



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Memorial Hall is an excellent example of a building in the Inter-War Functionalist style, which came as a result of the 1939 additions designed by Kreitmayer & Rowe. (Criterion 1.1)

The 1939 additions to Memorial Hall demonstrate a creative use of a popular cinema style in a combined use building and is a good example of 1930s cinema architecture. (Criterion 1.2)

Memorial Hall has a landmark quality for its open setting of recreational parks and ovals and for its location on a corner block. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

As the town hall, picture theatre, cinema, local government offices, social centre, child health centre and community arts centre over eight decades, Memorial Hall is significant in illustrating the development of the Town of Mosman Park. (Criterion 2.1)

Memorial Hall was the first offices purpose built to serve the needs of the Cottesloe Beach Road District (Buckland Hill Road District) in 1921. (Criterion 2.1)

Memorial Hall illustrates some of the changes to public entertainment through the 20th century, especially picture theatre and cinema activities and the changing technologies of projection. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is associated with the work of architects Kreitmayer & Rowe; Kreitmayer later changed his name to Creightmore and was responsible for the design of many residences in the Mosman Park area. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

* 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* North Ryde NSW, Angus & Robertson 1989.

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Memorial Hall is highly valued by the Mosman Park community for its cultural and social associations during its use as a picture theatre, social centre and community arts centre. (Criterion 4.1)

As a social and local government centre in a recreational and educational precinct, Memorial Hall contributes to a sense of place for those who live around or visit the area. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Memorial Hall is one of a dwindling number of Inter-War Functionalist styled buildings in the Perth metropolitan area. (Criterion 5.1)

The place's function as a suburban picture garden has rarity value. Once a common feature of metropolitan Perth, there are few picture gardens still in operation. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Memorial Hall demonstrates typical characteristics of Inter-War Functionalist architecture including an opulent facade on a functional building. It is also a representative example of a building being adapted in this particular style; the Astor Theatre is another example. (Criterion 6.1)

Memorial Hall demonstrates typical features of local entertainment in the early to mid twentieth century. It is a representative example of a building which was used for the dual purpose of both an outdoor (picture garden) and indoor theatre. Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Memorial Hall is generally in good condition. The place shows evidence of the use of both high and poor quality materials and workmanship. Marcus Collins (architect of the 1992-93 refurbishment) reported problems with deteriorating mortar within cavity walls. Past management has detracted from the significance of the place; however, present management is positive in attempting to conserve the heritage values of the place while utilising it for community purposes.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Memorial Hall was originally built with the intention of local community use, it has continued in such use, although with a variety of different emphases, through its life. The place underwent major conservation works in 1992-93 and some of its earlier significance was restored in the process. The place is currently used as a community arts centre and in that use the long term viability of its heritage values is reasonably secure. Memorial Hall has a moderate to high level of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Memorial Hall is not in its original state. It has undergone three major modernisations and subsequent conservation works. There have been many alterations to the street facades, to the internal layout and to the fabric. These changes are not easy to understand by cursory physical inspection. The place has low to moderate authenticity in relation to its original concept, but rather reflects, to varying degrees, all stages of its development.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Adele Adelphi, Heritage Consultant. The physical evidence has been compiled by Adele Adelphi, Heritage Consultant, with contributions from John Kirkness, Architectural Designer. Additional research has been completed by HCWA staff.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Memorial Hall is a two-storey brick building constructed as local hall and offices for the Buckland Hill Roads Board¹ in 1921. It was extensively modernised and adapted in 1939, and subsequently altered in 1967 and 1973. A programme of conservation and adaptation was carried out in 1992.

Although the Perth to Fremantle railway was opened in 1881, and provided an opportunity for the more permanent settlement of the area, it remained largely unsettled until the 1890s. In 1895, the Government granted £110 for improvements to the Perth to Fremantle Road and a further £100 for its maintenance which made the area more accessible. By the turn of the century, the population of the South Cottesloe area was approaching 1, 500 permanent residents, with an increasing number of prominent Perth people building summer homes near the ocean. Residents in South Cottesloe included the Attorney General, Justice Burt, prominent architect, J. Talbot Hobbs and H. D. Holmes, the General Manager of the Bank of Western Australia.²

Across the railway line, Buckland Hill and the Rocky Bay area were the sites of various quarries and lime kilns. The area had developed along similar lines to North Fremantle as a 'working man's suburb'. Homes were built to serve the needs of those employed in the railway workshops, the workshops and small factories at North Fremantle, and the harbour works.

The area now known as Mosman Park was controlled by the Perth Roads Board between 1871 and 1893. In 1893, when Claremont residents petitioned the Government to become a separate district, the Mosman Park area came under the jurisdiction of the Claremont Roads Board. In 1895, Peppermint Grove petitioned the Government and the new Roads Board was given responsibility for the area. This changed again in 1899, when arguments over preferential treatment divided the Peppermint Grove Road District in two. This division created the Buckland Hill Road District.³

For the first two decades, meetings were held in rented offices at the rear of a shop⁴:

The boards administering road districts are referred to herein as Roads Boards although some may have used the title 'Road Board'.

² R. M. James, *Heritage of Pines: A History of Cottesloe*, Town of Cottesloe, 1977, pp. 11-12, 15-16, 21-22, 30-31.

³ H. S. G. Downey, *Mosman Park: Western Australia*, Town of Mosman Park, pp. 46.

⁴ Elizabeth Tuettemann, *Between River and Sea: A History of Mosman Park, Western Australia*, Town of Mosman Park, 1991, pp. 43-44.

