



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 variety of warm colours and textures provided by the stonework and brickwork creates visual interest. The consistent use of these materials provides a unifying theme to *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex*. Individual buildings remain distinguishable by their three-dimensional form and scale contribution to the intricate massing of the complex. This massing contributes to the approach connecting Avon Terrace with the river. (Criteria 1.1, 1.3)

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex offers a variety of entry points and entrance types, as well as a variety of internal and external spaces and interconnections, that creates interesting architectural spaces. The detail shows evidence of craftsmanship and skill in the work of the blacksmith, the carpenter, the joiner and the stonemason. (Criterion 1.2)

The design of the *Courthouse and Police Station* on Avon Terrace deliberately builds on the strength of the adjacent *Post Office*, continuing the rich palette of materials and the architectural detail for scale, rhythm and texture, but adds its own inventive arrangement of classical elements. The three-dimensional sculptural mass of each building is carefully expressed to achieve a bold but balanced composition with strong sculptural form. The design elements of symmetry, rhythm, proportion and scale are carefully handled and the use of local stone and brick also serves to unify the disparate group of buildings. The result is a piece of elegant townscape of great value to Avon Terrace. (Criteria 1.3, 1.4)

The *Courthouse* makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Avon Terrace by carrying on the architectural character and materials of the *Post Office* with its own variation on the theme. From the river end of the place the *Lock-up Keeper's* and *Sergeant's Quarters* contribute a softer note, with domestic scale and detail, and gardens that make a visual connection with the park and landscape along the river across Low Street. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has a close association with the development of the law and law enforcement in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.1)

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has historic value for its strong links with so many of the key phases of development in York and in the State, particularly the convict era and the gold boom, and its association with prominent figures in that history. The continuity of a civic presence in Avon Terrace and a long history of government and police use of the site makes an important contribution to the historical value of the town. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2)

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex provides an important insight into the history of the State as well as a map of development of York and its district. Apart from the very first stage of early settlement, 1835 - 1850, each main phase is represented by fabric on the site. (Criterion 2.1)

The *Cell Block* of 1852 appears to be one of the very few of its type remaining the State. The *Cell Block* has a close association with the Convict Establishment. (Criteria 2.1, 2.2)

The *Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* is linked with the convict phase of development that was particularly important to rural towns like York. (Criterion 2.2)

The 1874 *Court Room* and exercise yard are associated with the development of the State and the district that followed the convict era. (Criterion 2.2)

The 1896 *Courthouse* clearly shows the changes that occurred during the gold boom in the State and assists in demonstrating its impact on York - providing new architecture with improved quantity and quality of space and expressing civic pride. It has a close association with the first Premier of the State, Sir John Forrest, and the first Government Architect, George Temple Poole. (Criteria 2.2, 2.3)

The *Police Station*, together with the *Police Quarters* demonstrate the developments in policing and housing standards stimulated by the prosperity of the gold boom in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has enormous potential as an educational resource for architects, historians and students. The level of integrity and the public nature of the place make it an accessible reference site for the development of architectural design and building technology from the 1850s to the 1910s in Western Australia. Few other sites offer the same quality and range of examples. There is also the opportunity to relate primary documentary sources, (Convict Establishment, Colonial Secretary's Office, Government Records, Police Records, and documents found on the site) with real physical evidence to fill out the detail of the intimate and complex web of social interaction between the various users of the place and the rest of York society. The place may yet reveal more to the archaeologist. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex is representative of the development of legal administration, services and associated accommodation in Western Australia from 1852 onwards. It contains within its fabric, evidence of changes over time and depicts the development of the area of York as a place of legal and administrative prominence. By providing a physical and social link with the past importance of York as a regional centre, *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* contributes to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex is held in great esteem by the local community, and by tourists to the area. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex is a rare example of continuous government development for the purposes of law and law enforcement on one site from 1852 to 1910. (Criterion 5.2)

The *Cell Block* of 1852 is one of the few remaining examples of its type and age in the State. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has social value for its demonstration of a range of historic ways of living and working, and is unusual because it permits direct comparisons to be made between court rooms and quarters of different periods. (Criterion 6.2)

The *Cell Block* clearly demonstrates both the expertise and craftsmanship brought to Western Australia by the Convict Establishment in the 1850s, and the way of maintaining law and order that developed during that time. The conditions of life in a lock-up of that period are still obvious. The construction of additional yards and day rooms, and changes to the cells over the ensuing years, indicate the changing nature and scale of the operation. (Criterion 6.2)

