

## Heritage Citation



**Wynnum Post Office (former)**

### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 155 Bay Terrace, Wynnum, Queensland 4178
<b>Type of place</b>	Post / telegram office
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Free Classical
<b>Lot plan</b>	L1_RP139550
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Information — January 2011
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Masonry

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (H) Historical association

A new Post Office and telephone exchange building was erected in Wynnum by the Commonwealth government circa 1923-24. The single building incorporated a public space, mail room, telephone exchange and staff rooms. The telephone exchange operated until 1955, and the Post Office until 1995. It has since been used for commercial purposes.

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## History

The first Post Office in Wynnum was established in 1901. The local federal member of the House of Representatives, Mr J H Bayley agitated for the erection of a new Post Office and telephone exchange at Wynnum from at least 1921. Early in 1923 Bayley informed the Wynnum Town Council that the Commonwealth Minister for Works had approved the work and plans were being prepared. The drawings were produced by the Commonwealth Department of Works & Railways in Brisbane, and by July 1923 it was reported that construction work would commence shortly.

The single storey Post and Telegraph Office at Wynnum was elevated on low brick piers. Largely of timber construction with a concrete and timber façade, the Post Office was divided into various functional rooms. The public space, office counters, and a public telephone cabinet were at the centre front of the building and accessible from an eastern and western porch. The mail room, the largest in the building, was located behind the counter and stretched to the eastern side of the building. In the front north-western room was the Telephone Exchange with a 400-line manual telephone system. Behind the exchange were separate 'retiring rooms' for female and male employees. A mail veranda for the initial receipt or despatch of mail bags, and the entry for staff was behind the mail room. Letter carriers had a room on the south-eastern corner of the building.

In the south east corner of the block of land a timber shed was erected for the linemen, with workshop, men's room and toilets for male staff.

The manual telephone exchange remained in operation until replaced in 1955 by an automatic exchange erected in Edith St.

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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 as an essential civic building constructed in Wynnum during 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

Operating as Wynnum's post office and the centre of postal, telegraph and telephone services from 1923 to 1995.

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## References

1. *Brisbane Courier*, 1922-23
  2. Mervyn N Beitz, *From Mangroves to Moorings*
  3. NAA Plan, barcode 1708709
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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.

**Citation prepared by** — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2022)



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