



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Wayne Moredout, Historian, and Palassis Architects, in February 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.7.1 Establishing postal services

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 206 Mail services

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is a well-resolved and fine example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style, exhibiting a prominent gable roof form with decorative timber paneling and bargeboards, tall chimneys, large arches and an informal arrangement of windows. (Criterion 1.1)

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is located on a prominent corner in an elevated position overlooking Hampton Road, which, combined with its distinctive form, makes the place a well-known landmark. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The establishment of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is indicative of the spread of population south of Fremantle in the late nineteenth century. (Criterion 2.2)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was one of a large number of post offices constructed by the Government across the State in the 1890s to cater for the rapidly increasing population. Between 1891 and 1897, when George Temple Poole was Principal Government Architect, post offices were constructed in Albany, Capel, Claremont, Dandaragan, Gingin, Leonora, Moora, Narrogin, Norseman, North Fremantle, Brisbane and Aberdeen Streets in Perth, Pingelly, Pinjarra, Roebourne, Southern Cross, Toodyay, Wagin and York. (Criterion 2.2)

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was constructed by the Public Works Department (WA) under the direction of prominent Principal Architect George Temple Poole, who was responsible for the design of many of Western Australia's fine civic buildings. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is valued by the local community because of its historical associations and aesthetic qualities as reflected in the use of the image of the building in historical reportage. (Criterion 4.1)

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is important in contributing to the local community's sense of place, being prominently situated on Hampton Road. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

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### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is representative of the Federation Arts and Crafts style, and the work of the Public Works Department (WA) under the direction of George Temple Poole, specifically in the design of suburban public buildings at a domestic scale. (Criterion 6.1)

The place is a good representative example of a nineteenth century post and telegraph office including an attached residence, demonstrating the standard nineteenth century practice of providing on-site accommodation for the post master and his family, and as such contributes to an understanding of the development of post and telegraph services in the State. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is in good condition and has generally been well maintained. Some maintenance is required internally to the

ceiling in the ground floor office where water damage is present. The first floor areas were not available for inspection.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* has a moderate degree of integrity. The postal services and associated residential functions ceased in 1984 and the place was converted to a residence in 1985. From 1987 until 1989 *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was used as an 'alternative' educational facility. In 1989 repairs and renovations were carried out to convert the place to a medical clinic. The place is currently operating as a combined cosmetic clinic and residence.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* has a moderate degree of authenticity. Considerable modifications have taken place consistent with changing uses, although the most marked modifications to the fabric occurred during the use of the place as a post office. In the early 1940s the original first floor façade of the building - with timber decoration and pebble dash - was replaced with fibre-board and timber paneling. The curved diagonal boards forming the timber paneling on the west elevation were also probably removed at this time. In the early 1960s the timber post verandah structure was removed, all the external limestone walls and the chimney's were rendered with ashlar finish and painted, and the main arched window was replaced. The timber verandah posts and valance have since been restored, with replacements to match the originals. In the 1970s the building was re-roofed, with clay tiles replacing the former she-oak shingles. Other replacement fixtures include the pair of first floor windows (on the projected gable wall) to the west elevation and the main entry door to the Public Counter Room.

Other modifications include the enclosure of the rear verandah, the infill of the original stone and picket fence to form the current solid limestone fence, and the addition of a fixed timber-framed awning to the west elevation.

The internal spatial layout is largely unchanged on the ground floor where original patterns of circulation and hierarchy are still evident and no new door or window openings have been made. The first floor area was unavailable for inspection but is understood to be largely unchanged. Internal fixtures such as the Australia Post furniture and accessories have been removed and the postal chutes filled in - the chute located on the west wall of the Post Master's Room is still evident externally. The majority of internal floors, walls, doors and windows, fireplaces and joinery appear to be original.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Wayne Moredoundt, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Palassis Architects.

Supporting evidence has been taken from *Martha Hampton Clinic (former South Fremantle Post Office and Quarters), Heritage Assessment and Conservation Plan*, Prepared by Slavin Architects and Erickson & Taylor, November 1997.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* comprises a two-storey rendered limestone and tiled roof Federation Arts & Crafts style building, first constructed in 1896. It is situated on the northeast corner of Hampton Road and Martha Street in South Fremantle.

