



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

## 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The *York Town Hall* is significant as the aesthetic characteristics of the facades and general form of the place are important to the local community, the State and the nation. *York Town Hall* is considered to be a place of national significance. (Criterion 1.1)

The highly mannered treatment of the corner entry of *York Town Hall*, and its associated facades and interiors is a demonstration of creative and design excellence in the Federation Free Classical style in Western Australian architecture. (Criterion 1.2)

The elaborate corner entry, clock and the inherent civic nature of *York Town Hall* contribute to the recognised streetscape of Avon Terrace. (Criterion 1.3)

### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*York Town Hall* is important for its construction at the end of the gold boom which is an event of historic importance within the State and a period of prosperity within the town of York. (Criterion 2.1)

*York Town Hall* is closely associated with the Shire of York and the former Municipal Council of York whose activities have been significant within the development and history of York. (Criterion 2.2 & 2.3)

*York Town Hall* is closely associated with the historically important architectural firm of Wright, Powell and Cameron, the building being one of the firm's most notable designs. (Criterion 2.3)

Western Australia's first public library was established within *York Town Hall*. (Criterion 2.4)

### 11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

*York Town Hall* contributes to the wider understanding of the cultural history of York as a type locality, reference and benchmark site. (Criterion 3.1)

*York Town Hall* has the potential to yield archaeological material which could contribute to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of York and the State. (Criterion 3.2)

#### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*York Town Hall* contributes to the community's sense of place through its aesthetic characteristics and civic functions. The place is an icon in the historic town of York, and is greatly valued by both local residents and visitors. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

It was customary for town halls built in Western Australia in the early 1900s to reflect the exuberance and confidence of an economy buoyed by the gold boom. However, *York Town Hall* demonstrates an unusually fine, overscaled, Mannerist example of the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

-----

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The condition of *York Town Hall* is generally good, with the exception of the roof cladding which is poor, and an external wall adjacent to the stairs which has suffered outward movement that has detrimentally affected the ceiling, cornice and wall finishes.

Detailed considerations of condition of the place may be found in Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*York Town Hall* has a high level of integrity having retained its use as a community hall and civic centre, with few modifications to the original fabric.

For discussion of integrity of the place, refer to Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

Both internally and externally the fabric of *York Town Hall* is largely intact and the place has a high level of authenticity.

For discussion of authenticity of the place, refer to Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For detailed discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For detailed discussion of the physical evidence, refer to Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, 1995.)

#### **13.3 REFERENCES**

Palassis Architects: 'Conservation Plan, York Town Hall' (prepared for the Shire of York, July 1995.)