



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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEMES

- 3.6.1 Establishing postal services
- 7.5.1 Developing local government authorities
- 7.5.6 Policing Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEMES

- 206 Mail services
- 403 Law and order
- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Public Buildings, East Fremantle, and in particular the former East Fremantle Post Office in its prominent position at the corner of Canning Highway and King Street, now the junction with Stirling Highway, provides a visual focal point with strong aesthetic value. The group exhibits the aesthetic characteristics of a small significant group of public buildings constructed in the Federation Free Classical and Federation Bungalow styles at the turn of the century, 1899-1902. (Criterion 1.1)

The Town Hall has a fine façade rendered in the Federation Free Classical Style. The former Police Station is a competently executed Federation Bungalow, which retains much of its original external detail. The former Post Office is a finely designed two-storey Federation Classical style building, with much of its exterior and interior detailing intact. Individually, the buildings exhibit pleasing aesthetic qualities. (Criterion 1.1)

Public Buildings, East Fremantle has a landmark quality in Canning Highway and at the junction with Stirling Highway. The landmark quality has been enhanced by virtue of the construction of Stirling Bridge and the extension of Stirling Highway, which has opened up a previously unintended vista, giving the group a high degree of visual prominence. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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.

Public Buildings, East Fremantle together form a significant and notable streetscape, and have formed a cultural environment, through their service as the public buildings of the Town of East Fremantle throughout most of the twentieth century. The group represents the historic civic heart of East Fremantle, and the effect of the group reflects these civic qualities. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Public Buildings, East Fremantle is significant in the occupation of Western Australia, as the public buildings of the Town of East Fremantle, marking the creation of the Town of East Fremantle in 1897 brought about by the rapid expansion of Fremantle. (Criterion 2.1)

Public Buildings, East Fremantle were constructed in 1899-1902, following the proclamation of the Town of East Fremantle, and in the period immediately following the Western Australian Gold Boom. The group is the product of a rapid period of expansion and development with the whole group being completed by 1902. (Criterion 2.2)

Both the initial stages of East Fremantle Town Hall, including the Mechanics' Institute and Library, were designed by well known Architect Joseph F. Allen, who later became Mayor of East Fremantle. The first Town Clerk of East Fremantle, Horace Hill Parker, worked at the place for more than 40 years, and resided there in the early period following its completion. Hillson Beasley designed the Police Station and its likely that he was responsible for the design of the Post Office. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Public Buildings, East Fremantle is highly valued by the community of East Fremantle for social, cultural, aesthetic, and educational associations. The Mechanics' Institute and the Library provided these facilities in the town for an extended period of time from the early twentieth century. Though the Post Office is now accommodation for an antiques business, the former Police Station, from which operates a community based radio station, and the Town Hall continue to provide services that sustain these values. (Criterion 4.1)

Public Buildings, East Fremantle contributes to the community's sense of place both of the local and wider community of Western Australia, having served as the public buildings of the Town of East Fremantle for most of the twentieth century, and as a notable landmark at the Canning Highway and Stirling Highway junction. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Public Buildings, East Fremantle has some rarity value as a group of civic places built in a very close timeframe of three years, and because the outward appearance of each of the buildings in the group has changed very little. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Public Buildings, East Fremantle demonstrates the principal characteristics of a Federation period civic precinct, employing elements of classical style to emphasize the civic theme for its buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Each of the buildings within the group is maintained in reasonable order, though all buildings are in need of conservation guidance and works to maintain their cultural heritage values. Cumulative works to the Town Hall have detracted from the presentation from all but the Canning Highway elevation. There is some cracking on the main facade of the Town Hall which require attention. The streetscape is a mixture of brick paving, trees, signage, poorly placed Main Roads signage and on the whole poorly designed and maintained. The present streetscape setting of *Public Buildings, East Fremantle* detracts from its aesthetic values.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Public Buildings, East Fremantle retains its integrity as a group of civic buildings, notwithstanding the loss of the original functions of Post Office and Police Station, and the removal of the Fire Station.

The original intent of the former Police Station remains clear and the current radio station fit-out is a readily reversible adaptation. The building is capable of conservation and restoration with moderate work, and overall retains a moderate degree of integrity.

The original intent of the former Post Office is discernible, though not readily apparent. The main body of the building is capable of conservation with minimal endeavour, but the works required to the rear verandahs are likely to require major endeavour. Nevertheless, the former Post Office retains a moderate degree of integrity.

The Town Hall retains its traditional uses, but the functions of the Mechanics' Institute and Library have been transferred away from the building to the Fremantle City Library. The town clerk's quarters were removed at an unknown date. The building has undergone a good deal of change to accommodate the changing needs of local government. The place retains a moderate to high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Public Buildings, East Fremantle retains a moderate to high degree of authenticity as a group. Apart from the streetscape context, all places retain an outward appearance that closely reflects the original designs. The authenticity of buildings within the group varies.

The exterior of the former Police Station remains in its near original state, though the gardens and fences have been altered. The rear garden has a number of features that have been added over the life of the place including a BBQ, a timber framed laundry that was added in 1917, and a covered bus shelter. The interior has been simplified by the removal of fire surrounds and most finishes have been covered to form the present radio studios. Overall the place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

The loggias or verandahs to the first floor level of the front of the former Post Office have been enclosed and grilles added to the porches. The rear verandah has been almost entirely filled in. The exterior as a whole retains a

high degree of authenticity. The postal hall has been stripped out, and some fireplaces modified on the ground floor. The first floor interiors have been cleared of their original loose fittings, but retain most of their original detail and fixtures. The interior has a high degree of authenticity.

The Town Hall retains its front façade almost intact. Side and rear elevations have been altered in a number of ways to accommodate escape stairs, a court, and several stages of additions to the rear. The interior, with the exception of the entrance hall to the original Town Hall, has been modified to a substantial degree. The place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Robin Chinnery, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Public Buildings, East Fremantle comprises a former Police Station (1899), a Town Hall (1900), and a former Post Office (1901). Police Station is a single storey police station and quarters, with charge room, cell yard and two cells, constructed in 1899, the former of limestone, and the latter of brick, with corrugated iron roofs.

The Town Hall is a two storey building, comprising hall and offices for the Town of East Fremantle, the latter of which includes the former quarters of the Town Clerk. In 1900, the place was constructed of brick, which was rendered, with a corrugated iron roof, as the municipal hall, and offices for the Town of East Fremantle, and included quarters for the Town Clerk. Additions were made in 1902, comprising the Mechanics' Institute and Library.

The former Post Office, a two storey building, constructed of brick, rendered, with an iron roof, was constructed as Post Office and quarters in 1900-01. The place at present comprises storage and retail premises for Manera Antiques, the current tenant.

By 1832, the townsite of Fremantle had been laid out, and some building commenced. In the next decade as the towns of Perth and Fremantle were developed, four tracks were established leading from Fremantle to Perth, to Canning Bridge, which was opened in 1843, to the Canning district and Kelmscott, and to Mandurah. The Swan River Colony developed slowly through to the 1850s, when the introduction of transportation heralded a period of more rapid development. A wide programme of public works was carried out by convict labour, including roads and bridges, among them the Perth-Fremantle Road, and the Fremantle Bridge. The track to Canning Bridge became Canning Road, the future Canning Highway.

