



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.11.2 Reclaiming land
- 3.21 Entertaining for profit
- 8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sport
- 8.1.2 Betting
- 8.5 Forming associations
- 8.10.5 Advancing knowledge in science and technology

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 309 Technology and technological change
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 408 Institutions

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Purpose built as Western Australia's principal harness racing venue in 1929, *Gloucester Park* has remained in continuous use for over seventy years. *Gloucester Park*'s original development includes the Trotting Track, Main Entrance, Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Enclosure and Leger Totalisators, Birdcage Kiosk, Switch House and the open space of the entrance forecourt, enclosure promenade, track and Birdcage.

The Enclosure and Leger Totalisators demonstrate technical achievement as structures that once housed and were integrated with what was the latest and most up-to-date version of 'The Premier' Julius Automatic Totalisators which were being installed world-wide at the time, and which also has significance in relation to the Western Australian Trotting Association which was the first racing fraternity in Australia to install this device in 1916 when the Association was operating from the site of the WACA.

11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage

The Totalisators are rare structures, no longer designed, that are endangered due to their redundancy and lack of suitability for reuse without considerable alteration.

The totalisators are rare as two of a limited number remaining in Western Australia. With changes in technology, the Julius Premier automated totalisators are no longer designed and built and are rarely adapted for ongoing alternate uses.

Of two dedicated trotting grounds established in the Perth metropolitan area, *Gloucester Park* is the only one remaining in operation.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

The site of *Gloucester Park* includes land reclaimed by rubbish dumping in the years 1917 to 1920 and this may have archaeological potential to give an understanding of the human occupation of Perth in the early twentieth century.

While the significance of the Leger Totalisator and the Enclosure Totalisator has been lessened by the removal of the mechanical plant they retain considerable potential to demonstrate the housing and use of automatic mechanical calculating devices in the first half of the twentieth century.

11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

Gloucester Park is representative of a substantial metropolitan and world-class twentieth century harness racing ground.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Gloucester Park is significant to the Western Australian Trotting Association, harness racing fraternity and the community at large for the place's use as the State's principal harness racing venue since 1929 to the present. The Track, in particular the open space, home straight promenade and winning post, is significant as the focus of social/cultural events for these communities.

The Totalisators, Main Entrance and Perimeter Wall, and plantings, particularly the Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), contribute to the community's sense of place as a landmark and social gathering place.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

The rendered masonry Main Entrance on Nelson Crescent with its generous forecourt, and backdrop of palms are valued for their fine Free Classical detailing and impressive scale.

The Switch House is valued for its Free Classical detailing which reinforces that of the Main Entrance. The Enclosure and Leger Totalisators, located at either end of the home straight promenade, display characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style of architecture with their symmetrical facades and gable parapets, and, with their three-storey towers, are landmarks within the grounds of *Gloucester Park*.

The Main Entrance, including its adjacent vehicular and pedestrian gateways and ticket booths, has considerable landmark value within the locality. The Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) adjacent to the Main Entrance and on the eastern side of the Track contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the landscape within the place.

The early and original buildings and landscape elements within *Gloucester Park*, including the Main Entrance, Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Enclosure and Leger Totalisators, Birdcage Kiosk and Switch House, together with the Track as the organising design element, collectively form a cultural environment of historic built elements.

11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

The early and original development of *Gloucester Park* is associated with individuals and organisations including James Brennan, J. P. Stratton, and the Committees and members of the Western Australian Trotting Association. Later developments are significant for their association with Sir Frank Ledger and the Western Australian Trotting Association.

11(h) Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

The ongoing improvements made to the racing track at *Gloucester Park* demonstrates significant technical achievement as it became the nation's fastest track in the 1980s.

¹ For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 CONDITION

The Machine Shed, Stalls, WATA Administration Building, West Office Building, and the trotting Track and are in very good condition. The Forecourts, North Toilets Nile Street Entrance, Stalls Entrance, Birdcage, Birdcage Kiosk, and Stewards' Towers are in good condition. The Grand Stands are in sound condition, however show minor signs of structural movement and deterioration of concrete. The Main Entrance, Switch House, South Bar and Toilets, Enclosure and Totalisator are in good to sound condition. The Leger Totalisator is in sound condition. The Perimeter Wall along Nelson Avenue has undergone repair work and is in need of further works.

Building works programs have been carried out in 2006 and 2009 to upgrade some of the grandstands and adjoining facilities. In 2019, it was identified that there was severe structural movement to a section of the original wall along Nelson Avenue which had overturned and subsequently failed causing a serious safety issue and near collapse. Remediation works undertaken were to remove the failed structure and re-build with a like for like replacement. Remediation works included the reconstruction of the west portion of the wall and propping to the west and east. The works also included the addition of movement joints to absorb future movement of the wall due to concrete shrinkage and temperature effects. In 2020, further sections of the original reinforced concrete wall along Nelson Avenue are in need of urgent conservation repairs to ensure the longevity of the structure. Sections of the boundary wall are leaning and show signs of cracking. Temporary repairs have been made to the wall.

