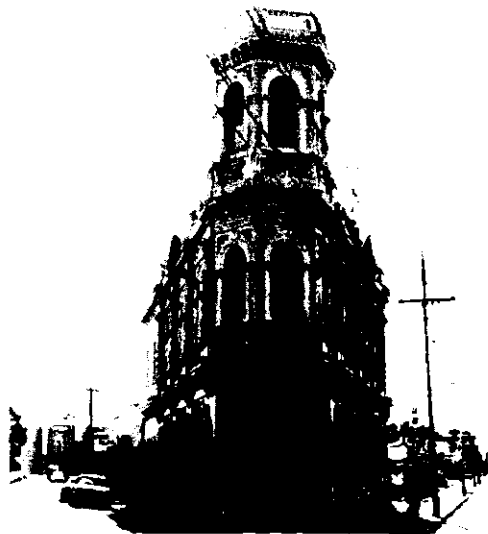


NAME: North Fitzroy Post Office

ADDRESS: St. Georges Road

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1888  
ARCHITECT: unknown  
BUILDER: unknown  
FIRST OWNER: Thomas Rogers agent  
PRESENT OWNER: Australia Post  
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: rendered brickwork  
CONSERVATION AREA: -



BUILDING CITATION:

This post office was originally constructed by Thomas Rogers, agent, and sold to the Post Master General in 1908. This two storey building occupies an acute angled corner site and is extended to a third storey by an irregular hexagonal tower. The facade treatment is extremely elaborate. There is a full Corinthian order superimposed over the first floor facade, and a continuous arcade to the ground floor, with decorative scroll keystones, spandrel panels and elaborate corbels.

The building forms a strong streetscape element, and is of a striking composition.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This building is owned by the Commonwealth Government. It is therefore recommended that the external facade and internal decorative features of the ground floor corner office be brought to the attention of the Historic Buildings Council. It is also recommended that this building be retained on the Register of the National Estate and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

This building was originally constructed by Thomas Rogers, agent<sup>1</sup>. Between 1890<sup>2</sup> and 1907 it was owned by the<sup>3</sup> Standard Building Society, and was sold to the Post Master General in 1908.

This building occupies an acute angled corner site. It is of two storeys, extended by a third storey corner irregular hexagonal tower.

The ground floor facade is treated as a continuous arcade (with some blind arches), with scroll like sections replacing keystones at the window heads. Above the arches spandrel panels contain foliated decoration and are surmounted by a frieze panel of crowns, heads, and foliated decoration. Elaborate corbels reflect the points where half columns rise from the first floor.

The first floor facade treatment consists of arched openings, with the arches carried on engaged Corinthian columns. The window architraves are again broken by scroll work keystones, and the spandrel panels are foliated.

- 
1. Fitzroy Ratebook 1888 Thomas Rogers, agent, Brick Office 10 rooms £200.
  2. Fitzroy Ratebook 1890 Standard Building Society (1889 Ratebook missing).
  3. Fitzroy Ratebook 1908 Post Master General.

Superimposed over this first floor facade treatment is a full Corinthian order which supports at the centre of the long sides, a substantial pediment (with acanthus leaf consoles running up the raking sides) and smaller pediments at either end of the facade.

The ground and first floors are surmounted by a plain cornice. The frieze on the upper floor is elaborate with stucco reeds and garlands. A lion is seated on the parapet which rises up over the pediment at the side, and two couchant lions are placed above the smaller pediment blocks.

The main internal area is divided into two spaces with piers on either side supporting a beam across. The ceilings are decorated with very elaborate cornices, with certain sections perforated for ventilation, possibly above the location of original gas scone lamps. The piers are fluted with Corinthian capitals and elaborate anthemion and other decoration above.

The remaining rooms on the ground floor internally are plain. The stair case has an elaborate banister with unusual intact newel posts.

Upstairs the front corner room is substantially intact, although it has been redecorated, including painting over the original relief wall paper. There is an interesting variegated grey marble fire place. The second room back is again intact but is totally redecorated with a ventilating centre flower and a rather debased wooden chimney-piece. There is another chimney-piece in the next room back. One large room at the back on the St. George's Road side has what must have been a similar mantle-piece again, but it has been painted out.