his wife Mary Ann until her death in 1909. It was then operated by their son George Henry and his wife Grace. George added a butcher's shop located in a separate building to the south. Additional buildings included a mincing room, smoke house and a store. These could have also related to the slaughter yard established by James Watts on additional land extending from the post office through to Blacktown Road and near Church Lane.

George Watts also constructed a dance hall on the southern edge of his property and gave a small block of land opposite the store to Council for the erection of a school of arts hall.

After the death of George Watts in 1923, the property passed to his widow Grace Louise. She remained at the house until her death in 1944 with her daughter working as post mistress. The slaughter yard and butchery closed with the death of George. In 1845 the property was sold to James Archibald White, described as a storekeeper. He appears to have continued to operate the store but closed the post office. The property changed owners a number of times before being resumed by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission in 1976. Road resumptions and the construction of the M4 motorway have reduced the size of the site and left the former Post Office as the only surviving building of the Prospect village south of the motorway.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Settlement in the 19th Century
3. Economy	Communication	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 2

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
Prospect Heritage Study - Draft Final Report			2005		Terry Cass / Jackson Stepowski Planning and Robertson and Hindmarsh

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 2

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Godden Mackay Logan	2002	Prospect Post Office Precinct - Heritage and Archaeological Assessment	
Written	Paul Davies Pty Ltd	1996	The Former Prospect Post Office - Conservation Plan	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140067

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