12.2 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

The integrity of *Gloucester Park* varies throughout, and as a whole retains moderate integrity. Due to redevelopment in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s some principal characteristics such as the original stands, stalls and tearooms have been lost.

The Trotting Track and Main Entrance are of high integrity. The Leger Totalisator and Switch House are of high to moderate integrity. The Forecourts, Enclosure Totalisator, North Toilets, South Bar and Toilets, are of moderate integrity. The Birdcage, Birdcage Kiosk and Perimeter Wall are of moderate to low integrity. A section of the Perimeter Wall was removed and replaced in a like for like manner as part of the 2019 remediation works. Elements of low integrity include the Nile Street Entrance, Stalls Entrance, Birdcage Entrance and buildings which have replaced earlier structures with similar functions such as the Grandstands and administration buildings.

The North Bar is no longer extant.

12.3 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

The authenticity of *Gloucester Park* varies throughout, but as a whole is high as the place continues to serve its original purpose.

The Trotting Track, Main Entrance, Forecourts, Perimeter Wall, Grand Stands, Nile Street Entrance, Stalls Entrance, Machine Shed, Birdcage and Birdcage Entry, WATA Administration Building, West Office, Stewards' Towers, Track and South and North Toilets are of high authenticity. The Switch House and Birdcage Kiosk are of low authenticity. The Birdcage Kiosk (previously Birdcage Pavilion) has been enclosed to accommodate its use as a kiosk and change room facilities. The Enclosure and Leger Totalisators have been modified to accommodate some new uses. They are substantially unoccupied at the upper levels and are therefore of moderate to low authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the Conservation Plan completed by Palassis Architects with Kristy Bizacca, in July 2001, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department. The physical evidence was updated in 2010 by Palassis Architects from the Conservation Plan for which they hold the copyright.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects with Kristy Bizacca, 'Gloucester Park Conservation Plan', commissioned by Warren Tucker Property Consultants for Western Australian Trotting Association Incorporated, July 2001.

Additional documentary evidence

The Julius Premier Automated Totalisator was the name given to Sir George Julius' invention which was the world's first automatic totalisator, invented in Australia in 1913.^{2 3}

Born in the UK, Julius moved with his family to Victoria in the 1880s then New Zealand. After qualifying from university in mechanical engineering, Julius came to Western Australia in 1896 to take up a position with the Western Australian Government Railways. In 1907, he moved to Sydney to work as a consulting engineer and it was in Sydney, in 1913, that Julius made the first prototype of the Premier Totalisator.⁴

The first installation of the Premier Totalisator was in New Zealand in 1913 at Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland. The second installation, and the first in Australia, was in 1916 for the Western Australian Trotting Association (WATA) in Perth, while the WATA was leasing a trotting track at the Western Australian Cricket Association grounds. In 1922, the Western Australian Turf Club became the second horse-racing fraternity in this State to install the Premier Totalisator.⁵

Since its first prototype in 1913, over the next 20 years Julius' - through his company, Julius Poole & Gibson Pty Ltd and Automatic Totalisators Ltd - continuously improved and augmented his Premier Totalisator. It was installed extensively throughout Australia and all over the world between 1913 and 1929, when the WATA's new facility at *Gloucester Park* was opened. Although by no means the first installation, the latest Julius Premier Totalisator of the day was

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- ² Totalisator History, information extracted from Automatic Totalisators company magazines and documents, available at www.members.ozemail.com.au. Julius's totalisator invention was not originally conceived as a betting machine, but as a mechanical vote-counting machine for Government elections. However, when the Government rejected it as a voting machine Julius adapted it so that it would have practical application as a racecourse totalisator.
- ³ Totalisator History, information extracted from Automatic Totalisators company magazines and documents, available at www.members.ozemail.com.au.
- ⁴ Totalisator History, information extracted from Automatic Totalisators company magazines and documents, available at www.members.ozemail.com.au
- ⁵ Totalisator History, information extracted from Automatic Totalisators company magazines and documents, available at www.members.ozemail.com.au

accommodated for in the design of both the Totalisator buildings at *Gloucester Park*.⁶

At the time of its opening, the *Gloucester Park* track was considered the best in the Southern Hemisphere and the equal of any in the world. The Julius totalisators installed at the track were included as part of the first class facilities.⁷

In 1983, *Gloucester Park* became the nation's fastest track, becoming the first to record a time under 1:55.⁸

Building works programs have been carried out in 2006 and 2009 to upgrade some of the grandstands and adjoining facilities. An uncovered ambulance bay has been constructed adjacent to the Stewards' Tower to the north of the Switch House in late 2009. Two circular grassed areas mark the location of the former Rolling Bins which were removed in late 2009.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects with Kristy Bizacca, 'Gloucester Park Conservation Plan', commissioned by Warren Tucker Property Consultants for Western Australian Trotting Association Incorporated, July 2001. The following is an update of the physical evidence contained in the Conservation Plan. The update was completed by Palassis Architects in 2010 who hold copyright of the Conservation Plan.