The 1874 *Court Room* provides a clear comparison with the court room in the 1896 *Courthouse*. It illustrates that few changes occurred in the due process of law, but the influx of capital available during the gold boom, ensured it was carried out with far greater convenience and comfort. It is the volume of the interior space of the court room and the elaborate exterior expression that sets the *Courthouse* apart from other court houses of its period and demonstrates the prominence of York in gold boom society. The layout of the rooms in the 1896 *Courthouse* demonstrates the hierarchy of the court with its separate rooms and circulation routes for judge, lawyers, jury, witnesses, public, press and prisoners. This legal protocol is still evident in the legal process of today. (Criterion 6.2)

The *Stables* and the *Trooper's Cottages* demonstrate a nineteenth century way of policing and living. The *Lock-up Keeper's* and *Sergeant's Quarters*,

built early in the twentieth century, provide a comparison with the *Stables* and the *Trooper's Cottage* which demonstrate a nineteenth century way of policing and living. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The *Cell Block* and Day Room, and the *Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* require repairs to the structural components which have been subject to water damage.

The 1874 *Court Room* is in sound condition but some cracks are evident and should be tell-taled and monitored with the *Cell Block* and the *Trooper's Cottage* before repairs are attempted.

The 1896 *Courthouse* is in good condition for its age, has very few items that call for immediate repair, but has a substantial backlog of maintenance that much be dealt with progressively to keep it in use and to protect the significant fabric.

The *Police Station* is in a similar condition to the *Courthouse* and its current use requires little changes to the fabric.

The *Lock-up Keepers Quarters* and the *Sergeant's Quarters* are in sound condition, although there is a backlog of maintenance, including some immediate repairs and upgrading of services to support the current uses, required for both buildings. This will need to be followed by ongoing maintenance to keep the houses in use and protect their significant fabric in the future.

The physical condition of these buildings will impose some constraints on the range of uses that might be considered appropriate in the future. For a full discussion of the condition of the place and the extent of required work please refer to the Conservation Plan.¹

12.4 INTEGRITY

According to van Bremen, some parts of the complex have a sufficient level of significance to demand preservation in their own right, including:

- The Cell Block, day room, and associated yards

- The Trooper's Cottage, Stables and yard

- the 1874 Court Room

- the entrance lobby to the 1896 Courthouse

- the court room in the 1896 Courthouse

For other parts of the complex, continuity of use to support the continuity of the fabric would be an appropriate conservation policy, including:

- the Courthouse offices and auxiliary rooms

- the Police Station

- the Lock-Up Keeper's Quarters

¹ van Bremen, I. *York Court House, Police Station & Lockup. Conservation Plan for the National Trust of Australia (WA)* (September, 1993), p.47. A full list of the identified faults with both houses is listed in the same report, *ibid.*, pp. 58-60.

the Sergeant's Quarters

Although the precinct is no longer primarily used for legal and administrative functions, the use of the place as a museum depicting the past history of the place is compatible with the original function of the place. The use of the *Courthouse* for meetings of the National Trust Committee and other local groups is compatible with this integrity.

The contemporary uses of the two houses do not impinge upon the significance of the places, and therefore they retain a reasonable degree of integrity.

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Some alterations and replacement of building fabric has occurred over the years consistent with their use as a complex of working buildings; however, the buildings are substantially intact. Internal fittings have been changed and modified over the years and reconstructions of internal fittings in 1984 are mostly based on original working drawings.

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex has a reasonable degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex comprises four major components: the *Gaol* with the original *Cell Block* (1852), the first Exercise Yard (Day Room) (c.1854, 1870s), *Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* (1860s, 1879), *Court Room* (1874), and Exercise Yard (1880s); the *Courthouse* (1896); the *Police Station* (1908); and the *Police Quarters* comprising two houses: the *Lockup Keeper's Quarters* (1903) and the *Sergeant's Quarters* (1910).

Exploration of the York district dates from 1830 and settlement of the town from 1831. Boosted by the successful farming of the hinterland, the town of York prospered over the next sixty years. This prosperity was given further impetus when York became the staging point for the rush to the newly discovered Eastern Goldfields in the early 1890s.

