



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 wording of this document has been adapted from Claremont Council Offices Conservation Plan, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The exterior of the 1935 section of *Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings* is an excellent example of a civic building in the Art Deco style. (Criterion 1.1)

The War Memorial is a finely designed Inter-War Gothic Revival style monument that is a significant element in the streetscape at the high profile intersection of Stirling Highway and Bay View Terrace. (Criterion 1.1)

The Council Offices and Library building, together with the associated War Memorial and mature trees, form a prominent landmark, as viewed from Claremont Park to the south and the Bay View Terrace shopping precinct to the north. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings defines the southern edge of the Bay View Terrace commercial precinct, and provides evidence of the development of the area. (Criterion 2.1)

Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings was constructed from 1932, as additions to and then replacement of the original 1899 Municipal Offices, which were built at the site following the formation of Claremont as a municipality in 1898, and has been the administrative centre of Claremont throughout its life. (Criterion 2.2)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

A number of prominent Western Australian architects were involved in *Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings*' various stages of design and construction, including Edwin Summerhayes (1899), firm Powell Cameron & Chisholm (1932) and Reg Summerhayes (1935). (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place is valued by the local and wider community for its aesthetic and historic contribution to the historic character of Claremont. This is illustrated by its Classification by The National Trust of Australia (WA), its inclusion in the Town of Claremont Municipal Heritage Inventory, its recognition by the Art Deco Society in 1993 and 2002 for conservation and maintenance of the original 1935 Council Chambers, and recorded community support for retention of the place for local government purposes into the future. (Criterion 4.1)

As a local icon signifying the civic heart of Claremont, *Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings* contributes to the community's sense of place. This is evidenced by the extensive public use of the place and the traditional illumination of a Norfolk Island pine at Christmas time. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings is comparatively rare as a local government administrative centre originating in the nineteenth century and partly reconstructed and refurbished in the 1930s Art Deco style. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings is a good representative example of an Art Deco style civic building. (Criterion 6.1)

The location of the Offices, Library and War Memorial close to the commercial centre of the Town is indicative of local government practice of the 1890s and 1930s. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The building and the landscape setting are in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of *Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings* is high, as the place has continued in use as an administration centre for the Town of Claremont since initial development of the current building in 1932. The site continues in this original function since subdivision for municipal purposes in 1899.

Location of the Council Offices and Library in close proximity to the commercial centre of the Town of Claremont, in direct association with Claremont Park, and on a high profile location of two major traffic routes, demonstrates the continuing appropriateness of the location and current use

and the long term viability of the place as the local government facility in the Town.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Claremont Council Offices & Surroundings is high in authenticity, as a consequence of retention of the 1932 and 1935 form of the building and the external presentation dating from that time, and the compatible additions for Offices and Library completed in 1979. The interior spaces have been subject to a substantial amount of change, resulting in a mix of original and replacement fabric. The War Memorial retains its original form and function, with recent restoration of stonework and the installation of discreet floodlighting serving to enhance the monument.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from Ronald Bodycoat Architect, 'Claremont Council Offices: Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Claremont, August 2002.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Ronald Bodycoat Architect, 'Claremont Council Offices: Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Claremont, August 2002 pp. 8-23.

Town of Claremont was awarded the 2002 Heritage Award of the Art Deco Society of WA for the Conservation and Maintenance of a Prominent Art Deco Public Building.¹

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Ronald Bodycoat Architect, 'Claremont Council Offices: Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Claremont, August 2002 pp. 28-36.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to Ronald Bodycoat Architect, 'Claremont Council Offices: Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Claremont, August 2002 pp. 35-36.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Ronald Bodycoat Architect, 'Claremont Council Offices: Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Claremont, August 2002.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

¹ Gaye Nayton, conversation with HCWA staff, September 2003