In the late 1880s and the 1890s, residential development began to spread from the early town centre of Fremantle to the south, the north, and to the east. In the latter direction, the areas to the south and to the north of Canning Road were named Plympton and Richmond respectively. Much of the area to the east of the Fremantle Bridge in this period remained in use for vineyards, orchards, nurseries, and dairies.

In 1892, Richmond and Plympton were added to the Municipality of Fremantle; then as the east ward, they were administered by the Fremantle

Roads Board from 1893.¹ With the Western Australian Gold Boom, the subdivision of larger land holdings accelerated in the mid to late 1890s, residential development proceeded apace, and the population of Richmond and Plympton increased considerably.

In 1894, North Fremantle ratepayers petitioned to become a separate municipality, and when it became a town in September 1895 the residents of Plympton and Richmond determined to follow that example.²

In the mid 1890s, with the influx of people headed for the Goldfields, there was insufficient accommodation in Fremantle, and 'Canvas Town' became established at the east of the town. Policing the area and the surrounding district proved difficult for the Fremantle police.

In May 1896, E. J. Back, of the Inspector's Office at the Fremantle Police Department, wrote to the Commissioner of Police regarding the problem, and noted 'a Constable should be stationed out by Plympton above North Fremantle Bridge. This Constable should also have a house'.³ In response, Commissioner, George Phillips, inquired as to the location of Plympton, whether a Constable could 'secure' quarters there at a reasonable rate, and whether there were any Government Reserves in or near Plympton.⁴ He was informed that there was 'Not a room to be had let alone house.'; that there were no Government Reserves, as all of Plympton was private property; however, 'Mr. Pearse would no doubt sell the Government a block.'⁵ Land was eventually acquired from them in 1899.

On 15 February 1897, a meeting of 200 residents of Plympton and East Fremantle resolved to forward a request to the Premier for the district to be declared a separate municipality.⁶ On 2 April 1897, the Municipality of East Fremantle was proclaimed.⁷ Elections were held on 23 July 1897, and the first meeting of the East Fremantle Council was held at the Plympton Hotel on 14 August 1897.⁸ Subsequently, a successful application was made for a grant for municipal purposes.⁹

Having achieved a grant for land for municipal purposes, the East Fremantle Council requested an additional grant for a post office and a police station.¹⁰ In February 1898, it was suggested that George Pearse's house in Plympton might be utilised as premises for a post office.¹¹ The Town Clerk of East Fremantle, Horace Hill Parker, was directed to approach Pearse Brothers with a proposition to rent Plympton Hall, 'presumably as a temporary town hall

¹ Lee, Jack *This is East Fremantle (The story of a town and its people)* (Publication Printers, West Perth, November 1979) p. 3.

² Ibid.

³ E. J. Back, Inspector's Office, Fremantle Police Department to Commissioner of Police, 17 May 1896, in Plympton Police Station. PROWA Cons. 430 AN 5/1 Item 2092/98, 1898.

⁴ George Phillips, Commissioner of Police, to E. J. Back, Inspector's Office, Fremantle Police Department, 27 May 1896. Ibid.

⁵ E. J. Back, Inspector's Office, Fremantle Police Department to Commissioner of Police, 29 May 1896. Ibid.

⁶ Ibid, p. 4.

⁷ Ibid; and *Government Gazette*, 2 April 1897.

⁸ Ibid, pp. 4-5.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 13.

¹¹ Ibid. Note: The Minute Books for East Fremantle have not been researched in the course of this assessment as they are yet to be accessioned at the Public Records Office.

or post office.¹² Parker had been appointed Town Clerk in late 1897, and served in that position until his death 47 years later.¹³

On 14 March 1898, the Plympton Post Office opened in makeshift premises, with Miss J. Adams as Postmistress.¹⁴ There were continued requests for the establishment of a police station in the district throughout 1898.¹⁵

In mid 1898, Messrs. W. S. and G. Pearse sub-divided and offered for sale some of their land in Plympton, including Lots 463-467, located in Canning Road between Duke and King Streets, with Lots 463 and 467, at the corners of Duke Street and King Street, respectively at £180 each, and Lots 464-466 at £170 each.¹⁶

On 29 November 1898, the Premier, Sir John Forrest, announced on a visit to East Fremantle that a grant of £500 would be made to East Fremantle.¹⁷

On 31 December 1898, Plympton Police Station commenced operation under P. C. Leary, in rented premises in Glyde Street, East Fremantle, belonging to Mrs. Maryanne Waterhouse.¹⁸ These premises continued in use for the police station until 27 September 1899.¹⁹

Pearses' Hall in Canning Road was utilised for most community activities in East Fremantle in 1899-1900, and for ratepayers' meetings.²⁰

Former Police Station (1899)

In January 1899, J. J. Holmes, M. L. A., wrote to the Premier, to express his thanks for the establishment of the temporary Police Station at Plympton, and to remind him of the agreement that the amount of £800 allowed in the Estimates for 1900 'should be devoted to Police Buildings [sic] as they are considered of greater and more urgent importance.'²¹ A site was selected for the proposed Police Station at Plympton, at Allotment 464, part of Swan Location 71.²²

In March 1899, plans were drawn for the East Fremantle Police Station, as it had been renamed, and signed by Hillson Beasley, in charge of room.²³ It was to be a standard police station and quarters, with the charge room located on the western side of the rear yard, with the cells farther to the south, and the cell yard between the cells and the charge room.²⁴ There were to be two 1,000 gallon water tanks on stands, one at the south-east corner of the station and quarters, and the other at the south-east corner of the charge

12 Ibid.

13 Ibid, p. 6, and p. 21.

14 Ibid; and Blue Book, 1900, p. 121.

15 Plympton Police Station. PROWA Cons. 430 AN 5/1 Item 2092/98, 1898.

16 Plan of Plympton, part of Swan Location 71, Land for Sale, Messrs. W. S. & G. Pearse, High Street, Fremantle, 1898, in *ibid*.

17 Ibid, p. 16.

18 Plympton Police Station Occurrence Book, 31 December 1898-23 June 1900. PROWA Cons. 678 WAA 578 WAS 1081, 31 December 1898, and 28 September 1899.

19 Ibid, 31 December 1898-28 September 1899.

20 Ibid, May 1899-May 1900.

21 J. J. Holmes, M. L. A., to the Premier, Sir John Forrest, Plympton Police Station, *op cit.*, 10 January 1899.

22 Proposed Police Station at Plympton. Showing Levels of Allotment 464 part of Swan Location 71, PWDWA 6750. PROWA Cons. 6199 (unprocessed).