The site of *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* has been used for civic and legal functions since 1837. The first building on the site was the Barracks and Commissariat store and Gaol constructed, in 1837, by the Civil Engineer to the Colony. These buildings are no longer extant although the foundations of the barracks are still visible.

This was followed, in 1841, by Police Stables which are no longer extant, and, in 1842, by a Courthouse and Survey Office, which are also no longer extant but remains of the floor are visible.²

In 1852, the first of the surviving buildings by constructed for the Convict Establishment, under the direction of Henderson and Jewell.

² *ibid.*, fig. 1.1.

Additions were made to the place during the convict era and included:

1859 - Additions to southern end of offices

1859 - 60 Addition of room and verandahs to northern end of the offices

1860 - Sergeants room under verandah of offices³

1867 - Verandah to stables and troopers cottages

1867-70 - Exercise yard added

c. 1867 - Room added to the northern end of the offices

1867 - Resident's Office and Post office.⁴

During the period 1872-1886, the place underwent a number of minor changes: In 1870, the addition of a roof to the exercise yard and the construction of a cookhouse. In 1874, a new courthouse was constructed on the southern elevation of the cell block next to the post office. In 1875, an exercise yard was created adjacent to the new courthouse.

After 1886, under the direction of George Temple Poole, the Chief Architect of the newly created Public Works Department, the complex was upgraded and developed to meet the changing needs of the administration of the police station, the courts and the gaol. In 1896, some of the earlier buildings were demolished to make way for the *Courthouse* and later buildings. The last substantial construction to take place was the *Sergeant's Quarters* in 1910.⁵

The buildings which comprise the current *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* are outlined below.

Cell Block (1852),

According to van Bremen, records of the Convict Establishment describe ticket-of-leave men stationed at York "...making and digging foundations for jail, quarrying stone and carting" in February 1852 and the 'Return of Hours Consumed in the York Gaol' for January, February and March of 1852 records a total of 402 man hours by ticket-of-leave men - clearly a substantial building.⁶ The cell block and attached police quarters were completed by December 1852. Cell blocks at the other early hiring stations (Albany, Toodyay) that are still extant, are later in date. Only Guildford claims to have something similar.⁷

first Exercise Yard (Day Room) (1854, c.1867, 1870s)⁸

³ *ibid.*, fig. 2.2.

⁴ *ibid.*, fig. 2.3.

⁵ van Bremen, I. *York Court House, Police Station & Lockup. Conservation Plan for the National Trust of Australia (WA)* (September, 1993)

⁶ *ibid.*, p. 4 and fig. 2.1.

⁷ van Bremen, I. 'York Court House, Police Station & Lockup. Conservation Plan', (for the National Trust of Australia (WA), September, 1993).

⁸ van Bremen states the date as 1854? on page 19 but has between 1867-70 on her chronological mapping in figure 2.3.

The first exercise yard was built circa 1854 and modified in 1867 and in the 1870s by the addition of a roof which converted it to a day room.⁹

In 1859, a Court House was constructed at the southern end of the 1852 Police Quarters. This is still extant and was incorporated into the 1879 *Court Room*.

In 1859 and 1863, additional rooms were constructed on the northern side of the Police Quarters and a verandah built on three sides of the building. None of these structures are extant although evidence remains of fireplaces and the roof line of the original buildings within a small courtyard formed between the cell block and the 1896 *Courthouse*.¹⁰

Stables and Trooper's Cottage (1860s, 1879),

In approximately 1865 a *Trooper's Cottage* with Stables and a Yard was constructed at the rear of the cell block. This was later modified with the addition of verandah in front of the stables.¹¹

Minor alterations to the complex continued to be made with an additional room for the benefit of police families, containing a kitchen/cookhouse and a wash-house.¹²

Resident's Office (1867)

In 1867, a Resident's Office was built in front of the Court Room. This building was demolished in 1908 when the *Police Station* was built.¹³

Court Room (1874)

In 1874, plans were drawn up by R. R. Jewell, Clerk of Works in Public Works Office, to extend the 1859 Court Room eastwards to create a larger room, approximately 30' x 25', with doorways to the major offices and the cell block. Herbert Monger's tender of £245 for these alteration was accepted in March 1874. It seems likely that the last cell was converted into a passage at this time and the awkward left-over space between *Court Room* and *Cell Block* created.¹⁴

Exercise Yard (1880s)

In the 1880s an exercise yard was created adjacent to the new courthouse.¹⁵

Courthouse (1896);

In 1885, York was connected to Perth and Fremantle by rail and a railway station, with station master's quarters, built. As the line was extended, York became an important regional centre and, with the discovery of gold, the traffic through York increased considerably as prospectors travelled from Albany to York, and from York to the goldfields. York became a

⁹ *ibid.*, fig. 2.3. and fig. 3.1.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, pp. 6-8, also fig. 4.1.