Gloucester Park is a harness racing sports ground comprising Trotting Track, Main Entrance and Forecourts, Enclosure Totalisator, Leger Totalisator, Switch House, Birdcage area comprising Birdcage Entrance, Birdcage Kiosk and stalls, five grandstands, Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and other associated buildings and plantings surrounding the Trotting Track, enclosed in a masonry and chain link mesh perimeter wall, dating from 1928-29.

The place is bounded by Waterloo Crescent to the west, Nile Street to the North, and Nelson Crescent (which becomes Nelson Avenue) to the south and east. The place is set between the rise of East Perth Cemetery and the Swan River in East Perth. To the south of the place is the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) ground. Levels across the site drop to the level of the reclaimed land on which the course is built.

The place is laid out within a perimeter fenced by concrete and masonry on its western boundary and boundaries on Waterloo Crescent and Nelson Avenue. Its boundaries on part of Nelson Avenue and Nile Street are fenced with chain link mesh fence. The Main Entrance is on Nelson Avenue at the south-west of the site. Part of the original Perimeter Wall to Nelson Avenue has undergone remediation works. The Enclosure Totalisator is set behind a forecourt behind the Main Entrance in close proximity to the stands beside the course.

The Trotting Track is located in the north-eastern portion of the site. The Birdcage and owners' parking are located south of the course. Most other structures are set

⁶ Parker, Alan, 'A Little Bit of History: Gloucester Park – Home of the Inter Dominion' available at www.harness.org.au/wa/interdominions/history

⁷ Parker, Alan, 'A Little Bit of History: Gloucester Park – Home of the Inter Dominion' available at www.harness.org.au/wa/interdominions/history

⁸ Parker, Alan, 'A Little Bit of History: Gloucester Park – Home of the Inter Dominion' available at www.harness.org.au/wa/interdominions/history

out along the home straight on the western side of the course. The higher levels of land close to Waterloo Crescent are undeveloped.

Building works programs carried out in 2006 and 2009 have upgraded some of the grandstands and adjoining facilities.

Gloucester Park is a precinct within the 'Riverside' project area, an urban renewal and regeneration project of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority (EPRA). Master planning completed to date has examined the possibility of expanding the trotting facilities and enhancing the precinct with complementary sporting, recreational, residential and commercial uses, particularly on under-utilised land.

1. Main Entrance (1929), Forecourts (1929) and Perimeter Wall (1929)

Located on Nelson Crescent opposite the WACA ground, the Main Entrance is a substantial gateway into *Gloucester Park* and is a prominent landmark within the locality. The Main Entrance is integral with the masonry Perimeter Wall surrounding approximately half of the ground creating an extensive landmark.

The Main Entrance complex comprises the central colonnaded pedestrian entrance gates and six entry gates and displays characteristics of Federation Free Classical style. There are two double vehicular gates east of the pedestrian entrance, and three double vehicular gates and one pedestrian gate to the west. The openings are set within a white painted rendered masonry wall of piers with inset rough-cast stucco panels. Two ticketing offices are set within the wall at the west and the east and their kiosks open to the outside of the grounds.

The central colonnaded Main Entrance is, at approximately six metres in height, twice as high as the piers of the surrounding wall. The style of the Main Entrance uses classical motifs common to the free classical styles of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The symmetrical design includes five arched openings, which are repeated on the trackside of the building to form a covered gatehouse which reinforces the depth and substance of the building. Wrought iron gates with fixed screens above are fitted to the arched openings. The other unroofed gateways are also fitted with black-painted wrought iron gates.

Above the columns from which the arches spring are six masonry brackets supporting a cornice approximately one metre deep. The entablature above has the name 'Gloucester Park' in a sans serif font. Above this is a complex symmetrical roofline that includes two central pediments. The lower pediment is shallow and triangular containing a red, white and blue shield surrounded by moulded flourishes. The higher one has a curved apex and inset moulded panels. The roof is concealed by this heavily moulded parapet. Internally, the ceiling is coffered.

Piers at the end of the Entrance Gate and wall piers along the Nelson Crescent entrance are capped with substantial rotated cyma recta caps. Many of these are fitted with spherical luminaires.

The impressiveness of the Main Entrance is reinforced by its setback behind a forecourt on Nelson Crescent, its backdrop of mature Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) and to a lesser extent the court behind. The court behind extends to the Enclosure Totalisator. This court has been intruded upon by several landscape features which most notably include an enclosed playground and a triple barrel-vaulted white painted steel tube colonnade extending to the ground floor

gateway of the Enclosure Totalisator. The forecourt behind the western wing of the Enclosure Totalisator has also been intruded upon by a metal-framed and clad fence surrounding an area containing service equipment.