23 Police Station Site Plan, copy of PWDWA 6750, 9 March 1899. PROWA Cons. 6199 (unprocessed).

24 Ibid.

room.²⁵ Fences with timber posts and five wires were to be erected at the east and the west boundaries from the station and quarters building to the front boundary, and closed picket fences along the remainder of the side boundaries and the rear boundary at the south and the front boundary to Canning Road.²⁶ At the western end of the latter fence, was a pair of cart gates, and there was a single wicket gate at the centre of the front fence.²⁷

On 21 April 1899, tenders were called for the construction of the East Fremantle Police Station.²⁸ The contract was awarded to W. Sharp, Builder, of Perth, at a cost of £598, to be completed by 19 September 1899.²⁹ It was constructed of limestone, with a corrugated iron roof, with a semi-detached lock-up, of two cells of brick and iron construction, in the rear yard.³⁰ The Police Station and quarters comprised two rooms, with kitchen, bathroom, and store, a single constable's room, with a charge and office room, and an enclosed exercise yard.³¹ Two 2,000 gallon water tanks were provided for water supply.³²

By 9 August 1899, William Sharp was completing the plastering at the new Police Station, and the place was completed on 5 September.³³ On 14 September, P. C. Williams took possession of his quarters at 'the New Police Station in Canning Road Plympton.'³⁴ Later that month, on 27 September, P. C. Leary removed from the rented premises in Glyde Street, and took possession of 'the New Police Station in Canning Road Plympton.'³⁵

On 30 December 1899, the Police Station was connected with the 'Government Water Supply', and the work was carried out by Mr. Instone.³⁶

On 4 May 1915, plans were drawn for a new wash-house and w.c. at the Police Station, and signed by Hillson Beasley, Chief Architect.³⁷ The plans show a bath room at the south-west corner of the quarters, a sink at the south-east corner, the wash-house to be located in the rear yard towards the eastern boundary, with the w.c. on the south side.³⁸ There is a lean-to on the western side of the charge room, 22' 4" in length, and another lean-to on the southern side of the cells.³⁹ The former remains extant in 1999, and the latter was removed in 1968. On the western side of the yard, the area to the south of the cells is grassed, and a worker's shed, 8' x 7', is located to the south of the grassed area.⁴⁰ The old w.c. at the south-east of the rear yard was to be removed when the work was completed, and the w.c in the cell yard, in use

25 Ibid.

26 Ibid.

27 Ibid.

28 *Government Gazette* 21 April 1899.

29 Ibid, 26 May 1899; and PWD Contract Book, 1896-1901, PROWA Acc. 1124 AN 7/14 Item 3a, p. 203.

30 Report of the Department of Public Works, 1900, p. 77, in *Votes and Proceedings of the Western Australian Parliament* 1901-02.

31 Ibid.

32 Ibid.

33 Ibid; and Plympton Police Station Occurrence Book, op cit., 9 August 1899.

34 Ibid, 14 September 1899.

35 Ibid, 27 September 1899.

36 Plympton Police Station Occurrence Book, op cit., 30 December 1899.

37 Police Station Sewerage, 4 May 1915. PROWA Cons. 6199 (unprocessed).

38 Ibid.

39 Ibid.

40 Ibid.

as a store, was not to be connected to the sewerage.⁴¹ The close picket fence at the west side of the cell yard had been removed.⁴²

At 1 January 1919, the brick and stone quarters at Police Station were recorded as comprising living rooms: three rooms, each 14' x 10'; two rooms, each 14' x 14'; one room, 14' x 6'; a one room office, 14' x 12'; and two rooms, 6' x 3'; all of which were in fair condition.⁴³ There was no stabling at the place.⁴⁴ The lockup was constructed of brick and timber, and comprised two cells, each 8' x 6', and in good condition.⁴⁵ There was a picket and wire fence in good condition at the place.⁴⁶

In September-October 1921, repairs were made to the Police Station, including installation of a telephone extension, repairs to the back stairs, and repairs to the cell roof.⁴⁷

In October 1923, general repairs and renovations were made to the Police Station, at a cost of £63/7.⁴⁸

In September 1935, plans were drawn for a new bathroom and verandah at East Fremantle Police Station.⁴⁹ The existing bath at the north of the wash-house, and the tank at the south of the quarters were removed; the bath was re-fixed in the new bathroom at the south-east corner of the quarters, and the wash-house cut back by 3' to form a passage between it and the new room.⁵⁰ The window at the south of the quarters was removed, and re-built in the east wall of the kitchen, and a verandah was erected at the south of the quarters, from which the bathroom opened at the east.⁵¹ The existing steps at the rear of the place were removed, and re-fixed in their new position.⁵²

In August 1964, plans were drawn for improvements to the grounds at East Fremantle Police Station, including new curbing, patching and hot-mixing of the existing bitumen, and new bitumen to the area at the west of the station.⁵³ At that date, there were small gardens at the west of the laundry and at the east of the lock-up, and the driveway, and yard were bitumenised.⁵⁴ The work was duly implemented.

In March 1968, plans were drawn for a new double carport at the East Fremantle Police Station.⁵⁵ The pre-World War One corrugated iron lean-to at the south of the cells was removed, and also a portable workers' shed; and

41 Ibid.

42 Ibid.

43 Police Buildings Police Station as at 1 January 1919. Police Station File, Western Australian Police Service Library.

44 Ibid.

45 Ibid.

46 Ibid.

47 Police Station File, Western Australian Police Service Library. 4 August and 6 September 1921.

48 Police Station File, Western Australian Police Service Library. 9 October 1923.

49 East Fremantle Police Quarters New Bath Room & Verandah, File no. 673/35, 10 September 1935. PROWA Cons. 6199, op cit.

50 Ibid.

51 Ibid.

52 Ibid.

53 East Fremantle Police Station Improvements to Grounds, PWD 41303, att. to 6750, File no. 787/55, 25 August 1964, PROWA Cons. 6199, op cit.

54 Ibid.

55 East Fremantle Police Station New Double Car-port, PWD File no. 787/55, March 1968. PROWA Cons. 6199, op cit.

the new carport was erected⁵⁶ The carport continues use in 1999, accommodating the Town of East Fremantle's bus.

In December 1982, Reserve 19771, site of the former East Fremantle Police Station was vested in the Minister for Works for the designated purpose of Government Requirements.⁵⁷

Circa 1984, community radio 100FM took up occupation of the former East Fremantle Police Station, and continues as tenant in 1999.⁵⁸ The Charge Room was converted to serve as the caretaker's quarters for about 12 years.⁵⁹ Soundproofing and other adaptations were made to the main rooms for the new use.⁶⁰ The kitchen and toilet facilities extant in 1981 have continued in use.⁶¹ The former cells have been utilised for storage purposes.⁶²

In 1993, the Town of East Fremantle applied to DOLA for an amendment to Reserve 19771 from Government Requirements to Community Purposes, as the Police Station fmr. was in continuing use by Radio 100FM, with the Town receiving a peppercorn rental for the property.⁶³ In January 1995, DOLA advised that because of the heritage value of the place, the purpose should be amended to Community Purposes and Heritage Conservation, with a vesting order issued in favour of the East Fremantle Council continuing to have the power to lease the place for periods up to 21 years, subject to the approval of the Minister for Lands.⁶⁴ On 23 May 1995, the vesting order was issued, and the change in the use of the Reserve was gazetted on 30 May.⁶⁵

East Fremantle Town Hall

In 1899, the Schedule of Works for 1900 for East Fremantle included £400 for a municipal hall.⁶⁶ George Pearse offered to sell 10 acres of his land at East Fremantle to the Government at £200 per acre for the purpose, and to donate 5 acres to the town for a recreation ground.⁶⁷ In anticipation of the acceptance of his offer, the East Fremantle Council issued an invitation to residents, ratepayers, and architects to submit plans for a town hall to be erected on the land.⁶⁸ The design of Architect Joseph F Allen was chosen for the Town Hall.⁶⁹

On 21 October 1899, the foundation stone for the Town Hall was laid by the Premier of Western Australia, Sir John Forrest, K. C. M. G.⁷⁰ The East Fremantle Council decided that the hall should be built by day labour, 'under

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ *Government Gazette* 31 December 1982.

⁵⁸ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 September 1999.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Application to DOLA, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/103, 133 Canning Highway, 22 June 1993.

