



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 00599
2. **NAME** *Cottesloe Post Office and Telephone Exchange (fmr)*  
(1897, 1985, 2000)  
**FORMER NAME** Cottesloe Post Office
3. **LOCATION** 81 – 83 Forrest Street, Cottesloe
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Lots 26 and 27 on Plan 1303, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1217 Folio 375.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Cottesloe
6. **OWNER** The Town of Cottesloe
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	26/08/2003
	Permanent Entry	20/02/2004
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	05/09/1988
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	30/09/1995
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  

*Cottesloe Post Office and Telephone Exchange (fmr)*, a single-storey, Victorian Georgian style, stone building with a corrugated iron roof, designed by the Public Works Department in 1897, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a competently designed and built example of a simple, Federation period, civic building displaying some of the aesthetic characteristics of the earlier Victorian Georgian style;

the place was the centre of postal communication in Cottesloe from 1897 to 1964 and is associated with the development of telecommunications in Western Australia as the first telephone

exchange in Cottesloe operating from 1897 to 1921, and the third in the metropolitan area;

the place is one of a number of government buildings constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a result of the growing demand for public facilities as a consequence of the Gold Boom in the 1890s;

the place forms part of the significant townscape of Cottesloe and is a landmark due mainly to its conspicuous corner location at the end of the vista formed from around Eric Street looking southward along Railway Street;

the place is associated with the evolution of postal and telecommunication services in the district and the State in the late nineteenth and the twentieth centuries;

the place was the local communications centre for John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia from 1941 to 1945, who lived in Cottesloe from 1918 until his death in 1945, and used his home as his office when he wasn't in Canberra as the Federal representative for Fremantle; and,

the place contributes to the community's sense of place as it has been the site of community services since 1898.

The works carried out on the building in 1985 to convert the building into a community centre are intrusive. The additions carried out in 2000 are of little significance.