¹¹ *ibid.*, fig. 2.2, fig. 2.3.

¹² *ibid.*, p. 8.

¹³ *ibid.*, fig. 2.3; p. 14.

¹⁴ *ibid.*, . 8-9.

¹⁵ *ibid.*,

miner's supply centre and cases for miner's rights were heard in the court. In 1886, repairs and alterations were done to *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* but it was not until 1891, when Western Australia was granted responsible government with the power to raise loans for public works, that a major building program was undertaken to increase accommodation for the courts. One of the first consequences for York was the design and construction of a new large *Post Office* on Avon Terrace adjacent to the *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex*.¹⁶

The scale and size of this new building was different from that which had been previously constructed on Avon Terrace and was designed by George Temple Poole of the Public Works department who was also responsible for the design of the new *Court House*.

Poole was an English born and trained architect and engineer who had arrived in Western Australia, in 1885, to take up the position of Superintendent of Public Works. Under various official titles, including Colonial Architect, and Assistant Engineer-in-Chief, he headed the architectural section of the Public Works from its infancy to its gold boom heydays in the 1890s. While he did not personally design and detail every building produced by the Public Works Department in this period, the architectural character and building technology that was developed under his control owes much to his experience and vision. According to van Bremen, the level of Public Works design and construction established under Poole's direction set the standard for PWD construction up to the first world war.¹⁷

In June 1895, a tender of £2605 10s 1d from Thorn, Bower and Stewart was accepted for the construction of the new *Court House*. The foundation stone was laid on 24 October 1895.¹⁸

The *Court House* was officially opened in December 1896, with the Premier, Sir John Forrest, declaring that "...it was seen to be a building worthy of the district and of the colony, showing unmistakably the progress going on all around them".¹⁹

Some repairs to the *Stables* and *Gaol* were done at this time together with ongoing maintenance to the complex.²⁰

Lockup Keeper's Quarters (1903)

In 1903, the *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters*, behind the stables to the north, was constructed. A tender for £547 7s 10d was accepted in May from A. J. Stewart (probably from the original firm Thorn, Bower & Stewart, the contractors for the Court House). The design and documentation was under the direction of the new Chief Architect, J. H. Grainger who had replaced Poole in 1897.²¹

16 *ibid.*, p. 10.

17 *ibid.*, p. 12.

18 *ibid.*,

19 *ibid.*, p.13.

20 *ibid.*, p. 14.

21 *ibid.*,

An undated plan, probably drawn in association with minor site works that took place in 1924, shows the backyard of the *Lockup Keeper's Quarters* having a wash house, a water tank and stand, and a separate earth closet.²²

Police Station (1908)

In March 1908, a tender for 'York Police Buildings Additions' was accepted from J. Hart for a sum of £482 3s 5d. The new *Police Station* was built along Avon Terraces, replacing the Resident's Office (1867) and the verandah.²³ The single storey building followed the stylistic details of the *Courthouse* which it abutted.

Sergeant's Quarters (1910).

In 1908, tenders were called for a new 'brick Police Quarters at York'. Work was in progress in 1909 and completed in September 1910, at a cost of £531 3s.

A block plan of the complex, drawn after 1910, shows the *Sergeant's Quarters* to comprise a six roomed house with a central passage, three bedrooms, and a living room. The kitchen and bathroom are at the rear of the house; there is a separate earth closet.

No further major construction took place at *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* after this construction, although in the period 1924-1977 various alterations were made to the complex to accommodate changing work and sanitation requirements. These are outlined in van Bremen, pp. 15-17.

The complex remained in use as a courthouse, police station and lockup facility until 1981, when the functions of the police station and lock-up were relocated to new premises at the northern end of the town. The *Courthouse* continued in usage, under the control of the PWD.²⁴

In 1949, the land was gazetted as a reserve for use of public buildings.²⁵

In 1984, the National Trust (WA) took up a twenty-one year lease on the *Police Station, Cell Block* and *Stables* area of the complex.