The perimeter wall extends from Nelson Crescent along the western boundary and Waterloo Crescent. The section along Waterloo Crescent and partly along Nile Street has been replaced recently with a facsimile wall in anti-graffiti coated banded brickwork rather than white stucco render. The rendered stucco gate that was formerly the entrance to the Leger area is no longer apparent. Further to underlying structural movement, a section of wall along Nelson Avenue to the east of the main entrance has recently been re-built as a like for like replacement of the rendered wall.

2. Enclosure Totalisator (1928)

The Enclosure Totalisator is the first building encountered when entering through the Main Entrance gates of Gloucester Park. The three-storey building is set back from the entrance by a forecourt, and has another open space on the trackside. The ground floor has had considerable alterations in the late twentieth century, including: the removal of a section of the ground floor below the tower to create a central passage; gutting of the interiors and adaptation to restaurant and, later, childcare uses; and the addition of rooms and walled courts to the building at both the west and east ends.

The ground floor is constructed of rendered masonry and the first floor and tower are timber framed and clad in pressed metal patterned to resemble rough-cast stucco. The building is the most complex stylistic composition of all the buildings on the site. The building has a long rectangular plan with a central three-storey tower and symmetrical facades. Despite being built over a decade after the period of Federation, the style of the building includes characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style which include conspicuous roof forms, prominent eaves with exposed rafters, gable parapets, rounded gable apex, rough-cast (effect) walling, stone (effect) base, and contrasting colours and textures.

The roof form is conspicuous and tiled with terracotta tiles. Evidence that the tiles were made locally is apparent on the underside of the tiles in the exposed eaves with the imprint of Wunderlich Limited and East Perth, discernible. The central tower has a low-pitched pyramidal tiled roof. The lower two-storey roof sections are stepped back from the ends and each of the two sections is hipped. The remainder of the lowest one storey section is also hipped but includes a peaked tiled roof octagonal glazed lantern situated midway along the ridge at both ends. Open eaves are at the perimeter of each roof section except that of the tower. The tower's eaves are enclosed by a concave, patterned pressed metal frieze. A round apex parapet gable is situated symmetrically on each side of the tower on the two lower roofs (four gables in total) on the trackside of the building. The tower has a clock in the north face with two blind circular mouldings adjacent. Other faces of the tower each have three blind circular mouldings.

Internally, the character of the ground floor has been lost and now comprises partitioned spaces to the east and west with an open central gateway through the heart of the building. The space to the east of this gateway is currently occupied by a childcare centre. The space immediately to the west of the gateway is currently unoccupied and has recently been refurbished with new floor finishes and

repainted. The westernmost portion of the ground floor houses the kitchen and administrative offices of the catering company, Heyder & Shears.

An attic ladder drops down into the gateway and provides access to the upper floors. The first floor has two sets of toilets off the landing and each of these is partitioned from the principal open space by timber panelling. A timber stair leads from this landing to the second floor, which is essentially an open loft within the tower. The main space is on the first floor and is floored with timber. Part of the western end is partitioned with v-jointed tongue and groove timber boarding to form another room. Walls are not lined and the underside of the pressed tin cladding can be seen. The raked ceiling is in a very poor state and much has been lost. East of the central landing is a room panelled in part with timber and with an enamelled metal sheet with numbered perforations. Along the walls on the northern side of the building are small glass screens (believed to display the name plates of horses and reinsmen).

3. Grand Stands

Within Gloucester Park are five grand stands. Four of these are located in a range to the west of the Trotting Track and are linked together by external stairs, covered walkways and escalators. In front of the stands is a promenade and grassed embankment along the home straight. Three brick-paved viewing areas with metal-framed glass balustrading extend into the grassed embankment. The fifth stand, George Maloney Fraternity Stand is located on the south side of the Trotting Track adjacent to the Birdcage. All stands are framed of concrete and have concrete floors. The number of levels and facilities each stand contains varies.

4. Frank Ledger Stand (1976)

The Frank Ledger Stand is a two-storey concrete-framed grand stand that, although simple in form, reflects some of the basic qualities of the Late Twentieth Century Structuralist style. The lower floor is an undercroft at ground level with an enclosed area and raked seating on the upper floor covered by a single span cantilevered roof.

The undercroft is brick paved but enclosed and is set out on two levels. The lower level is on the trackside of the building and contains a bookmakers' ring. The upper level of the undercroft contains table seating, food and beverage bars and tote counters. In the south-west corner of the upper level are public toilets that appear to be remnants of an earlier development. The grid of the toilets is offset to the rest of the building and details anachronistic to the rest of the stand, including run mouldings, remain. The rear of the building behind the service areas is enclosed by concrete block masonry infill. The trackside of the undercroft is enclosed by panel lift glazed doors and clear vinyl roller doors. All concrete is painted white including the ceiling which is the underside of the upper floor slab and raked seating.