⁶⁴ T. Thomson, Acting Manager, Acquisitions, DOLA, to Town Clerk, Town of East Fremantle, *ibid*, 5 January 1995.

⁶⁵ Vesting Order, *ibid*, 23 May 1995; and *Government Gazette* 30 May 1995.

⁶⁶ Lee, Jack op. cit., p. 23.

⁶⁷ *Ibid*, p. 24.

⁶⁸ *Ibid*.

⁶⁹ *Ibid*.

⁷⁰ Foundation Stone, East Fremantle Town Hall. Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 September 1999.

a competent foreman, by the residents of the district, with the architect to supervise the whole job.'⁷¹

In 1899-1900, the Town Hall was constructed of brickwork walls, rendered over, with a corrugated iron roof, at a cost of £400.⁷² On 10 March 1900, *The Umpire* reported that the East Fremantle Town Hall at Plympton was approaching completion, and 'It will be a decided acquisition to the street architecture of the town and will supply a great want.'⁷³ The building included offices, town hall, and quarters for the Town Clerk, who took up residence at the place on its completion. The place was completed by early May 1900.⁷⁴ On 19 May 1900, the East Fremantle Town Hall was officially opened by the Premier, Sir John Forrest, in the presence of 'about 60 persons'.⁷⁵

On 4 July 1900, Swan Location 1714, two roods twenty three and two tenths perches in area, in Canning Road, East Fremantle, was entrusted to the Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Town of East Fremantle solely for municipal purposes.⁷⁶ The north section of Duke Street, adjacent on the east to Swan Location 1714, was renamed Council Place.⁷⁷ Swan Location 1714 is Reserve 6925.

In 1900-01, government grants of £250 for furnishing and £200 for the Fire Brigade were made to the Municipality of East Fremantle, of which the Municipality expended £197/19/6 on furnishing, and £177/10/- for the Fire Brigade.⁷⁸ Income from rental of the Hall to 31 October 1901, was £58/11/6.⁷⁹

In 1902, additions designed by Joseph F. Allen, Architect, were made at the east side and at the rear of the Town Hall, to provide accommodation for the Library and Mechanics Institute.⁸⁰ On 11 August, Coronation Day, the foundation stone was laid by the Mayor of East Fremantle, F. McDonald, J. P., M. L. A.⁸¹

It has not been possible to establish the exact date of construction of the Fire Station, which was constructed at the west of the Town Hall, Mechanics' Institute and Library; however, it is probable that it was built c. 1901-02.

Undated photographs show the East Fremantle Town Hall and Mechanics Institute, with plastered lettering of the names East Fremantle and Mechanics on the upper level of the front facade, and of Town Hall and Institute at the lower level.⁸² The flagpole is extant at the Town Hall.⁸³ In the earlier

71 Lee, Jack, op cit., p. 25.

72 Ibid.

73 *The Umpire* 10 March 1900.

74 Plympton Police Station Occurrence Book, op cit., 3 May 1900.

75 Ibid, 19 May 1900.

76 Certificate of Title, Swan Location 1714, Vol. 196 Fol. 52, 4 July 1900.

77 Ibid.

78 Balance Sheet, East Fremantle Municipality, year ending 31 October 1901, in *Government Gazette* 22 November 1901.

79 Ibid.

80 Foundation Stone Public Library and Mechanics Institute, site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 September 1999.

81 Ibid.

82 East Fremantle Mechanics Institute, Town Hall, Fire Station, Canning Road, Fremantle, n. d. Battye Library 17553P; and East Fremantle Town Hall, n. d. Town of East Fremantle Collection.

photograph, the low, open picket fence has been painted; and as in the photographs of 1903 and 1905 extends along the front boundary to the Post Office, with access gates to the Town Hall and Mechanics Institute, and the fence set back level with the front of the Fire station, and then at right angles to it extending to the front boundary, allowing free access to the vehicle entry to the station.⁸⁴ Street trees have been planted, and are enclosed with protective guards.⁸⁵ In the later photograph, the picket fence has been removed from the front boundary of the Town Hall, and three garden beds have been planted and fenced at the forecourt of the Town Hall to the east of the main entry, between the two entries, and to the west; and there is a low timber fence at the east of the Town Hall.⁸⁶ Adjacent to the Town Hall on the western side, the Fire Station is extant.⁸⁷ It remained extant and in use in 1920-21, it was demolished later at an unknown date.⁸⁸

By 1929, it appears that the Fire Station no longer operated from the site at the west of the Town Hall, as it was not listed in *Wise's Post Office Directory*, and the East Fremantle Retired Soldiers' League was listed at the address at the east of the vacant lot to the east of East Fremantle Police Station.⁸⁹

In May 1965, Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown & Partners drew plans for proposed alterations and additions to the East Fremantle Town Hall.⁹⁰ They were duly implemented, including removal of the exterior timber stair on the west, and replacement with a steel stair; replacement of some timber window frames with steel; work on some of the limestone footings; renewal of the lining to the supper room; fitting of suspended ceilings in some rooms; removal and replacement of a number of fences; construction of a new crossover to Canning Highway, and construction of a bitumen paved parking area at the rear.⁹¹

In January 1980, Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown & Partners drew plans for proposed alterations to East Fremantle Town Hall.⁹² The plans were approved, with an estimated cost of \$220,000, and the work was implemented that year.⁹³

In September 1984, the East Fremantle Council agreed to the excision of 465 square metres from the reserves on which *Public Buildings, East Fremantle* is located for the purpose of road construction for the Fremantle Eastern

⁸³ East Fremantle Mechanics Institute, Town Hall, Fire Station, Canning Road, Fremantle, n. d. Battye Library 17553P.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ East Fremantle Town Hall, n. d. Town of East Fremantle Collection.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Photograph of East Fremantle Volunteer Fire Brigade at East Fremantle Fire Station, 1920-21. Town of East Fremantle Collection. Note: plans for alterations and additions to the East Fremantle Town Hall, May 1965, included removal of a timber floor which may have been vestiges of the Fire Station.

⁸⁹ *Wise's Post Office Directory* 1929, p. 133.

⁹⁰ Proposed alterations and additions to the East Fremantle Town Hall for the Town of East Fremantle, Oldham, Boas, Ednie-Brown & Partners, 13 May 1965. Town of East Fremantle.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown & Partners Proposed Alterations East Fremantle Town Hall for the Town of East Fremantle, 30 January 1980. Town of East Fremantle.

⁹³ Ibid.

Bypass.⁹⁴ The total area required was subsequently increased to 3,735 square metres in June 1985.⁹⁵

In 1988, bronze plaques funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the Town of East Fremantle were erected at each of the buildings comprising *Public Buildings, East Fremantle*, to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary.⁹⁶

In 1998, the existing air conditioning equipment at the East Fremantle Town Hall was removed, and new equipment installed with wiring replaced as required.⁹⁷

Former Post Office

In 1899, the Plympton Post Office was renamed East Fremantle Post Office, and a Letter Carrier and a Messenger were appointed.⁹⁸

In February 1900, it had been announced that a new Post Office was to be erected at East Fremantle, and in April, tenders were called for the construction of a Post Office and quarters at East Fremantle.⁹⁹ However, the tender was canceled, and sketch plans were drawn for a larger office in mid 1900.¹⁰⁰ The new plans were for a two storied building, constructed on concrete foundations, with brick walls, and an iron roof.¹⁰¹ The accommodation comprised a general office, public, operating and postmaster's rooms at the ground floor, with a hall and porch; and at the first floor, quarters of four rooms, 'with kitchen, bath, etc.'¹⁰²

On 25 September 1900, tenders were called for the building of the East Fremantle Post Office.¹⁰³ In November, the contract was awarded to J. Lake, Builder, of Subiaco, at a cost of £1,472/13/6, for completion by 6 March 1901.¹⁰⁴ The place was constructed in 1900-01, at the west of the Police Station, at Swan Location 4274. It was completed on 1 June 1901, at a cost of £1,468/8/6.¹⁰⁵ The building included an open loggia on the first floor, which was enclosed in the late 1950s.