It was the government's intention to vest the building complex in the National Trust (WA) and, when finance was available, to convert it for use as the Trust headquarters in York, as offices for the W. A. Tourism Bureau and as a small common meeting room to be shared by local groups. It was proposed to open the old *Cell Block* and the *Stables* to the public.²⁶

The *Police Station, Cell Block, Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* were restored in 1983-94, under the direction of architect Kevin Palassis for a cost of \$250,000.²⁷

²² *ibid.*, p. 15.

²³ *ibid.*, p. 14.

²⁴ *ibid.*, p. 17.

²⁵ 14 October 1949

²⁶ van Bremen, p. 17.

²⁷ *ibid.*,

The official re-opening was held on 12 May 1984. The press report of the occasion stated that the former *Police Quarters* would be used as caretaker's quarters and that the *Court House* and Magistrate's rooms were still occasionally used for legal and administrative purposes but would be open to the public as part of the display when not in use.²⁸

The Trust managed the complex and, in September 1993, the *Courthouse* and *Police Quarters*, were officially added to the property vested the National Trust (WA).²⁹

The Trust currently leases the *Police Quarters* out for \$24,000 and \$29,000. One house is let to the manager of the Tourist Bureau. *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex* is a popular tourist destination and images of the complex are used on promotional material for the Shire.

For a more detailed history of the development of the complex see van Bremen, I. 'York Court House, Police Station & Lock-up. Conservation Plan', (for the National Trust of Australia (WA), September 1993).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex comprises four major components: the *Gaol* with the original *Cell Block* (1852), the first Exercise Yard (Day Room) (c.1854, 1870s), *Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* (1860s, 1879), *Court Room* (1874), and Exercise Yard (1880s); the *Courthouse* (1896); the *Police Station* (1908); and the *Police Quarters* comprising two houses: the *Lockup Keeper's Quarters* (1903) and the *Sergeant's Quarters* (1910).

Cell Block (1852)

Constructed with ticket-of leave labour and convict establishment expertise, this is still evident on site in the centre of the complex. The original twelve cells can be identified by the doorways to the central corridor running east-west, even though some cells have been enlarged and others made into thoroughfares.

The roof is hipped at the western end and gabled on the east. It is covered in shingles of imported cedar in various widths which were put in place in 1984 to replace corrugated iron roofing that had been laid over an earlier covering of split shingles in the 1980s. There are softwood ceiling boards fixed to the underside of the rafters which, according to van Bremen, may be original.

The walls are solid local stone approximately 2'4" (70 cm) thick, laid as random rubble without coursing but with quoin stones squaring up the doorways. New jointing done to the brickwork, in 1984, is beginning to show as a result of weathering but could be repaired. The interior walls are lime washed. The walls also feature prisoner graffiti, which is protected by sheets of clear perspex.

The cell doors give the clearest evidence of convict era construction. The hardware (hinges, barrel bolts, peephole) are hand forged and can be compared with that of Fremantle Prison. The heavy door construction

²⁸ *ibid.*, p. 18.

²⁹ *ibid.*,

with 7" x 1" vertical boards studded to a panel of diagonal reed-moulded boards, has similarities to that of the old Toodyay Gaol.³⁰

There is a high central corridor with a large open barred window in the eastern end which acts as a ventilation shaft and light well to the cells. A larger room off the open end of the corridor was used as the Native Cell with windows to the vestibule. This room has a granite flag floor which replaced an earlier concrete floor. The floors elsewhere in the cell block are timber.

Exercise Yard (Day Room) (1854?, c.1867, 1870s)

The main walls of this room are solid stonework, covered by a hipped roof with new shingles. There is only one window and one door to this room, both in the south wall and facing a brick vestibule. The location of these features and the use of the brick in the vestibule is consistent with the adaptation of the room from an exercise yard to a day room by the addition of roofing and interior features in the 1870s. The floor is almost entirely a 1984 replacement and the Day Room interior has had to be largely reconstructed.