External stairs provide access from ground level to the upper floor which comprises an enclosed level area with suspended ceilings and carpets which is used as a restaurant, and an external raked seating area. A considerable cantilevered steel framed roof extends over the whole of the outside seating. The cantilever is impressive and assists in retaining clear views to the Trotting Track but the structure is utilitarian and contains no evidence that aesthetic expression or invention played a significant role in its conceptual or detailed engineering.

5. J. P. Stratton Stand (1970)

The J.P. Stratton Stand is similar to the Frank Ledger Stand but has a third storey containing only an enclosed area without another tier of outside seating. The J.P. Stratton Stand is a redevelopment of the old public grandstand.

The undercroft of the stand has bars adjacent to the trackside rather than against the back wall. A snack bar opening onto the promenade, as well as into the interior is accommodated in the south-east corner. A bar, also opening onto the promenade and exterior, is located in the centre of the ground floor façade. The Gloucester Casino is housed behind the food and beverage outlets, with toilets located against the rear wall.

The first floor above ground has an enclosed area on two levels with the floor stepping down on the trackside. This enclosed area accommodates a restaurant named the 'Radiant Oro', (formerly Mileno's restaurant) with members dining on the raked trackside portion.

Outside fixed seating at this level is raked and roofed by a cantilevered metal deck roof similar to that of the Frank Ledger Stand but not as large. A second floor directly above the 'Radiant Oro' restaurant contains the 'Beau Rivage' restaurant. The trackside of the two enclosed areas of the upper floors is glazed in large sheets of glass with minimal 'patch' detailing dating from about the 1980s and allows open and impressive views of the Trotting Track.

Service areas are located against the back wall of the building. Stairs, ramps and escalators are located outside the building at both ends so as to serve two stands concurrently and provide upper level links between the stands.

6. Howard Porter Stand (1965)

The three-storey Howard Porter stand is similar to the J.P. Stratton Stand and contains Steelo's restaurant within the undercroft, members' lounge and seating on the first floor, and the Caduceus Club and private boxes on the second floor. This building is located directly opposite the winning post, therefore a demountable race calling box is located on the roof and a camera box protrudes externally between the levels of the first and second floors. One tier of external fixed raked seating is provided on the first floor.

A deck leads from the ground floor restaurant to the promenade across the front of this stand. The timber deck has concrete footings and metal balustrading.

7. James Brennan Stand (1973/74)

This stand is the smallest of the stands and is located at the southern end of the main range. Both of its two floors are fully enclosed, including the raked seating of the Committee Room. The building is located just south of winning post and is oriented further off the general axis of the stands to accommodate views of the winning post.

The ground floor contains Steelo's Bar and Grill, and above this is the Committee Room, which is accessed by stairs and a ramp between this building and the Howard Porter Stand. The Committee Room contains sixty individual fixed seats in four raked rows and is enclosed by glazing in bronze anodised aluminium framing. On the highest level of the seating is the Committee Room proper, which has sliding glass doors which can open up to provide standing room views of the

Trotting Track and winning post. The kitchen is concealed fully behind walls at the rear of the committee room. Other facilities include a cloakroom.

A deck leads from the ground floor restaurant to the promenade across the front of this stand. The timber deck has concrete footings and metal balustrading.

The front portion of the ground floor walkway between the James Brennan and Howard Porter stands has been enclosed to create a café. The café comprises six timber-framed bi-fold servery windows over a framed metal-clad half-wall.

8. North Bar

The single-storey North Bar is no longer extant.

9. Leger Totalisator (Leger Tote, 1928)

The three-storey Leger Tote is considerably smaller than the Enclosure Tote but is of similar planning and construction and its fabric is more intact with less additions. The design of the building, displaying characteristics of the Federation Arts and Crafts style, is symmetrical with a three-storey tower at the centre.

The ground floor is constructed of masonry rendered and ruled out to resemble ashlar work. The walls of the upper two floors are timber framed and clad in pressed tin in a rough-cast pattern. The clay-tiled roof is less complex than the Enclosure Tote but has the shallow pyramidal roof on the tower and exposed eaves. The rest of the roof comprises hipped pitched roofs on each side of the tower over the two-storey section of the building. The tower has a gable parapet with a rounded gable apex similar to that on the Enclosure Totalisator. Matching tiled canopies shade some of the ground floor windows. A one-storey room in painted brickwork and aluminium framed windows has been added to the eastern wall of the building. A canvas and steel barrel vaulted canopy which had been added to the south side over the entrance is no longer extant.