A photograph of 1903 shows the East Fremantle Post Office with loggia, the main entry to the office at the west; the Police Station at the adjacent lot on the east; a vacant lot; then the Fire Station; and farthest to the east, the Mechanics Institute and Library, and the Town Hall and offices, with a flag

⁹⁴ Town Clerk, East Fremantle to Secretary, MRD. Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit., 18 September 1984, and 14 June 1985.

⁹⁵ Attachment to letter to Town Clerk, East Fremantle, from D. R. Warner, Director Corporate Services, MRD. Town of East Fremantle File no. P/CAN/101, op cit., 26 May 1996.

⁹⁶ Site visit by Robin Chinnery and Philip Griffiths, 30 September 1999.

⁹⁷ Tenders and correspondence, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/135, op cit., December 1997- January 1998.

⁹⁸ Owen, George 'A History of the Colonial Post Office, Western Australia, 1829-1901 (typescript, March 1959), copies held at National Archives, Battye Library, and RWAHS, p. 92; and Blue Book, 1899, p. 106.

⁹⁹ *The Umpire* 24 February 1900; and Report of the Department of Public Works, 1900, p. 77, op cit.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ *Government Gazette* 28 September 1900.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 9 November 1900.

¹⁰⁵ PWD Contract Book, 1896-1901, op cit., p. 298.

pole erected at the north-east corner of the building at the first floor.¹⁰⁶ The Fire Station is a single storey building constructed of galvanised iron on three sides, and timber at the front on the north, on stone foundation, with a brick chimney, and an iron roof.¹⁰⁷ A low picket fence extends along the front boundary of the latter buildings to the east side boundary of the Post Office.¹⁰⁸

A photograph taken on 30 October 1905, shows the Post Office with plaster lettering 'Post and Telegraph Office'; on the east, the Police Station with a sign 'Police Station' erected on the extant picket fence; the vacant lot; the Fire Station; and the Town Hall, with the extant picket fence at the front of the latter buildings.¹⁰⁹

In 1928, at the ground floor of the Post Office one room was utilised for official purposes, with two rooms used for quarters, including a kitchen.¹¹⁰ At the first floor, there were five rooms, one of which was used as a bathroom.¹¹¹ The quarters were in good condition at that date.¹¹² However, there was no provision in the bathroom for hot water, and so it had to be brought upstairs from the copper in the wash-house in the rear yard.¹¹³ The Inspector supported the Postmaster's request for a bath heater at the first floor, which it was agreed would be implemented.¹¹⁴

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the amount of business conducted at the Post Office decreased, and consequently the Post Office was re-graded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, with changes in staffing accordingly.¹¹⁵ In the latter half of the 1930s and the 1940s, the amount of business increased, the number of staff increased, and the Post Office was upgraded, reaching Grade 3 in 1948.¹¹⁶

On 13 May 1955, the Postmaster applied for approval to construct a garage at the rear of the Post Office, at a total cost of £140, which was duly built.¹¹⁷

In March 1956, Ken Ashton drew plans for an additional building at the Post Office.¹¹⁸ In 1957, the plans for the new brick building to be erected at the rear of the Post Office to provide the required extra space for mail activities were implemented, with some modifications made when new plans were drawn in mid-1957.¹¹⁹ The new building was to include an amenities area for

¹⁰⁶ East Fremantle Post Office, 1903. Town of East Fremantle Collection.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid; and Surveyor's Fieldbooks 20447, p. 13, and 2044, p. 35. PROWA Cons. 3464, WAS 84 Items 14.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ East Fremantle Post Office, 30 October 1904. Town of East Fremantle Collection.

¹¹⁰ Inspection of Premises, Post Office. Post Office, National Archives of Australia, Series K 1184 Item 208/2, 7 September 1928.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid, and 11 September 1928.

¹¹⁵ Memoranda, *ibid*, 26 January 1928, 14 August 1929, 21 January 1930, 16 and 23 July 1930, 26 March 1934, and 11 January 1935.

¹¹⁶ Ibid, 11 January 1935, 13 January 1936, 16 June 1936, and 18 March 1948.

¹¹⁷ Plan of Garage proposed to be erected on Post Office site. Town of East Fremantle, 101 Canning Highway; and East Fremantle P. O. - Block Plan, WA 12309, 19 July 1957. PMG Post Office - proposed additions to building. National Archives of Australia, Series PP280/1 Item P1057/58/734.

¹¹⁸ Post Office. Proposed Additional Building on Post Office Site. *Ibid*, March 1956.

¹¹⁹ C. G. Friend, Director, Posts and Telegraphs, to Director of Works, Department of Works; and Minute re amendment to sketch 3/56. *Ibid*, 5 June 1957 and 31 July 1957.

the staff to replace the lunch room at the rear on the ground floor of the Post Office, which was to be converted to a store; and also replacement facilities for the 'unsatisfactory' Post Office and Quarters toilet block would be located in the new building.¹²⁰

It was decided to carry out general repairs and renovations to the Post Office in conjunction with the work on the new building.¹²¹ Alterations were to be made to the bathroom at the first floor of the Post Office, with a new bath and basin fitted, and a w.c. to be constructed adjacent to the bathroom.¹²² The door between the office and the quarters was to be removed, and the opening filled.¹²³ The existing board ceiling at the first floor was to be covered with fibrous plaster sheeting.¹²⁴ The eastern end of the rear verandah of the place was to be built in for a new laundry, and the existing wash-house was to be demolished.¹²⁵ The remainder of the rear verandah was to be enclosed with asbestos sheeting to provide the Postmaster with greater privacy after the completion of the new mail room, and for protection from the weather.¹²⁶ The place was to be repainted externally and internally 'using high-gloss enamel on woodwork and dadoes.'¹²⁷ The tank and stand were to be removed from the south-east corner of the Postmaster's Quarters.¹²⁸ On completion of the new building, the two lavatories at the rear of the lot were to be demolished.¹²⁹ The CGI screen material was to be salvaged and re-used for the fence between the new building and the laundry, and also for the laundry and verandah at the rear of the Quarters.¹³⁰

On 22 August 1957, after inspection of the north-west and north-east porches and balconies, it was recommended that they be demolished and reconstructed immediately, at an estimated cost of £1,210.¹³¹ Following a further inspection on 23 August it was reported:

The building is 56 years old, poorly sited and in need of extensive repairs. I suggest that it is near the end of its economic life, and steps for its retirement should be considered.¹³²

The suggestion was disregarded, and plans were drawn on 29 August 1957, for the rebuilding of the porch and balconies, with the latter enclosed to form additional rooms at the first floor.¹³³

¹²⁰ Ibid; and East Fremantle P. O. - Block Plan, National Archives WA 12309, 19 July 1957. Ibid.

¹²¹ C. G. Friend, Director, Post and Telegraphs to Director of Works, Department of Works. Ibid, 12 August 1957.