The stone walls of the Day Room appear to be the first exercise yard added to the *Cell Block*. There is still some evidence of some of the original rooms of the *Police Station* and *Police Quarters* (demolished 1896 for the construction of the new *Courthouse*.) in the west wall of the *Cell Block*.³¹

Stables and Trooper's Cottage (1860s, 1879)

The *Stables* consists of a timber structure which is built along the eastern length of the high stone wall that encloses the stable yard. It is contained by a return wall at the southern end, and the Chaff Room and *Trooper's Cottage* at the northern end. The main wall to the *Stables* are local stone laid as random rubble with some very large individual stones amongst them. The jointing is generally finished as for the *Cell Block*.

The *Stables* and *Trooper's Cottage* are under one continuous low pitched roof that is hipped over the cottage as it turns the corner. The roof covering is shingles laid, in 1984, over new battens. The western wall is clad in timber weather boards which appear to be original. The flooring is relatively new. According to van Bremen, the loft projection appears to fit the original specification for alterations dated 1879, though with many replacement parts.

The walls of the *Trooper's Cottage* are rendered and painted inside, and lime washed outside. There is a large internal fireplace in the central room with a high, flat arched opening that suggests a cooking fire. van Bremen suggests that the brick hobs and hearth are recent work.³²

On the outside of the northern wall there is a plaque which reads:

"This Two-room stone cottage was built within the stable yard of the old Police Station around 1865 when Tommy Windich, John Forrest's tracker and fellow

³⁰ *ibid.*, p. 20.

³¹ *ibid.*, p. 22.

³² *ibid.*, pp. 22-24.

explorer, was attached to the York constabulary as native assistant. The single roomed brick extension was added in 1879 to house the constable.³³

It is not clear if the inscription is correct in its detail as the extension has the characteristics of a kitchen, rather than accommodation. According to van Bremen, the architectural specification of 1879, and the presence of a fireplace with a large flat arched opening, suggests a kitchen.³⁴

Court Room (1874)

The 1874 *Court Room* is easily identifiable on site as the large room with it's own hipped roof at the south-east corner of the *Cell Block*. The size, shape, materials and construction details are consistent with those shown on the original 1874 drawings.³⁵

The walls are clay brick laid in English bond. There is stonework remaining in the north wall which is probably the original end wall of the 1852 Police Quarters/Station. There are internal features (fireplace, detailing) consistent with this.

According to van Bremen, the 1874 *Court Room* construction and detailing clearly separates it from the earlier buildings on the site. The size and height of the room demonstrates the public use intended for the space. The points of entry that related it to the supporting rooms (magistrate's, police office) still exist, although these rooms are no longer extant.³⁶

Exercise Yard (c.1880)

The Exercise Yard is a large square courtyard enclosed by the 1874 *Court Room* on the west, the *Cell Block* on the north and high stone walls on the southern and western sides. The *Cell Block* walls have been raised above the height of the original eaves to ensure security.³⁷

The construction materials and details indicate that the Exercise Yard was created after the *Cell Block* and after the 1874 *Court Room*. The Exercise Yard is not the first one on the site, but is now the only area that demonstrates that part of the complex's function. The larger size than the first exercise yard indicates the growing nature of the facility. A twentieth century security screen overhead is also indicative of that growth.³⁸

Courthouse (1896)

The 1896 *Courthouse* is clearly identifiable on site as the two storey building next to the *Post Office*. According to van Bremen, the size, shape, materials and construction details are consistent with those shown on the original 1895 drawings.

The building is clearly designed to make a strong civic statement in the streetscape of Avon Terrace. The two storey front facade of local stone with brick and stucco dressings continues the materials and architectural

³³ *ibid.*, p. 24.

³⁴ *ibid.*,

³⁵ *ibid.*, p. 25.

³⁶ *ibid.*,

³⁷ *ibid.*, p. 26.

³⁸ *ibid.*,

character of the 1893 *Post Office*. The hip roof with wide, bracketed eaves contributes to the three-dimensional quality of the design. The bay in the street face to the south, and the right-of-way between the *Post Office* and the *Courthouse*, both add to its sculptural qualities.³⁹

The external walls are principally of stone, roughly squared, coursed and snecked. The first floor walls, facing Avon Terrace, are red brick. The brick and stone is set into a framework of classical details including a cornice, pilasters, string course, heavily moulded window reveals, medallions and a strong plinth line.

