

Item Details

Name

Prospect Post Office (Former)

SHR/LEP/S170

s170

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			Unknown	Primary Address

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is of high local significance as the last surviving building of the former Prospect Village and as the site of the Post Office for over 100 years. It has social, historical, aesthetic and scientific value related to its function, its occupants and its role in the development of the district. The building and site have State significance related to the themes of early development of the Sydney region, commercial development and service. It is a representative building typifying small village development from the last century and retains elements of its setting and relationship to the former Western Road.

Criteria a)

Historical Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is of historic significance as the last surviving building from the former village of Prospect. It demonstrates the history of the village and marks the village. It is the only surviving physical reminder of the village. The building has been associated with the local community through its function as a post office and 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.

Criteria c)

Aesthetic/Technical Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is of aesthetic significance as a good representative example of building design from the late Victorian period and demonstrates the aesthetic preferences and aspirations of a small village society. The building has well designed detail, particularly around the shop 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.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The former Prospect Post Office is of social significance as 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 point of contact for many of the residents and was related to the Watts family, key figures in the village, who were pivotal in the village's fortunes through 80 years of occupancy. The building is the last physical structure from the village and is a reminder of the development of the area that has connection with the earliest establishment of the district. Along 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.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

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

Criteria f)

Rarity

The Post Office is the last surviving commercial building in what was once a thriving main street. The building represents the decline of a settlement within the Sydney region.

Criteria g)

Representative

It is a representative building typifying small village development from the last century and retains elements of its setting and relationship to the former Western Road.

Integrity/Intactness

The Post Office is substantially intact and following its renovation, much of the building fabric's integrity has been restored.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer

James Watts

Builder/Maker

James Watts

Physical Description

Updated

The site comprises a triangular shaped piece of land (truncated by the freeway construction to the south) fronting Tarlington Place. The land contains the former shop, residence and post office on the front alignment, a garage and lean to at the rear, stables to the south west and various paths and foundations of structures that have been removed. The main building is of brick, the garage is timber framed and asbestos cement clad. The stables are timber framed and roughly lined and the pavements are predominantly concrete. The main building is of brick with a hipped corrugated iron roof and projecting gable end addressing the street, which housed the post office/store. A bull nosed verandah, supported on turned timber posts and with a simple but distinctive timber valence, runs across the front of the house. There is also a rear verandah/sleep out which was always roofed but not fully enclosed.

Physical Condition

Updated 02/01/1999

The building has undergone extensive conservation/renovation works in the last year (1997/8). The site has moderate archaeological potential associated with its former uses.

Modifications And Dates

1982, 1986, 1960, 1945, 1990, 1970-80, 1997

Further Comments

With the building stabilised following the conservation/renovation works, a new use needs to be found for the building. A costing for full restoration and conversion to another use is in progress, prior to expressions of interest being sought for the building's use. New uses and associated changes to the building should be guided by the Conservation Plan and be undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified heritage architect.

Current Use

Vacant

Former Use

Post office,shop, residence

Listings

Listings

Records Retrieved: 1					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register		3490009	10/28/1998 12:00:00 AM		

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

The Prospect Post Office is believed to have operated from as early as 1871, in an earlier timber structure on the site. The present building was constructed between 1880 and 1890 and was clearly a more substantial structure with its separate shop and post office area, reflecting the growing prosperity of the Watts family. Watts' store and post office became the focus of the small village of Prospect that slowly developed with the gradual sub-division of Kennedy's 1799 grant. James Watt operated the general store and post office until his death in 1898 and was succeeded by his wife, Mary Ann who continued operating the business until her death in 1909 at which time a local builder, George Henry, took over the business and occupied the house with his wife and their 4 children. Shortly after he assumed control of the business, George added a butcher's shop housed in a separate timber structure to the south of the house. A number of other associated structures were also constructed around this time. The village of Prospect reached its peak of development around 1923. Following his death, the property was transferred to George's widow, Grace, in 1925 and she occupied the house until her death in 1944. Her daughter Georgina continued as post mistress during this period and her other daughter, Ethel, worked as housekeeper and shop assistant. The shop, which later included tea rooms, slowly declined and its function as a post office ceased entirely after Grace's death in 1946 and the subsequent sale of the property to Archibald White, although he did continue to operate the store. The property changed hands numerous times between 1949 and 1976 when it was finally purchased by the NSW Planning and Environment Commission as part of an open space corridor provision.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Persons	Unknown
3. Economy	Communication	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Continue with the current process of securing a long term tenant to ensure long term maintenance and appropriate use of the building.

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 3

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
S.170 Register DUAP			1999		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
SHI Inventory Sheet			1998		(not known)
SHI Inventory Sheet			1998		(not stated)

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 1

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written				

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
State Government	Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (Heritage & Conservation Register)	3490009

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