

## Heritage Citation



### Telephone exchange

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 8 Reeve Street, Clayfield, Queensland 4011
<b>Type of place</b>	Telephone exchange
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Free Classical
<b>Lot plan</b>	L16_RP55223; L1_RP33570; L2_RP33570; L1_RP55223; L3_RP33570; L4_RP33570
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — February 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Face brick

## History

A budget of £12039 was placed aside in the 1923-24 Commonwealth budget for the construction of an automatic telephone exchange at Albion. A tender for the erection of the exchange building was accepted in September 1924 and the contractor had begun to clear the site by October. The Albion Automatic Telephone Exchange was erected on land acquired by the Commonwealth in 1914. Additional adjacent property was purchased in 1926.

Additional contracts for some internal fittings were let in May 1925. The Deputy-Postmaster-General announced in July that the automatic exchanges would not arrive in Brisbane until August, and that it would likely take a few additional months before it was completed. The project obviously experienced some delays and the Post & Telegraph Department did not take possession of the building until 5 January 1926. The installation of the automatic exchange by Siemens Bros Ltd was expected to take several months. The Albion Automatic Exchange was brought into operation on 1 August 1926.

The building remains in use as part of the telecommunications system.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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#### Historical

##### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

the installation of this significant piece of telecommunications infrastructure, and the adoption of new automated technology in the 1920s.

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#### Historical association

##### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of

importance in the city's or local area's history

specifically the Commonwealth Department of Post and Telegraph and its subsequent entities.

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## References

1. National Archives of Australia - [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au)
  2. Digitised newspapers and other records. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>
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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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