The building has a large court room with support rooms ranged around giving independent access for judges, jury, witnesses, prisoners and public. The court room is larger and higher than the other rooms and contains furniture which, according to van Bremen, appears to be original. This includes the judge's bench, clock, panelled jury rail and press box. The prisoner's dock appears to have been moved to the opposite side of the room since the 1950s. It is not certain how much of the other furniture is original.⁴⁰

Ceilings appear to be the original lath and plaster in the offices and in the witness room under the gallery. Other ceilings appear to have been altered and remodelled in the 1950s, although there is a deep dentilled cornice in the lobby that van Bremen indicates is probably original.⁴¹

The internal arrangements of the rooms and remaining furniture demonstrate the workings of an 1890s court house and can be compared with the 1874 *Court Room*.

The building has been subjected to alterations in the early years of the century and in the 1950s.⁴²

Lockup Keeper's Quarters (1903)

The *Lock-up Keeper's* and *Sergeant's Quarters* are two houses sited in Low Street, north of the *Courthouse* and *Gaol* complex which is in Avon Terrace, York. As such they form part of *York Police Station, Courthouse and Gaol Complex*, and their use and relationship to the complex are directly related.

The *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters* occupies its own lot and faces Low Street and the river, turning its back on the rest of the complex. It is situated to the east of the *Sergeant's Quarters*, and is located between the former *Stables* and the original 1842 Court Room and Survey Office, the remains of which floor are visible.⁴³

In design and detail the house is based on one of the standard PWD plans for government employees. These plans were developed in the late 1890s, during development pressure of the gold boom, and were refined in the early decades of the twentieth century. The house consists of a front verandah, central hall entry, a parlour, two bedrooms and a living room,

39 *ibid.*,

40 *ibid.*, p. 28.

41 *ibid.*, p. 27.

42 *ibid.*, p. 28.

43 *ibid.*, Map of Settlement 1.1

with a kitchen and bathroom built under the skillion back verandah. The bathroom has been rearranged in more recent times, but otherwise the rooms still exist in their original form.

The house has a simple hipped roof which extends beyond the walls to form the front and back skillion verandahs. The covering to the main roof is corrugated iron in long lengths and all new material. The front verandah is of traditional timber construction with simple stop-chamfered posts and v-jointed valance boards in the stop end. The verandah flooring is in narrow 3" (75mm) floor boards, that are most probably a later replacement. Beyond the enclosed back verandah there is a new extended porch roof over insitu concrete paving.

The front wall, protected under the verandah, is a solid 9" (225mm) wall of clay bricks laid in English bond, however the exposed side walls are of cavity construction. This mixture of brick walling is typical of turn-of-the-century PWD design and construction. A change in brick colour and jointing thickness indicates that an earlier window in the south wall (front room) has been filled in at a later date. There are steel plates for the tie rods that run north/south through the building, possibly put in place after the Meckering earthquake in 1968. The walls enclosing the rooms on the back verandah are timber framed and clad in horizontal sheets of corrugated iron. The original back wall under the verandah is 9" (225mm) double leaf brick, like the front wall, but it now has a timber frame and cement cladding attached to the kitchen wall.

Inside the house the ceilings appear to be fibrous cement replacements. Internal walls are single leaf brick, rendered and painted. The corner fireplaces in two rooms have been rebuilt, with 1950s style red face brick fronts and a plain polished jarrah mantle shelf.

Windows are large double-hung sashes with two lights per sash. There are very small double-hung windows in the kitchen and bathroom. Doors are traditional four panel. Architraves are 4" and finely moulded in the principal rooms, but plain chamfered in the kitchen. Skirtings are 8" with a moulded top. There is a picture rail in the living room.

Floors boards are generally 5" tongue and groove, oiled in some rooms, light coloured replacements in others, but all floor now carpeted over. The kitchen floor is covered in old vinyl, apparently re-used from the 1896 Court House. The bathroom interior is all recent work.

In the back yard, there is still a timber framed washhouse, close to the stable wall. It is clad partly in corrugated iron and partly in weather-board with some replacement timbers. There are ledge and brace doors with v-jointed boards. Gutters are modern replacements. There is a brick water closet, beside the washhouse that is only indicated on more recent site plans. The earlier earth closet, shown standing by the neighbour's fence has been demolished. Very little of the garden appears to be of any great age. Almond trees are typical of the period and go with those in the right-of-way and the yard behind of the *Courthouse*. The grape vine adds character to the back yard, however the more formal symmetry of the planting in the front yard seems at odds with the period of the house.