The development of the town of Fremantle began with the arrival of the *Parmelia* in 1829, with this site becoming the main landing area for the first settlers. The first allotments of land were granted in September 1829 and the town continued to grow slowly as the principal port for the Perth area. This growth was stimulated with the arrival of the first convicts in 1850, as Fremantle was chosen as the main location of the 'convict establishment' and a building program was subsequently instituted to support this function.<sup>1</sup>

Fremantle was the first town to have a 'post office' in Western Australia. On 4 December 1829, the Lieutenant-Governor appointed Captain Daniel Scott, the Assistant Harbour Master at Fremantle, as the first 'Postmaster' for the Swan River Colony. The 'post office' was located on the wreck of the *Marquis of Anglesea*, which was situated on the south side of Arthur Head. The *Marquis of Anglesea* had been salvaged and refurbished as offices, which were leased to the Government. This official arrangement did not continue long, however, and after mid-1830, the postal service was entrusted to a succession of local merchants.<sup>2</sup>

In 1834, a Postal Department was established within the Colonial Government and regulations framed.<sup>3</sup> In January 1835, Charles Macfaull was appointed the Principal Postmaster at Perth, John Bateman was appointed Postmaster at Fremantle, and Sarah Lyttleton was appointed Postmistress at Albany. In 1842, the first regular mail service between the settlements in the Colony was inaugurated. A daily mail service was established between Perth and Fremantle, a bi-weekly service to Guildford,

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<sup>1</sup> J.S. Battye, (ed.), *The Cyclopedia of Western Australia*, Vol. 1, 1912, Hesperian Press Facsimile Edition, 2000, p. 547; P. W. H. Theil & Co., *Twentieth Century Impressions of Western Australia*, 1901, Hesperian Press Facsimile Edition, 2000, pp. 450-452.

<sup>2</sup> B. Pope, F. Bush, W. Broomfield and D. Kelsall, 'Historical and Architectural Assessment of Post Offices in Western Australia owned by Australia Post as at 21 July 1991', 1993, p. 26.

<sup>3</sup> An Ordinance (5 William IV, No. 5) was agreed to on 31 December 1834, and provided for the establishment of Post Offices, the receipts from which would go into Consolidated Revenue.

and a weekly service to York, Toodyay, Canning and Pinjarra, a weekly mail from Pinjarra to Bunbury, and a weekly overland service between Guildford and Albany. In the 1850s, the beginnings of a regular mail service was established between Western Australia and England.<sup>4</sup>

In 1869, Fremantle and Perth were linked by a private telegraph company. On 1 March 1871, the Government assumed responsibility for the transmission lines and staffing, and the offices of the postal service became Post and Telegraph Offices. The whole telegraph undertaking was purchased by the Government on 1 January 1873. A telegraph line from Perth to York was opened in January 1872; the Albany line in December of the same year. The line to Geraldton was completed in May 1874, and the inter-state line to Eucla was completed in December 1877.<sup>5</sup>

The Telephone Exchange System was first established in Perth with 17 subscribers on 1 December 1887, followed by an opening of an Exchange at Fremantle on 1 January 1888, with 9 subscribers. A further extension of postal business took place in May 1887, when the Postal Note System was introduced in Western Australia, and extended to 18 offices. The first direct connection of Western Australia with overseas countries occurred in February 1889, when the telegraph cable from Banjoewangie (Java) to Broome was opened for business.<sup>6</sup>

While Fremantle developed as a port and a stopover place for ships in the nineteenth century, growth of the town was still relatively slow. In the 1870s, there was an increase in ship building, and the development of the mining and pastoral industries in the North-West provided business opportunities for Fremantle's merchants. In 1881, Fremantle was linked to Perth and Guildford by railway and operations moved to Finnerty Street. The volume of mail increased when Fremantle became the terminus of the Eastern Railway when that was opened as far as Chidlow's Well in 1884. By 1889, postal business had grown so rapidly that the Colonial Government provided the new two-storey Commissariat building on the corner of Cliff and Croke Streets to serve the expanding business and residential areas of Fremantle.<sup>7</sup>

The discovery of gold in the Kimberley, Murchison and Eastern Goldfields regions in the 1880s and 1890s had a significant impact on the development of Western Australia. Like other areas throughout the State, Fremantle was transformed with an increase in population from 4133, in 1881, to 7077 ten years later. In that year, 1891, C. Y. O'Connor was commissioned to build a deepwater port at the mouth of the Swan River and employment opportunities received a boost. Expansion beyond South Street, then the southern boundary of Fremantle township, came about

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<sup>4</sup> Theil, *Twentieth Century Impressions*, pp. 122-123.