On the ground floor, banks of ticket issuing kiosk windows are on the north and south sides of the building. These windows are single hung with timber frames and security grilles remain on several of the northern kiosks. The windows on the south-eastern side have been adapted to form larger openings. Some of these modified windows have been boarded over. Above the windows are fixed timber louvres set into the wall. Some of these have also been boarded over. The panelled doors of the main entrance are located off centre beneath the tower. On the first floor, a cantilevered open gallery runs along the south side above this entrance and has footlights capable of illuminating the odds display boards. Above the central doorway is a large health promotion sign, 'FIND THIRTY every day'. Formerly this sign read: 'BE ACTIVE' and the building was sometimes referred to as the 'Be Active' Building.

The building's external joinery has mouldings and the building contains other moulded details such as string courses and 'ogee' profile gutters (this appears to be early and original as the cyma recta is more horizontally elongated than that on the gutter of the Nile Street Entrance, among others, and the edge is rolled). There is evidence of recent gutter replacement, with the half round gutter profile contrasting with the original.

Internally, the spaces have been little modified but the machinery and many fittings have been lost. The central and eastern end of the ground floor has been adapted by the introduction of partition walls, carpet and a suspended ceiling to form an

entrance hall and separate office. This portion of the building accommodates offices for 'Drive Safe Australia' which operates a training centre at Gloucester Park and was not accessible.

The western end is closer to its earlier state and includes some of the v-jointed tongue and groove stalls and counter tops to the kiosk windows. A timber stair leads up to the floor and tower above. The ceiling is lined to the rake of the roof but is in very poor condition. The walls are not lined internally and the pressed tin cladding can be seen. There is no evidence that wall linings were once in place. There is evidence that some of the wall cladding has been replaced recently with new sheeting bearing the Lysaght trademark internally. On the first floor is a small room clad in corrugated iron.

10. North Toilets

East and to the rear of the Leger Tote is a single-storey public toilet. It is constructed to the detail common to the early and original structures. The masonry walls of the rectangular plan are finished in rough-cast stucco divided into upper and lower panels by a soldier course of red bricks painted white. These walls support a hipped terracotta tiled roof with simple ball finials at the ends of the ridge.

Internally, concrete floors are painted red and the early v-jointed tongue and groove toilet stalls survive. Early fixtures have been replaced in part. For instance, the stainless steel urinal trough is much more recent than the vitreous trough and screens of the south toilet. Nevertheless, some early fixtures such as the enamel hand basins and the stalls remain.

11. Nile Street Entrance (1972)

The Nile Street Entrance is a small covered gateway containing three turnstiles and two box offices and is located on Nile Street, north of the Trotting Track.

The building is constructed of rendered brick painted white with open front and back sides. The hipped roof is of a low pitch and tiled with terracotta. The four corners of the building are built out as engaged piers with plinths and string courses. Floor is paved with concrete. Steel beams span between the two side walls at front and back. Eaves are exposed showing the timber roof structure and the underside of the tiles. Gutters have a recent ogee profile consistent with the intent of the whole building to replicate the established character of early buildings within the precinct.

Between the gateway and Nile Street a chain link gate and fence provides perimeter security to Gloucester Park.

12. Stalls Entrance

Another entrance is located between the stalls and the trainers' car park. In planning and detail it is the same as the Nile Street Entrance.

13. Machine Shed

The Machine Shed is a large steel framed shed with a low-pitched roof set on a concrete slab. The whole of the building is clad in metal decking. Sliding doors the height of the walls are on three sides of the structure and they open wide allowing the storage and maintenance of tractors and other heavy equipment.

Immediately north of the Machine Shed is a curved row of ten mature Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*). The curvature of the row is roughly similar to the Course but eccentric to it. The row may follow an earlier alignment of the Trotting Track. There is evidence of recent removal of some of these trees (previously twelve) with some stumps still remaining.

14. Birdcage Area

The Birdcage area comprises open landscaping surrounded by stalls, the Birdcage Kiosk, and the Switch House at the rear of the George Maloney Fraternity Stand to the south of the Course. It is accessed from east of the WATA Administration through an entrance feature.

15. Birdcage Entrance

Facing west are four masts on masonry plinths laid out similarly to Australian Rules football goalposts. The two centre masts are spanned by a neon sign that says 'BIRDCAGE'.

16. Stalls (1928, 1957, 1958)

One hundred and sixty one horse stalls are arranged in stall ranges along bitumen paved roadways at the perimeter of the Birdcage landscaped area. There are several types of stall buildings but they are generally similar and comprise masonry walls painted white with a single pitched terracotta tiled roof falling to the open side of the stalls. Floors are paved with concrete and are well drained.

Each of the stalls is the same size (approximately 1500mm deep by 3000mm wide) and virtually all are fabricated from rectangular hollow sections of steel. Exceptions to this are the timber fitted stalls to the rear of the George Maloney Fraternity Stand and Switch House.

In the centre of the Birdcage area and accessible from the stalls are a rose bed and a short parade track. The two circular grassed areas mark the location of the former Rolling Bins which were removed in late 2009.