Police Station (1908)

The *Police Station* continues the architectural expression and materials of the *Post Office* and *Courthouse*, but in a much simpler form. The new structure appears to have completely replaced the earlier Resident's Office. Only parts of the walls it shared with the 1874 *Court Room* are likely to remain from the earlier building.

The *Police Station* consists of a block of four offices, two large and two small. They are accessible for Avon Terrace via side entrances - one off the recessed bay left by the *Courthouse*, the other two off a side verandah in the southern alley.

The hipped roof of corrugated iron has gabled ridge ventilators that distinguish it from the *Courthouse* roof. The chimney stacks are similar, while the gutters, scotia and fascia are slightly different. The eaves brackets and cornice take their stylistic detail from the *Courthouse*.

The external walls are of stone and brick. Inside, three of the rooms have lath and plaster ceilings without cornices; the fourth has a fibrous plaster replacement with a simple modern coved cornice. The north-east room contains two walls which differ in the finish and these may be part of an earlier construction.

Windows are double-hung, two-light sashes with hardware that is a mixture of original and replacement items. There is an odd pair of double-hung sashes in the wall to the internal yard. The doors are generally four panel, softwood doors. There is an unusual pair of doors between the eastern rooms, which has a patent rimlock with a large handle.

The design and construction of the *Police Station* is consistent with its period. Its main achievement is its subtle continuation of the architectural scheme set up by the *Courthouse* and the *Post Office* to complete the Avon Terrace elevation of the government buildings.⁴⁴

Sergeant's Quarters (1910)

The *Sergeant's Quarters*, next door to the *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters*, is situated on a smaller lot, on the site of the former police stables.⁴⁵ This building also faces Low Street and the river, and uses the same set-backs so that the two houses together begin to form a suburban street row.

In design and detail this house is still within the range of the PWD standard for the period, but it does differ from the *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters* in a number of ways. A front and a back room project out from the main square of the house breaking up the roof form with a projecting gable to the front and a separate skillion front verandah. The principal rooms are larger, and the detailing is more elaborate. This could easily be more a reflection on the different rank of the intended occupants rather than a difference in construction over a seven year period. The skillion back verandah has been rebuilt, and a brick laundry and toilet has been added to the back of the original kitchen in more recent times.

The corrugated iron roof is new, finished with a traditional barge roll to the large stop-chamfered timber barge of the front gable. The flying gable is

⁴⁴ *ibid.*, pp. 29-30.

⁴⁵ *ibid.*, Map of Settlement 1.1

supported on timber brackets, with imitation half-timbering. There is a typical window hood over the pair of windows below. The front verandah has turned timber posts supporting a chamfered beam, decorated with an arched valance board. The flooring is 5" timber boards, badly weathered and probably original.

External walls are double leaf brick cavity construction all round, except for the back wall under the verandah which is 9" (225mm) solid brick, laid in English bond. There is a painted stucco band at sill height across the facade.

Inside, the ceilings appear to be replacements in fibrous cement. There is a central fireplace with a typical round arched opening, (as used in the 1896 *Courthouse*), and a standard over-mantle in the larger front room. The fireplace in the second room, backing onto this one, and the corner fireplace in the living room, have both been rebuilt with 1950s red brick and polished jarrah shelf, as in the *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters*.

The windows are double-hung and the doors are four-panel, with hopper fanlights in the front, back and living room doorways, providing a breezeway. The architraves are wider and more heavily moulded. Floors are of 5" tongue and groove boards, but now covered by carpet or vinyl, except in the central hall, where they are stained and polished.

Only the concrete base of a former copper remains on the back yard verandah. The wash-house in the back yard, which does not appear on the 1910 Block Plan, still has evidence of wash trough plumbing and a copper, but the fixtures look more recent than those in the *Lock-up Keeper's Quarters*.

There are trees of some maturity in the garden, including a large gum on the southern boundary, a struggling pepper tree, and a loquat to the north. The healthy grape vine planted between the house and wash-house adds character.

13.3 REFERENCES

van Bremen, I., 'York Court House, Police Station & Lock-up: Conservation Plan', (for the National Trust of Australia (WA), September 1993).

Krynski, M., 'Conservation Case Study: The Old York Police Station and Courthouse Complex', (Student report, Curtin University: Architecture and Culture unit, no date.).

National Trust Assessment Exposition.

Australian Heritage Commission Data Sheet.