<sup>5</sup> Theil, *Twentieth Century Impressions*, pp. 123-124.

<sup>6</sup> 'Resume of the Establishment and Growth of the Post and Telegraph Department in Western Australia', in *Souvenir to Commemorate the Opening of the New General Post Office, Perth, Western Australia*, 26 September 1923, pp. 4-5.

<sup>7</sup> 'W.A.'s Pioneer Post Office', p. 24.

because of this growth and development.<sup>8</sup>

The discovery of gold, and subsequent economic development, also led to the establishment of telegraphic communication with far-flung parts of the State. The Southern Cross line was opened in February 1892, the Wyndham line in January 1893, and lines to Karridale and Broome Hill later in the same year. In 1894, the Southern Cross line was extended to Kalgoorlie, the Geraldton line to Cue, the Nannine line was opened, and Marble Bar was connected with Condon. In the expansion of postal services during the 1890s, the number of post offices grew rapidly.<sup>9</sup>

In 1892, there were 188 receiving houses and post offices in the Colony and the gross number of mail items received and dispatched was some eleven and a half million. In 1896, the number of post offices was 230 and the items mailed totalled more than forty million.<sup>10</sup>

At the end of the nineteenth century and into the early 1900s, the outlying areas of Fremantle, such as South Fremantle, developed as residential areas; however, semi-industrial and industrial enterprises like boat building and fishing businesses and small scale factories and manufacturers were established in amongst the workers cottages, and provided close-at hand work for local men and women.<sup>11</sup>

To meet the needs of the increasing population of the South Fremantle area, a post and telegraph office was opened on the corner of Hampton Road and South Street, Beaconsfield, on 1 August 1894, with William John Urquhart as the Postmaster. From 1 February 1896, the new Postmaster was John Hartley Kibble.<sup>12</sup>

In 1896, the *Government Gazette* reported that a contract for the construction of a new post office on the corner of Hampton Road and Martha Street in Beaconsfield had been let to C. Coghill on 24 April 1896, for the sum of £1,388.<sup>13</sup> Tenders for construction had been called in September 1895.<sup>14</sup> The building was described as being of two storeys, built in stone and wood, and containing a public office, a mail room and operator's room etc., and five roomed quarters for the post master. The Post Office was completed on 24 August 1896.<sup>15</sup> It was standard practice in this period for Post Offices to provide on-site accommodation for the postmistress or postmaster and family, either within the Post Office building itself, or in an

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<sup>8</sup> B.J. Shaw, 'The Evolution of Fremantle' in J. Gentili, ed., *Western Landscapes*, UWA Press, Perth, 1979, p. 339.

<sup>9</sup> Theil, *Twentieth Century Impressions*, p. 124.

<sup>10</sup> Theil, *Twentieth Century Impressions*, p. 124.

<sup>11</sup> John Taylor, 'Heritage Study of South Fremantle', The City of Fremantle, June 1993, pp. 5, 6, 32, 33.

<sup>12</sup> George E. Owen, 'The Post, Telegraph and Telephone Offices of Western Australia: An Alphabetical List', 1958, not paginated.

<sup>13</sup> *Government Gazette*, May 1896.

<sup>14</sup> *Government Gazette*, September 1895.

<sup>15</sup> *PWD Annual Report: 1895-96, 1896-97*.

attached residence.<sup>16</sup>

The new Beaconsfield Post and Telegraph Office [*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*] was constructed during a time of great activity in the Public Works Department, when the Architectural Section was under the direction of George Temple Poole. During Poole's time as Principal Architect (1891-1897), post offices were also constructed in Albany, Capel, Claremont, Dandaragan, Gingin, Leonora, Moora, Narrogin, Norseman, North Fremantle, Brisbane and Aberdeen Streets in Perth, Pingelly, Pinjarra, Roebourne, Southern Cross, Toodyay, Wagin and York.<sup>17</sup>

With the federation of the Australian Colonies from 1 January 1901, postal services were taken over by a new Postmaster-General's Department within the Commonwealth Government from 1 March 1901. The Western Australian Postmaster-General, as the permanent head in the State, then became one of the State-based Deputy-Postmaster-Generals.<sup>18</sup>

On 1 April 1904, the Beaconsfield Post Office was renamed *South Fremantle Post Office*, with Ada Anne Giblett as Postmistress. In October of that year, David Walter Green took over as the new Postmaster.<sup>19</sup>