17. Birdcage Kiosk (1927-29, 1972)

The Birdcage Kiosk is an octagonal one-storey building set within the lawns of the Birdcage. It appears to be an earlier simple pavilion structure overlaid with recent fabric to enclose the area. Discernible early fabric is limited to six visible Tuscan columns on plinths, inside the kiosk. These columns appear to be made of concrete and are about 350mm in diameter. The spacing of the columns is consistent with the octagonal plan and a further two columns may remain concealed. Several of the columns are partially embedded within recent wall and ceiling linings.

The octagonal peaked roof form has been retained but has been reclad in a profiled sheet metal decking. The pavilion has been enclosed with walls of split faced quartz aggregate bricks and aluminium framed glazing.

Internally, the space is divided into kitchen, dining room, servery and male and female toilets. A concrete floor has been extended to the new walls and is finished with ceramic tiles. The peaked roof is surmounted by a weather vane of a horse and its reinsman.

18. Switch House (1929)

The Switch House is a group of single-storey attached buildings adjacent to the course and facing the Birdcage. The four attached rooms are designed in heavily moulded, rendered masonry, displaying elements of Federation Free Classical style, similar to the Main Entrance and Perimeter Wall, with a parapet roof. Spherical luminaires top the piers of the parapeted facade.

The rooms vary in size. The largest is the easternmost and has a label mould above the door reading 'Transformer'. It houses the electrical substation for Gloucester Park. Large metal gates secure the substation. The other rooms are smaller and their facades are recessed and lower. The room to the west of the Transformer room has a label mould, which reads 'Switch House'. The two rooms to the west of this were formerly labelled 'Ambulance' and 'Weighing' but the lettering has been rendered over and is just barely discernible. The Switch House is used as a Switch House but doorways in the dividing walls have linked all three rooms internally. Ambulance and weighing functions have been relocated to the George Maloney Fraternity Stand. An uncovered ambulance bay has been constructed adjacent to the Stewards' Tower to the north of the Switch House in late 2009.

Internally, floors are bare concrete and ceilings have simple coved cornices that appear to date from the 1960s.

On the trackside of the building, its back wall shelters a covered standing area west of the George Maloney Fraternity Stand.

19. George Maloney Fraternity Stand (1977)

This two-storey stand is of similar construction techniques to the other stands at Gloucester Park. It is located away from the other stands at the southern end of the Course between the Trotting Track and the Birdcage. It is far closer to the Trotting Track and without a promenade and embankment that is in front of the stands along the home straight.

The ground floor is at the ground level of the Birdcage and contains first aid facilities. The upper floor is open to the Trotting Track and includes raked seating and a standing area. Unlike the other stands, the bar is pushed to the eastern end allowing the rear of the stand to be glazed and the Birdcage area viewed. Also unlike the other stands, the building has an internal stair.

West of the building is a covered area adjoining the rear of the Switch House.

20. WATA Administration Building (1972)

The WATA Administration Building is a two-storey concrete-framed office building and is an example of the Late Twentieth-Century International style. The building's flat metal deck roof is concealed by a deep profiled sheet metal fascia.

The bulk of the building is a simple rectangular plan with a one-storey wing at right angles creating cubiform massing. Adjacent to the one-storey wing is a concrete-framed paved verandah supporting a canopy on rectangular hollow section steel posts. This paved area leads to the former central main entrance to the block, although the entrance to the building has been relocated to the northern end of the one-storey wing. Some internal modification, largely the relocation of partition walls, has occurred, but there has been little alteration to exterior.

The plain rectangular facades of the building are articulated by the expressed trabeation of the concrete-framed framing grid together with infill panels of split faced quartz aggregate brick masonry and bronze anodic aluminium framed bronze tinted glazing. Angled metal sun shading devices are fixed to the concrete-framed frame above the glazing.

A limestone statue of the horse 'San Simeon' surrounded by roses is located within an octagonal planter bed outside the entrance to the WATA Administration Building. The memorial was erected in 1980-81 by the WATA to commemorate the champion pacer who holds the Australasian record for consecutive wins from career starts.

21. South Bar & Toilets

The South Bar is a similar design to the former North Bar (no longer extant), being a generally open rectangular pavilion, which has been enclosed over the years. The underlying structure is a similar rectangular grid of timber posts supporting a hipped terracotta tiled roof, however, at the western end of the building is a masonry room of similar construction to the other early buildings with a soldier course of bricks dividing upper and lower rough-cast external walls. This western room has more recent openings inserted in the walls. This room currently houses the Pony Trot Office.

East of this earlier room are white painted masonry additions with aluminium windows that now enclose most of the earlier pavilion. A small area within the line of the timber posts has been retained as an open covered area. This enclosure comprises two rooms, one for the Race Night Office, and the easternmost for the Banking Office.