¹²² Ibid; and Post Office - Rebuilding & Balconies, National Archives WA 12371, 29 August 1957.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Specification of Work, Erection of Brick Building and other works at East Fremantle Post Office, Job no. 355, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, 101 Canning Highway, Original East Fremantle Post Office.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Post Office - Rebuilding & Balconies, WA 12371, op cit.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰ Minute, op. cit.

¹³¹ Memorandum, ibid, 22 August 1957.

¹³² Memorandum, ibid, 23 August 1957.

¹³³ Post Office - Rebuilding & Balconies, WA 12371, 29 August 1957. Ibid.

The above works were duly implemented, at a total cost of £5,180.15.¹³⁴ A photograph of 1962 shows the Post Office following the rebuilding of the porches and balconies, with a telephone box located in front of the building.¹³⁵ To the east, is the Police Station, a vacant lot, the former site of the Fire Station, which had been removed at an unknown date, and the Town Hall, with a timber stair erected on the west wall.¹³⁶ The stair was removed and replaced with a steel stair in works carried out in 1965.

On 16 September 1976, the Assistant General Secretary reported that the Police Station, constructed of stone with an iron roof, was in fair condition, as were the quarters.¹³⁷ The quarters attached to the station comprised three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen with a wood stove, passage, enclosed back verandah, with external toilet and laundry; however, it was noted that there were no heating facilities in the quarters.¹³⁸ Mention is made of a solid fuel hot water service, but no bathroom facilities are included in the report.¹³⁹ The station comprised an office, 14' x 10', which was used by the staff of the Station, one Sergeant and three Constables.¹⁴⁰ There were 'no mess facilities, no public counter, no private interview room, insufficient room to work efficiently.'¹⁴¹ The population of the district serviced by the Police Station had increased to 14,135, and it was considered that 'the station is obviously in need of an up-dated design for amenities and facilities for staff and the public.'¹⁴²

On 3 March 1978, a spokesman for Australia Post stated that East Fremantle Post Office 'is an old grey structure which is far too big for the business it is doing.'; and it was reported that Australia Post was 'looking at the possibility of putting in a smaller post office at Richmond shopping centre if it was developed.'¹⁴³

In September 1978, *Public Buildings, East Fremantle* was assessed by Messrs. Cala, Bodycoat, de Burgh, Hodgson, and Hart for the National Trust of Australia (W. A.), under the name of East Fremantle Municipal Group, and at that date the condition of the Post Office and quarters was 'excellent', and the Police Station and lock-up was in 'good condition'.¹⁴⁴ The group was recorded by the Trust on 2 July 1979.¹⁴⁵

In 1980, the Police Station was reduced to a 'one-man station'.¹⁴⁶ In March 1981, the Police Station was closed, and East Fremantle was included in the Fremantle Police Subdivision, resulting in 'Greater overall efficiency'.¹⁴⁷

¹³⁴ Completed cost, noted on works requisition. Ibid.

¹³⁵ East Fremantle Post Office, 1962. Town of East Fremantle Collection.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ P. J. E. Stingemore, Assistant General Secretary's Report in *Police News* October 1976, p. 8.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

¹³⁹ Ibid.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ *The West Australian* 3 August 1978.

¹⁴⁴ East Fremantle Municipal Group, National Trust of Australia (W. A.), East Fremantle, 14. September 1978. Note: National Trust of Australia (W. A.) no longer employs the category of 'Recorded'.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid, 2 July 1979.

¹⁴⁶ Annual Report, 1982, p. 18.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

On 7 July 1981, the former Post Office and quarters were transferred to the Commissioner of Main Roads.¹⁴⁸ The Post Office was transferred to the newly developed shopping centre adjacent to the eastern side of the Town Hall. On 8 July 1981, 50 square metres of land at the south-west corner of Swan Location 4274, (Post Office Lot) at King Street was resumed by the Main Roads Department, for future road works, reducing the area of the site of the Post Office from 733 to 683 square metres.¹⁴⁹ Resumptions were made also from the neighbouring reserves in 1984.¹⁵⁰

In February 1981, the former Post Office and quarters were converted for use as the headquarters for the South Metropolitan Region of the State Emergency Services.¹⁵¹ Over the next two years, work was carried out on the conversion of the place for that role, with advice provided by the National Trust of Australia (W.A.) regarding colours for the paintwork.¹⁵² The work was also intended to upgrade the place, and 'to make the whole of the grounds suitable for operation by the State Emergency Services.'¹⁵³ It included removal of some fences and erection of a 1830mm high chainwire security fence, establishment of new gardens, with the retention of one of the existing grape vines, and construction of a new pergola and a carport at the rear.¹⁵⁴ On 26 October 1983, the place was officially opened as the Headquarters of the South Metropolitan Region of the State Emergency Services by the Hon. J. P. Carr, B. A., M. L. A.¹⁵⁵ It remained the Headquarters until the mid 1990s.

In September 1995, the Town of East Fremantle declined the offer of the lease of the former East Fremantle Post Office by Main Roads Department at a rental of \$1,850 per month.¹⁵⁶

In June 1996, planning consent was given for the use of the former East Fremantle Post Office for retailing of antiques.¹⁵⁷ The place has been tenanted by Manera Antiques since late 1996.¹⁵⁸

In March 1998, the Town of East Fremantle advised the Main Roads Department that it wished to purchase the former East Fremantle Post Office; however, the Town was advised that under the terms of the lease to Manera Antiques the sale could not be undertaken without the lessee having the same opportunity to purchase the place, and consequently Lot 4274 was not

¹⁴⁸ Advice to Town of East Fremantle from Deputy Crown Solicitor. Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit., 3 August 1981.

¹⁴⁹ Certificate of Title, portion of Swan Location 4274, Vol. CT 1594 Fol. 799, 8 July 1981.

¹⁵⁰ Plan of Fremantle Eastern Bypass, 1984. Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit.

¹⁵¹ *Fremantle Gazette* 26 May 1982.

¹⁵² Correspondence re East Fremantle Municipal Group, National Trust of Australia (W. A.), op cit., 1981-1983; and Old East Fremantle Post Office, S. E. S. Reg. Office Stage II, PWD 245/02/01, 25 October 1982, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit.

¹⁵³ Memorandum, Re Former Post Office, *ibid*, n.d., 1983.

¹⁵⁴ State Emergency Services 101 Canning Highway, Site Development Plan, PWD 245/03/01, 24 January 1983, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit.

¹⁵⁵ Invitation to Mr. R. H. Clement, C. E. O., National Trust of Australia (W. A.) from K. F. Egan, Regional Co-ordinator of S. E. S. , South Metropolitan Region, East Fremantle Municipal Group, National Trust of Australia (W. A.), op cit., October 1983.

¹⁵⁶ C. Corica, Acting Town Clerk of East Fremantle, to MRD, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/135, 135 Canning Highway, 17 October 1995.

¹⁵⁷ Application 066A, Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, op cit., 17 June 1996.