By 1912, the number of post offices and receiving offices in Western Australia had grown to 430, the number of letters posted was 28,496,748, the number of articles registered was almost half a million, the number of newspapers posted was almost ten million, the number of books and packets posted was 4,141,205, and the number of parcels posted was 218,092. In addition, the number of telegrams received and dispatched was 3,362,855, and the number of telegrams forwarded was 1,714,201.<sup>20</sup>

In 1914, *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was connected to the sewerage system.<sup>21</sup> In the period from 1920 to the early 1940s, the original first floor façade of the building, with timber decoration and pebble dash, was replaced with fibreboard and timber paneling. With the low stone and picket boundary fences to Hampton Road and Martha Street, the picket infill was replaced with limestone infill and rendered capping, and raised in height. Timber handrails were added to the steps at the front entrance to the building, a window hood was added to the first floor front west-facing windows, and the rear verandah was enclosed.<sup>22</sup>

Changes to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* in 1949 included the construction of new wet area facilities, a new window constructed to a new bathroom, a hallway cupboard was built in, and a new basin was added on

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<sup>16</sup> Register Documentation for 39 Post Offices included in the State Register, HCWA database search 5 July 2004.

<sup>17</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 7.

<sup>18</sup> Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, Vol. 1, p. 377.

<sup>19</sup> Geoff Southworth, compiler, *Postmasters and Postmistresses of Western Australia 1829-1992*, The Western Australian Study Group, Perth, 1998, p. 158.

<sup>20</sup> Battye, *The Cyclopaedia of Western Australia*, Vol. 1, p. 377.

<sup>21</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 18.

<sup>22</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 19.

the ground floor.<sup>23</sup>

In the early 1960s, the timber post structure of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was replaced, all external limestone walls were rendered with *faux* ashlar finish, and the main arched window to the post office counter area was re-glazed and the small glazing bars were removed.<sup>24</sup> Further details of the building were supplied in a 1966 newspaper article that described the original split she-oak shingles used for roofing and the 12 feet high internal walls. *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was referred to as 'the last of the picturesque, old, shingle-roofed residential post offices' and the 'most photographed, picture-postcard post office in the State'.<sup>25</sup>

In the 1970s, the building was re-roofed with clay tiles and the dormer window to the south face of the roof was tiled over.<sup>26</sup> A weighing machine was installed on the footpath between the steps and the front wall, and on the main façade a Commonwealth crest was placed above the lettering for South Fremantle Post Office, and the postcode was added to the lettering.<sup>27</sup>

In 1983, *Fremantle Gazette* reported that Australia Post wanted to move out of its historic building in Hampton Road, with 'the management looking for other premises closer to shopping and business facilities'. According to the article, Australia Post had been formulating the move for almost five years as part of a state-wide trend away from 'isolated' areas. *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was one of about 10% in the metropolitan area in 'unsuitable' locations. In addition, it was claimed that the building was not very functional. To make it suitable would require knocking out load-bearing walls, which would cost more than relocation.<sup>28</sup> An article on the proposed closure some four months later also noted that *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was one of the only remaining metropolitan post offices with a live-in Postmaster.<sup>29</sup> The others were the North Perth and Aberdeen Street Post Offices.<sup>30</sup>

Following the closure of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* in June 1984, Australia Post furniture and accessories were removed and the postal chutes filled in. After the building was first offered to Telecom, and then to other State and Commonwealth Government departments, a sale by public tender was announced.<sup>31</sup> A Notice For Sale by Public Tender described the property as a Ground Floor constructed of stone, with a Postmaster's Office, counter space, an amenities room, a lobby, a kitchen, a living room, a hall, verandah, pantry and store. The First Floor was timber framed and accessed by a wooden staircase, with three bedrooms with open fireplaces, and a bathroom. External buildings included a mail sorting room, a bicycle

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23 *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 20.

24 *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 21.

25 *Daily News*, 14 April 1966, p. 18.

26 *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 21.

27 *West Australian*, Fremantle and Suburban News, 30 November 1976.

28 *Fremantle Gazette*, 10 August 1983.

29 *Daily News*, 19 December 1983.

30 *Cockburn News*, 10 May 1984.

