



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council of Western Australia in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.3 Developing institutions
- 8.5 Forming associations

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 408 Institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall is a fine example of a building specially designed in 1935 for use as a Masonic Hall, incorporating Art Deco details externally and internally in the Inter War Art Deco style. (Criterion 1.1)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall is a landmark as a two storey building with a dominant and distinctive street façade in a prominent location close to the intersection of a main highway. (Criterion 1.3)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall contributes significantly to the urban fabric of Broadway, in particular association with the two buildings adjacent to the south at numbers 10 and 28 Broadway, and is an important element of the commercial development in the street. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall provides evidence of the evolution of buildings specially designed, constructed and equipped for the purposes Freemasonry in Western Australia, and is an ambitious example of the architectural philosophies of the time being applied to the Mason's requirements. (Criterion 2.1)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall is important in demonstrating the commercial development of the locality and the urban fabric of Nedlands in the 1930s, and in demonstrating the demand for Masonry to be established from the local community in the 1930s. (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.

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall has been important to the development of Freemasonry in Western Australia, having concurrently served as a meeting place for many different suburban Masonic lodges, since its construction in 1935. (Criterion 2.2)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall was designed by William G. Bennett, well known in Western Australia for his Art Deco architecture, including the Lord Forrest Olympic Pool in Kalgoorlie, the Raffles Hotel and Plaza Theatre and Arcade in Perth and a number of buildings at Araluen as part of his involvement with the Young Australia League. (Criterion 2.3)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall demonstrates the specific requirements of meeting places for Freemasons in the 1930s and, together with its contents, reflects the symbolism and ritualistic characteristics of the Freemasons. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall, together with its contents, demonstrates the potential to contribute to an understanding of the practice of Freemasonry in the cultural history of Western Australia, as the interior spaces, fittings and decorative treatments remain relatively intact. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall is highly valued by the local community in its function as a public hall, and is highly valued by Freemasons who have been associated with the place, particularly members of the University Lodge who used the place from the 1940s until 2002¹. (Criterion 4.1)

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall contributes to the community's sense of place as a landmark two storey building with a dominant street façade which has provided the functions of a Masonic hall, public hall and retail outlet, between 1935 and 2002.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall is rare as a two-storied building incorporating the necessary elements and amenities for Freemasonry, a separate public hall and shops for lease, and in continuing use since completion in 1935 until November 2002. The incorporation of shops and the ability to lease out the ground floor to the general public was innovative. The intactness of interior fittings and detailing is rare. (Criterion 5.1 and 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall represents the characteristics of a place specially designed and equipped as a Masonic Hall built in 1935 in the Inter War Art Deco style. (Criteria 6.1 and 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The fabric of the *Nedlands Park Masonic Hall* is in good condition. Continuing use has resulted in regular maintenance.

¹ Information from University Lodge website <http://www.unilodgewa.org/> 23/4/2003

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Nedlands Park Masonic Hall was designed and constructed specially for use as a Masonic hall, with two shops for lease on the ground floor Supper Room or Public Hall for social use by the lodge or for hire by the community. The place remained in that usage from 1935 until 2002, and as a consequence the integrity is high.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Some adjustments have been made to convert a Cloak Room to Female Toilets, to refurbish the Toilets and Kitchen, to introduce a steel escape stair from the first floor level, to remove some walls in the front section to fit floor level, and to update heating and lighting fittings. Adjustment have been made to close off doorways at ground level and to improve security. Interior fittings and detailing specific to the purposes of Freemasonry remains substantially intact. The authenticity is high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Key sections of the supporting evidence have been taken from 'Nedlands Park Masonic Hall Heritage Assessment prepared for the University of Western Australia by Ronald Bodycoat Architect, in November 2002.

Key sections include: Documentary Evidence (p. 5-12), Physical Evidence (p. 12-20), Comparative Information (p. 21).

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary evidence, refer to 'Nedlands Park Masonic Hall Heritage Assessment prepared for the University of Western Australia by Ronald Bodycoat Architect, in November 2002.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical evidence, refer to 'Nedlands Park Masonic Hall Heritage Assessment prepared for the University of Western Australia by Ronald Bodycoat Architect, in November 2002.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information, refer to 'Nedlands Park Masonic Hall Heritage Assessment prepared for the University of Western Australia by Ronald Bodycoat Architect, in November 2002.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

'Nedlands Park Masonic Hall Heritage Assessment prepared for the University of Western Australia by Ronald Bodycoat Architect, in November 2002.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