¹⁵⁸ L. A. Vicary, CEO Town of East Fremantle to D. R. Warner, Corporate Director, MRD, *ibid*, 15 November 1996.

available for sale, and the situation would be reviewed at the expiration of the lease in 2004, 'depending upon options being exercised.'¹⁵⁹

In November 1995, *Public Buildings, East Fremantle* was included in the Municipal Inventory of the Town of East Fremantle.¹⁶⁰

In 1999, *Public Buildings, East Fremantle* is in use as follows: the former East Fremantle Post Office continues in use by Manera Antiques, for retailing and storage of antiques; the former East Fremantle Police Station continues in use by Community Radio 100 FM; and East Fremantle Town Hall continues in use as municipal hall and offices for the Town of East Fremantle.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Public Buildings, East Fremantle comprises the former Police Station (1899), Town Hall (1900), and former Post Office (1901). Police Station is a single storey, police station and quarters, with charge room, cell yard and two cells, constructed in 1899, the former of limestone, and the latter of brick, with corrugated iron roofs.

The Town Hall is a two storey building, comprising hall and offices for the Town of East Fremantle, the latter of which include the former quarters of the Town Clerk. In 1900, the place was constructed of brick, which was rendered, with a corrugated iron roof, as the municipal hall, and offices for the Town of East Fremantle, and included quarters for the Town Clerk. Additions were made in 1902, comprising the Mechanics Institute and Library.

The former Post Office, a two storey building, constructed of brick, rendered, with an iron roof, was constructed as Post Office and quarters in 1900-01.

Siting of the Group

The group is located on Canning Highway, East Fremantle, on the south side of the Highway, with the former Post Office on the western side of the group, the former Police Station near the centre, with the site of the former Fire Station next to it, and then the Town Hall on the eastern side. The landfall is from the north to the south across Canning Highway. The road is a two way pair highway with a narrow raised median for part of the way and double white lines where there is no median. The footpath is brick paved, and there are Main Roads standard steel pole mounted lights in the street.

Apart from the gap left by the loss of the Fire Station, the group of places make up a distinctive group, which is given an unintended additional prominence by the construction of the Stirling Bridge and the extension of Stirling Highway through to Leach Highway to the west of the group.

Former Police Station (1899)

The former Police Station is a limestone construction single storey, police station and quarters, with charge room, cell yard and two brick construction cells (1899), together with a free standing frame construction laundry (1915), and all with corrugated iron roofs.

The building is located to the east of the former Post Office and is set back from the front edge of the property behind a tubular steel and chainlink fence, separated from the pavement by a buffalo grass lawn and narrow garden beds. There are side setbacks, the one to the east only 3'0" (900mm)

¹⁵⁹ Correspondence between D. R. Warner, MRD, and T. Ford, CEO, Town of East Fremantle, Town of East Fremantle File no. P/CAN/101, op cit., March 1998.

¹⁶⁰ Municipal Inventory, Town of East Fremantle, November 1995.

wide and on the western side some 16'0" (4.9m) wide, the former a vacant strip and the latter a brick paved driveway extending down to the former lockup area.

The rear gardens contain the timber framed laundry (1915), two brick construction iron roof holding cells, a BBQ on the eastern boundary and a timber frame shelter for the Town's bus. The rear of the lot is slightly truncated. There is no evidence of the lockup yard fences or any of the original perimeter fences.

The former Police Station is a Federation Bungalow style building constructed in tuck-pointed rusticated limestone, with a hipped roof covered with corrugated iron. The chimneys are constructed in brickwork. The front elevation is symmetrically disposed with a full width verandah, masonry walls, with a central four panel door with a hopper light over it, flanked with two pane double hung sash windows to the room either side of the passage. The verandah is supported with timber posts with simple post brackets, and the floor is a replacement treatment of concrete. A verandah on the western side is a later addition, which was built in stages (1915 and 1968). This verandah has no floor as such, but rather an extension of the paved driveway.

In common with most Federation Bungalow buildings, the planning of the place is based on a central corridor and flanking rooms. In this case there are four principal rooms in the body of the house; A fifth room, which was the former charge room, extends from the south-west corner. The rooms are all rectangular with timber floors, moulded skirtings, plastered walls and lath and plaster ceilings. However, in some instances these finishes have been covered with acoustic absorption material to suit the present studio functions.

Room 3 is the only room not to have been effected by the new arrangements and retains all of its original finishes, including its fireplace and surround. Room 1 has been divided into three smaller spaces by partitions and the walls have been partly covered with acoustic treatments. It retains its corner fireplace. Room 2, the corridor, remains in its original format with minor modifications, such as door treatments, together with air conditioning air inlet grilles.

Room 4 retains its original plan, but all surfaces are now obscured by acoustic treatments. Room 5 retains its original features, but has been divided by partitions and the walls are mostly obscured by shelving. Room 6 remains unchanged with its partitions, and short flight of steps, linking the main station level with the former charge room, which is now another studio (Room 7) and transmitter room (Room 8). Room 8 appears to have been constructed at a much later date, and it is a framed construction addition, which leaves the original limestone wall intact. The entire place has been modified to varying degrees to accommodate the present radio station and its support functions.

In the rear garden there are a timber framed asbestos cement clad laundry and two English bond brickwork construction holding cells with steel doors. A brick construction BBQ is located immediately to the east of the holding cells.

The place is in fair to good condition and much of the deterioration could be remedied quite easily. The main modifications are additive partitions, doors, and acoustic treatments. All of these changes might be reversed quite readily and the former spatial qualities regained.

Town Hall and Mechanics' Institute. (1900, 1902 and later additions)

The East Fremantle Town Hall is a rendered brick and limestone construction two storey town hall and civic administration building.

The building is located to the east of the former Police Station and the site of the former Fire Station. It is set back from the front edge of the property in an essentially hard landscaped street, with garden beds and street tree plantings of deciduous exotic species. An 1897 post box is located at the eastern end of the forecourt area. There is a double ganged carpark across the rear and another car park to the west on the site of the former Fire Station. There is soft landscaping to the rear or east of the major carpark.

The rear gardens have low masonry retaining walls and areas of grass, with mixed exotic and native plants.

The Town Hall is a Federation Free Classical style building, constructed with limestone foundation walls and rendered brickwork ground and first floor walls with a gambrel Colorbond covered roof.

The front elevation is symmetrically disposed but for later additions on the eastern side. The elevation is arranged in an ABABA rhythm of major and minor bays. The lower portion or ground floor is made up of pairs of low arched head windows set over a rendered plinth, in a rusticated rendered wall. The upper windows in the piano noble or first floor correspond to the lower, but are full semicircular head windows with keystone and moulded arches and a string course at the arch pitching point. Each window has a recessed panel under it. The bay is terminated at its top by a deep entablature supported on console brackets, a detail that runs the whole length of the façade. The east and west minor bays have engaged Corinthian pilasters at their corners and over each of these a giant order acroteria has been set. The two major bays mark the entry points to the building, though only the eastern entry point to the town hall remains in use. The bays are thrust forward of the main wall plane and the bays are further articulated by engaged Corinthian pilasters. In place of the windows at the ground floor level, there are pairs of panelled doors. These bays are treated in the same manner as the minor bays up to the entablature, where each bay is terminated with a decorated tympanum, stepped parapet and further decorated by the inclusion of a semicircular pediment flanked by acroteria. The windows are single pane double hung sashes. The words 'East Fremantle' appear in bas relief on the eastern entablature and there are only scars where the word 'Mechanics' once appeared on the western entablature.

The remaining elevations are simply treated without decoration. The elements at the front of the building retain their classical proportions, and those at the rear are more utilitarian in their resolution. There is a steel fire escape stair on the west elevation and a garden area (1980) on the east elevation, made up of brick paving, column and beam arcade and steel grille infill. The ground falls away to the east, so that at the rear, there is access to the area under the building. These areas have been converted into storage. The treatments to the rear elevation are plain and make no stylistic references to the original building.