31 *Cockburn News*, 10 May 1984.



shed, a lunch room, a laundry, and an additional shed for storage. The total land area of the property was 2,023 square metres.<sup>32</sup>

In May 1985, *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was assessed and classified by the National Trust (WA). In its assessment the Trust was 'scathing' about the brown clay roof tiles that had replaced the earlier shingles in the 1960s, arguing that the roof had become inappropriately prominent. The Trust also thought the paintwork 'reprehensible' for having covered the original stone walls and much of the building's original woodwork.<sup>33</sup> In September 1985, a Deed of Covenant was made between the Australian Postal Commission and the National Trust of Australia (WA), providing protection from any further unsympathetic alterations to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*.<sup>34</sup>

In 1987, *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was again placed on the market by the owners who had purchased the property from Australia Post in 1985. After purchase, the new owners had converted the ground floor space into three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and meals area, a large work-in pantry and an enclosed skillion verandah. The property was being offered for \$230,000 with 'outline permission' for six units which could be built at the rear of the block. A National Trust preservation order on the residence and former Post Office precluded any structural alterations.<sup>35</sup>

In 1987, *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was utilized as an alternative educational facility until 1989, having been sold to Martha Hampton Pty Ltd for use as a medical clinic the previous year. In order to renovate the *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* and establish a medical clinic, the owners applied to have the rear portion of the site excised from the Deed of Covenant to enable development of the land. In 1989, the National Trust agreed to the excision subject to a number of conditions. Development of the rear portion of land then proceeded with construction of residential units.<sup>36</sup>

After 1989, repairs and renovations were carried out to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, and other buildings on the site were renovated or removed. The 1964 Bike Shed was demolished in 1994. In 1995, the 1958 Mail Sorting Room was converted to a combined office/living area, the mid-1940s Lunch Room was converted to a bedroom, the 1974 FDC Building was converted to a residence and a House was built. The ground floor of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* was converted into an office, a reception room, a waiting room, a consulting room, a pathology room, and three storage areas of various sizes. The upper floor was converted into two treatment rooms and a consulting room.<sup>37</sup>

In 1994, the City of Fremantle approved a Development Application to strata title *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* into two residential units, subject to a

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<sup>32</sup> *Daily News*, 27 May 1985.

<sup>33</sup> *Fremantle Gazette*, 2 July 1985; *West Australian*, 3 August 1985.

<sup>34</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, p. 41.

<sup>35</sup> *Eagle*, 24 August 1987.

<sup>36</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, pp. 6, 7, 15.

<sup>37</sup> *Martha Hampton Clinic Conservation Report*, pp. 22, 32-33.

Conservation Plan for the building being prepared. In November 1997, 'Martha Hampton Clinic (former South Fremantle Post Office and Quarters)': Heritage Assessment and Conservation Plan, prepared by Slavin Architects and Erickson and Taylor, was completed. The year previously, David Kellsell and John Pigeon compiled a report on *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* for the Australian Heritage Commission.

In 2004, *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, now known as Hampton Cosmetic Clinic, is used as a centre for beauty therapies.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* comprises a two-storey rendered limestone Federation Arts & Crafts style building with a tiled roof, first constructed in 1896.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is located in an elevated position on the northeast corner of Hampton Road and Martha Street. Hampton Road runs in a roughly north-south direction, eventually intersecting with High Street to the north and Rockingham Road to the south. Hampton Road in this section is dominated by mostly single storey residences dating from late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century. Martha Street rises to the east and runs in an east-west direction. It contains a mix of single storey and two storey residences dating from the late nineteenth century interspersed with more recent dwellings. The lot immediately opposite *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* in Martha Street is vacant.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is set back approximately three metres from Hampton Street and occupies a lot of approximately 412sqm (Strata Lot 4). A single-storey weatherboard and iron residence (Strata Lot No. 2) is located to the south. A two-storey weatherboard and iron residence (Strata Lot No. 3) is located to the south-east and a single-storey (with loft) brick, timber and iron residence (Strata Lot No. 4) is located to the east. A brick-paved communal carpark comprising 6 bays and a timber-framed carport are located to the rear (east) of the *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, with access off Martha Street.