To the south-east and south of the South Bar are two separate structures which are, respectively, men's and women's toilets. They are constructed to the detail common to the early and original structures, with masonry walls in a rectangular plan finished in rough-cast stucco divided into upper and lower panels by a soldier course of red bricks, now painted white. These walls support a hipped terracotta tiled roof with simple ball finials at the ends of the ridge.

Internally, concrete floors are painted red and the v-jointed tongue and groove toilet stalls, likely to be from the original period of construction, are extant.

22. West Office Building (1988/89)

The West Office Building is a single-storey office block of domestic scale and Late Twentieth-Century style construction. The walls are constructed, on a rectangular plan, out of brick masonry painted white, and the simple hipped roof with small gablets is clad with mist green pre-painted corrugated galvanized steel. Construction details are similar to project housing construction of the 1980s and 1990s, and include white powder coated window frames in standard sizes. This building accommodates administrative offices for Gloucester Park and a catering company.

23. Stewards' Towers

There are five Stewards' Towers located around the Trotting Track and these are constructed to three design types.

The tower closest to the Winning Post is lower than the others and its lookout is circular, fully enclosed and capped with a peaked roof. The lookout is accessed by a spiral stair cantilevered off the central post that supports the look out. This tower is painted white and topped with a red flashing light.

Between the main group of stands and the Birdcage is the second type of tower. This type is constructed of a steel post supporting a metal clad square box open only to the Trotting Track and accessed by a ladder fixed to the central post.

The other three are of a type, which is similar to the second type, but has two lookout levels. These are distributed at the south-east corner of the Trotting Track, the north-east corner and the north-west corner (close to the Leger Tote). Some of the towers display advertising signs.

24. The Trotting Track

The Trotting Track is approximately 800 metres in length (equivalent to half a mile, its pre-metric length), oval and is surfaced in crushed road base. Steel barriers enclose the course on both sides. The river side (back straight) barrier is metal clad and supports advertising hoardings. The middle of the course is the lowest point of the whole of the place and is rough-grassed. Close to the home straight, the grassed area has a small parade circuit, garden beds (including two long rose beds) and an electronic dividend display board.

At night the course is illuminated by lights on high and low towers within and outside the perimeter of the course. The height of the high towers is dwarfed by the WACA's light towers that are a hundred or so metres away.

A grassed embankment rises from the level of the course to the promenade in front of the grouped stands beside the home straight. The winning post is near the south-western point of the course. Races are run anti-clockwise.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a brief discussion of the Comparative Analysis refer to Palassis Architects with Kristy Bizzaca, 'Gloucester Park Conservation Plan', commissioned by Warren Tucker Property Consultants for Western Australian Trotting Association Incorporated, July 2001. An update to this document is provided below.

A search of the Office of Heritage database for trotting grounds/racetracks shows that Gloucester Park is the only substantial trotting ground in both metropolitan and regional areas and the only extant trotting ground in the Perth metropolitan area. Along with P10270 Richmond Raceway in East Fremantle, (closed early 1990s, and retaining only a gatehouse), Gloucester park is one of only two dedicated trotting grounds in the Perth metro area.

Places associated with trotting in the metropolitan area include:

- P09696 the Velodrome at Midland Oval was once used for trotting meetings, and included a grandstand and fencing associated with trotting but these are no longer extant.
- P15464 Fremantle Oval – a trotting and cycling track was established at the oval in 1923, but is no longer extant.

There are many regional trotting grounds throughout Western Australia although only one appears on the HCWA database: P16946 Sports Ground & Trotting Track, Wyalkatchem– includes a clay trotting track, an outside bar and buildings.

Due to the limited listings for trotting clubs on the HCWA database, an internet search for trotting clubs in Western Australia revealed the following regional towns as having established trotting tracks: York (founded 1922); Northam (founded 1932); Harvey (founded 1936), and Pinjarra (founded 1950). Bunbury Trotting Club is the second largest trotting club in Western Australia after Gloucester Park. It was founded in 1952 and was newly rebuilt in 2001. The place includes a 960m track, stabling facilities, fencing and a parade area.⁹

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Palassis Architects with Kristy Bizzaca, 'Gloucester Park Conservation Plan', commissioned by Warren Tucker Property Consultants for Western Australian Trotting Association Incorporated, July 2001.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Research has not been able to determine if the first totalisator installed in Australia for the WATA in 1916 was relocated to Gloucester Park along with the 1929 totalisator installation.

In the overall development of the place, there are only minor unresolved issues relating to the development of the place. These relate to the location of now demolished structures and subsurface features. For instance, whether the winning post was relocated after the burial of Hector Mac is not known.

Further research into the social aspects of going to harness races and betting would contribute to the understanding of the place, as would research into the technical aspects of breeding harness race horses.

⁹ Racing and Wagering Western Australia; www.rwwa.com.au, 2007. [Accessed 8 March 2010]