Only with the assistance of plans can the original layout be read. The plan was arranged in two separate parts for the Town Hall and Mechanics' Institute. However, numerous alterations and additions to the interior have left few of the original spaces untouched. The entrance lobby is the only space that is capable of being read as part of the original layout. It has

replacement ceilings, the original timber stair with turned newels and balusters, and the later marble Honour Rolls along the eastern wall.

All other spaces have been modified and now have drop-in plasterboard or acoustic tile ceilings. Rooms have been subdivided with glazed and timber veneer faced partitions. Successive additions have required progressively more openings in the original walls. The overall reading of the internal fabric is a story of progressive change, change that has had little regard for the spatial qualities of the original fabric.

The place is in fair to good condition, though there is some cracking in the main façade that appears to be cause for concern. Much of the original fabric is concealed from view by carpeting and suspended ceilings so that its condition is difficult to ascertain without making invasive investigations. Overall the place would appear to be in fair condition.

Former Post Office (1901)

The former Post Office is a two storey building, constructed of brick and rendered brick, with a corrugated asbestos roof, which was constructed as Post Office and quarters in 1900-01. There is a brick construction former mailroom to the rear, which also accommodated amenities and cycle storage.

The building is the westernmost of the group of places. It is set back from the edge of the property with street paving extending up to the whole of the frontage. It would appear that the building extends to both side boundaries on the present title configuration.

The rear gardens contain the former mail and amenities room, a timber pergola, and dense shrubbery. The rear of the lot is truncated, removing a substantial section of the original title. There is no evidence of original perimeter fences.

The former Post Office is a Federation Classical style building constructed in stretcher bond brickwork, and rendered brickwork with a hipped roof covered with corrugated asbestos cement sheeting. The chimneys are constructed in brickwork with decorative render string courses. The front elevation is a symmetrically disposed bay elevation with an ABBA rhythm. The lower floor is a rendered rusticated storey with single pane double hung sash windows en-chain to the centre bays. The lower floor windows have semicircular arched heads with keystones, the upper floor windows are flat arched. Each of the windows has modern security grilles fixed over its outside face. The end bays contain symmetrically disposed porches at ground floor level, and arched head double hung sash windows at first floor level. The porches are part of the original fabric, and have 4 panel timber doors with glazed sidelights and hopper lights over the doors. The floor is replacement granolithic. The windows at the upper level over the porches are later infill to the original quarter verandahs. The return east and west elevations follow the pattern of the front elevation. The rear elevation has a full width two storey verandah, almost all of which has been infilled with fibro cement cladding to make a range of narrow rooms. A small section of verandah remains at first floor level, indicating the nature of the original fabric with vertical balusters, square timber posts with post brackets and a cornice mould around the bottom of the post brackets.

Though the building is treated with symmetrical elevations, the interior planning is not symmetrical. The asymmetry arises from the main staircase being offset against the east wall and the requirement for a larger postal hall with ancillary rooms attached to it.

The ground floor consists of three original rooms and stair hall, and a series of infill rooms on the former verandah. The stair hall (Room 1) has pine board floors, a plasterboard ceiling, plastered walls and a timber staircase with square newels, balusters, and a matchboarded infill under the first flight. The adjacent room (Room 2) also has pine floors, a plasterboard ceiling, plastered walls and a fireplace with surround. The firebox has been modified to receive a room heater. The south side of the chimney breast has a deep arch connecting the breast to the southern wall. The former postal hall (Room 3) is similar to Room 2, but the fireplace and surround have been removed, as has the external door into the front porch. There is severe damp in the south wall.

The former communications room (Room 4) is part of the original verandah, which has been infilled. The masonry walls are painted Flemish bond brickwork, and the remaining framed walls and soffits are clad in fibrous cement sheeting. All windows have been blocked in, with the exception of the window between Rooms 3 and 4, which has been removed from its opening, leaving behind an untreated opening. Rooms 1-4 and Room 7 are used for the display of antiques. The former operations office is very similar to the other ground floor rooms in the main section of the building, but retains its lath and plaster ceiling. It is fitted out with kitchen fittings that appear to have been fabricated in the 1960s.

The remainder of the verandah is a lobby (Room 5) and bathroom (Room 6). Both of these areas have interior fitouts that date from the late 1950s or later.

The first floor was the post master's residence, and is now used for display purposes. The plan is organized around the access stair at the eastern end of the building and a central corridor that runs east west. The main walls are masonry, but the corridor walls are lath and plaster partitions. Ceilings to all rooms within the main body of the building are lath and plaster, and each room has a fireplace in varying degrees of intactness. The corridor has an imposing arch at its counterpoint. Rooms 10 and 17 have been produced by infilling the verandahs. All rooms have moulded timber skirtings.

The rooms that have been achieved by infilling the verandahs have either tongue and grooved lined or fibrous cement lined ceilings, painted brick and fibrous cement lined walls, and carpeted timber floors.

The bathroom and toilet at the eastern end of the verandah (Room 8) has vinyl floors, laminate clad walls, fibrous plaster and plasterboard ceilings, and fittings that are consistent with the 1957 date on the contract drawings.

The place is in fair to good condition and much of the deterioration could be remedied quite easily, apart from what appears to be a longstanding problem with damp in the west wall. Some modifications have involved removal of original material and others have involved adding construction. None of these changes detract from the essential qualities of the place. All of these changes might be reversed quite readily and the former spatial qualities regained.

The former mail room consists of two major spaces and two minor spaces. The exterior is stretcher bond brickwork and the interior consists of plaster brick walls and partitions, granolithic floors, plasterboard ceilings with coves. The original kitchen and toilet fittings remain in place. The building is in good condition.

3.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Groups of civic buildings are common enough in Western Australian towns, but few small towns have such a high degree of focus as East Fremantle. At its full development stage the group included Town Hall, Mechanics' Institute, Fire Station, Police Station and Post Office in separate contiguous buildings. The only other group that comes close to replicating this grouping in the State is at Bridgetown, where Police Station and Lock-Up, Police Quarters, Post Office, Town Hall and Mechanics' Institute occur in sequence.

J.F. Allen was an immigrant architect who was born in Cornwall and trained in New South Wales. He also designed the Orphanage at Cottesloe, which later became Wanslea, and was a prominent member of the community serving on hospital boards, the Rottnest Island Board, and was associated with a number of sporting clubs and associations.

13.4 REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition, September 1978.

Plympton Police Station. PROWA Cons. 430 AN 5/1 Item 2092/98, 1898.

Plympton Police Station Occurrence Book, 31 December 1898- 23 June 1900. PROWA Cons. 678 WAA 578 WAS 1081.

Post Office, National Archives of Australia Series K 1184 Item 208/2.

PMG Post Office - proposed additions to building. National Archives of Australia, Series PP280/1 Item P1057/58/734.

Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/101, 101 Canning Highway, Original East Fremantle Post Office.

Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/103, 133 Canning Highway.

Town of East Fremantle, File no. P/CAN/135, 135 Canning Highway.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Minute Books of the Town of East Fremantle may yield further information about the place, when they are available for research, following accessioning at PROWA.

Any future site works at the place, should include investigation of possible archaeological sites, including the sites of the Fire Station, and various outbuildings at each Lot, including the underground magazine and stone bin at the rear of the Town Hall.