A distinctive, curved, rendered stone wall bounds *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* along its north and west boundaries and forms an entry statement on the northwest corner of the site. A timber gate is located midway along the north wall, providing access to the enclosed north courtyard and to the residential entry in the centre of the north elevation. The north courtyard comprises paved areas surrounded by narrow garden beds and planter boxes, and features a limestone pier fence with iron paling along its eastern boundary. Another small courtyard is located on the west side of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, comprising a winding brick path and garden beds filled with quartz. A narrow brick-paved pathway extends west through this courtyard from the carpark and connects to Hampton Road.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* comprises a two-storey rendered limestone Federation Arts and Crafts style building, featuring a distinct and prominent gable roof, five tall chimneys, decorative timber paneling to the

gable elevations and an informal arrangement of openings producing a picturesque and domestic character. A broad flight of curved concrete steps leads to the front porch which features reinstated turned timber posts, an ornamental lattice-like valance and the original Post Master's mail chute (although it has been filled in and painted over). The verandah structure is painted a dark brown colour to match the decorative timber paneling located in the upper gable walls and the bargeboards, and provides a strong contrast to the cream-coloured painted and rendered external walls. A similar porch, which maintains its original posts and valance, is located on the north elevation at the entry to the residence.

A timber-framed window hood (dating from the early 1940s) is located on the west gable wall to shade a pair of sash windows (replacing former casement windows). All other windows are typically original timber-framed multi-pane casements with arched heads and rendered sills weathered outwards. A semi-circular awning window is located on the east elevation and a large arched window is located on the west elevation (the frames and glazed panels are recent replacements). A number of skylights have been installed in the roof (dating from the 1970s) and a small dormer window is located on the north elevation (most likely dating from 1949).

The interior of *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* comprises an asymmetrical plan with two entries to accommodate the separate functions of post office and Post Master residence. The public entry is via the porch off Hampton Road, which opens into the Public Counter Room and the Post Master's Room and Staff Room that are located either side.

The Public Counter Room is currently used as the reception area for Hampton Cosmetic Clinic. The Post Master's Room and the Staff Room are both used as consulting rooms. These three rooms form the extent of the original post office and typically comprise varnished timber floors, plastered and painted walls, plastered ceilings, and ornate painted timber joinery. The doors are original solid timber paneled doors with window hi-lights, except for the main entry doors, which are replacements designed to match the original.

A decorative plaster cornice (dating from the late 1980s) has been installed in each of the rooms with a pattern similar to that featured on the original decorative wall vents. The Public Counter Room and the Staff Room also feature ornate timber dadoes, approximately 1000mm high, the date of which is unknown.

The Public Counter Room, the Post Master's Room and the Staff Room all feature original masonry fireplaces with ornate timber mantles. The style of the fireplace mantles varies in each room but all appear to be the same age. The fireplace in the Post Master's Room has been closed, and a free-standing potbelly heater has been installed in front of the fireplace in the Public Counter Room.

The residence is located to the east of original post office areas, and is accessible from the Public Counter Room, although primary access is via the entry porch off Martha Street. Both entry points open into the Hall. A Living Room is located on the east side of the Hall while the stair hall, the

former Kitchen and the Pantry are located at the southern end. The former Scullery and Bathroom are located to the east of the Kitchen and stair hall, at either end of a verandah that has been enclosed (enclosed in the early 1940s). The Living Room is currently used as a master bedroom, the Kitchen, Pantry and Scullery are used as store rooms.

The rooms in the residence feature similar finishes to the post office areas, including varnished timber floors (except in the scullery and bathroom which have tiled floors), plastered and painted walls, plastered ceilings and ornate painted timber joinery throughout. The fireplace in the Kitchen is original, although the timber mantle is a recent addition, believed to date from the 1880s<sup>38</sup>. The Living Room features a plaster ceiling rose, a recent addition, and also an ornate plaster cornice of the same design and authenticity as those located in the post office rooms. The ceiling in the Kitchen and the Hall is flush-jointed and there is a large arched doorway opening into the stair hall. The stair is original, constructed of varnished timber and featuring turned balusters and newel posts.

The first floor area was unavailable for inspection but is understood to comprise a kitchen, bathroom, living area and bedroom.

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, comprising a two-storey rendered limestone Federation Arts & Crafts style building with a tiled roof, constructed in 1896, may be compared to a number of other buildings of similar age, function, architectural style and architectural designer.

The HCWA database reveals 91 other post-offices constructed between 1890 and 1910, 30 of which are entered on the State Register of Heritage Places. Nine of these are described as being in the Federation Arts and Crafts style, of which seven were designed by the Public Works Department (WA) under the direction of George Temple Poole, namely P00483 Claremont Post Office, P00569 Coolgardie Post Office & Associated Buildings, P00629 Cue Public Buildings, P01236 Dongara Post Office & Quarters (fmr), P01749 Pinjarra Post Office, P01971 Brisbane Street Post Office, Perth, and P02855 York Post Office.

P00483 Claremont Post Office comprises a single-storey painted, rock-faced, random-coursed limestone and tile roofed post office and former residence, designed in the Federation Arts and Crafts style, designed in 1896. Like *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*, Claremont is a fine example of Poole's work in this style. Claremont Post Office is of similar condition, integrity and authenticity to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*. It is included on the Register of the National Estate, is classified by the National Trust, and is included in the Town of Claremont's Municipal Inventory.

P00569 Coolgardie Post Office & Associated Buildings is built of stone with brick quoins and window surrounds, and the roof is corrugated iron sheeting. The different sections of the complex vary from one to two storey, with verandahs linking the two storey facades. Together with the Cue

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<sup>38</sup> Information provided by Ed Dorian, owner of Hampton Cosmetic Clinic, 16 February 2004.  
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and Marble Bar buildings, the Coolgardie Post Office demonstrates Temple Poole's clever use of the picturesque nature of the Arts and Craft style to accommodate the incremental expansion of the building, its services and personnel, while maintaining its civic stature. The Post Office section of the buildings was constructed first, in 1894, with the remainder being constructed from 1894 to 1898.<sup>39</sup>

P00629 Cue Public Buildings is a group of five attached public buildings, including the Police Station, Police Station House, Magistrate's Court, Post Office and Post Office House, constructed in 1895 of local white granite with corrugated iron roofing in the Federation Arts and Crafts style.<sup>40</sup>

01236 Dongara Post Office & Quarters (fmr) comprises a domestic scale limestone and sandstone building in the Federation Arts and Crafts style, first constructed in 1894. It is a good example of a public building constructed in a domestic scale by the Public Works Department (WA), headed by George Temple Poole, and is similar to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* in terms of condition and integrity but has a higher degree of authenticity.

1749 Pinjarra Post Office comprises a two-storey brick and tile Federation Arts and Crafts style building, first constructed in 1895 and designed by the Public Works Department (WA) under the direction of George Temple Poole. The place is domestic in scale and features timber-paneled gables similar to *South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)*. It is also similar in terms of condition, and authenticity but has a higher degree of integrity.

P01971 Brisbane Street Post Office, Perth, constructed 1896, is noted in its 1994 Register documentation as being the least altered of the few remaining inner suburban post offices designed by George Temple-Poole, the Government Architect and the most intact example of a late 1890s inner suburban post office in Perth. It consists of single-storey brick Postal Office and Quarters, on limestone footings, under the one roof.<sup>41</sup>

P02855 York Post Office, constructed 1893, is a two-storey rough cut stone and brick structure with iron roof, of high authenticity and integrity.<sup>42</sup>

The Heritage Council's database includes 54 Registered Places that are listed as having been used as Post or Telegraph Offices. 39 of these have residences attached or incorporated into the building, and documentary evidence indicates that this was the norm for post offices until at least the early twentieth century. Eighteen of these are of stone construction, fourteen are two-storey buildings, and seven are two-storey stone structures. In Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Cue, these buildings are part of complexes of civic buildings constructed together in 1897, 1894-98 and 1895 respectively. *Public Building, East Fremantle*, (P00789) includes a Post Office and Quarters that stands adjacent to a Police Station and a Town Hall, variously constructed between 1899 and 1902. *Cossack Post and Telegraph Office*,

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<sup>39</sup> Register Documentation P00569.

<sup>40</sup> Register Documentation P00629.

<sup>41</sup> Register Documentation P01971.

<sup>42</sup> Register Documentation P02855.

(P02347), is a shell limestone building, constructed in 1872, and reconstructed from a ruin in the late twentieth century. *York Post Office* (P02855) is a rough-cut stone and brick building constructed in the main street of York in 1893. *North Fremantle Post Office* (P01037) was constructed in 1898 as a police station and quarters, and operated with a police function until it was converted to a post office in the 1960s.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is representative of the Federation Arts and Crafts style, and the work of the Public Works Department (WA) under the direction of George Temple Poole, specifically in the design of suburban public buildings at a domestic scale.

*South Fremantle Post Office (fmr)* is representative of a two-storey stone Post Office constructed to include accommodation for the post master and his family.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

*Martha Hampton Clinic (former South Fremantle Post Office and Quarters), Heritage Assessment and Conservation Plan*, Prepared by Slavin Architects and Erickson & Taylor, November 1997.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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