The first meeting of this new board was held in 1899 in Mr Stutchbury's shop in Mason Street (later Stirling Highway), between Willis and Stuart Streets. The new members were Dr Adam Jameson, chairman, L. S. Elliot, R. B. Brigdale, J. Fell, E. T. Mose, and W. M. Colgan.⁵

The Buckland Hill Road District changed its name to the Cottesloe Beach Road District in 1908 after the district's railway station.⁶ The name Buckland Hill was reverted to in 1930. In 1938 the name of the Road District was again changed when it became the Mosman Park Road District. Mosman Park Became a Shire in 1961 and was gazetted a Town in 1962.⁷ Consequently, the building housing the hall and offices has been known by a number of different names referring back to the changes in name of the Road District.

Before 1920, the site now occupied by Memorial Hall was the property of the Cottesloe Beach Roads Board and was the Roads Board depot. It is believed that sheds, stables and a fenced yard for the Board's draught horse formed part of this depot.⁸

In 1919, the Board earmarked £2,000 for the construction of a hall and its furnishings. Mr R. G. Oldham was the architect of the building. From the Roads Board minutes, it appears that Oldham ceased to be involved with the project before building commenced and that during construction some adaptations were made to the design. The Board became the builder of the hall when quotes through the architect were thought to be too high. The Board appointed Mr Lemmon as supervisor.⁹ The foundation stone of the Hall was laid by Mr William Angwin, MLA, on 30 October 1920.¹⁰

In March of 1921, Mr Platt obtained the lease of the main hall for showing pictures. Memorial Hall was officially opened on 13 March 1921 when ratepayers were invited to a free picture night.¹¹ The programme was a Paramount Picture called 'You Can't Have Everything'.¹²

A photograph dating from the 1920s shows a rectangular building of two storeys in red brick.¹³ The Lochee Street facade brickwork was laid in Flemish bond and appears to have been tuckpointed, with rendered banding. It was symmetrical with a central arch over a recessed entrance. The gambrel roof was clad in corrugated iron, the front gable had timber ventilating louvres. The rear of the Hall can be seen in a section from a panorama taken in the 1920s, where sheds and a fenced yard can be seen.¹⁴

5 H. S. G. Downey, op. cit., pp. 46-47.

6 ibid., pp. 48.

7 ibid., pp. 48.

8 Marcus Collins, research notes, HCWA file 3832.

9 Town of Mosman Park, 'Minutes of Road Board Meetings', October 1919 - 1920. No drawings of the Hall in original form have been located.

10 1920 foundation stone.

11 Town of Mosman Park, op. cit., March 1921.

12 National Trust of Australia (WA), Historic Places Assessment Form, *Memorial Hall Mosman Park*, 1991

13 1920s photo, HCWA file PD 3832.

14 1920s panorama, HCWA file FD 3832.

In a later photograph part of a small finial can be seen.¹⁵ This also shows an extension to the west of the Lochee Street frontage with a matching arched entrance and some corrugated iron roof behind. The extension was a supper room added in 1927, the contractor was James Harding.¹⁶

In September of 1932, limestone walled picture gardens were constructed to the west of the Hall with an entrance off Lochee Street. A new bio box was built at the same time, it was on the west side of the first floor board room. The architect was R. G. Oldham.¹⁷

The Public Works Department survey drawings of September 1935¹⁸ show a rectangular brick building set back slightly from the boundaries on both Lochee and Solomon Streets. There is an extension the full length of the west side with a brick facade to Lochee Street but otherwise the building is clad in galvanised iron. Walled picture gardens extend further to the west, the wall on Lochee Street abuts the boundary. Another wall and various outbuildings extend along the Solomon Street frontage.

In the 1920s and 1930s, pictures were presented in the main hall. In those days of silent movies to the program began at 8.00 pm and was accompanied by an organ or a full orchestra. The picture gardens were in operation in the 1930s. Although not unique to Western Australia, picture gardens are a distinctive feature as a result of the State's moderate climate. It is evident that the Road District thought it appropriate to have their administrative offices in the hall which also provided accommodation for a community centre.¹⁹

The idea of extending the Hall and providing more office accommodation was first mooted in 1937. At this time the Hall was rented by Mr Hatfield as a cinema and he was keen for the Hall to be upgraded. Five architectural firms were invited to submit plans and estimates of costs - not to exceed £3,750 - for the additions and modernisation work. The design of Messrs Kreitmayer²⁰ & Rowe was selected; however, it required some alterations to reduce costs. During 1938, an estimate of £4,975 was accepted by the Board.

From the set of drawings produced by Kreitmayer & Rowe for the 1939 additions and alterations, it appears that the Lochee Street facade of the Hall was partially removed and otherwise subsumed into the new facade. The building was brought out to the property line with the front section completely remodelled. The main space of the Hall was extended southwards by 24 feet and a stage was installed. The north part of the hall had a tiered gallery inserted. New toilets were built externally at the rear. The new work was designed in what is generally described as an Inter-War Functionalist style. The new look featured parapet walls partially

15 1938 photo, HCWA File PD 3832.

16 Town of Mosman Park, op. cit., 1927.

17 Marcus Collins, research notes, HCWA file 3832.

18 Public Records Office, WAS 633, Cons 4156, Item 1256, Western Australia, Public Works Department, 12794, Survey, September 1935.

19 National Trust of Australia (WA), Historic Places Assessment Form, *Memorial Hall Mosman Park*, 1991

20 A. B. Kreitmayer later changed his surname to 'Creightmore' and was responsible for the design of many residences in Mosman Park, Peppermint Grove, Claremont and Nedlands.

concealing the roof, rounded corners, a balcony, asymmetry, strong horizontal lines including a parallel line motif and modern lettering in the neon 'CINEMA' sign in vertical lettering on a fin.²¹

The two Lochee Street entrances accessed different parts of the building. The east entrance led to Board offices on the ground floor and boardroom and chairman's room on the first floor. The west entrance led to the hall and stage on the ground floor and the circle on the first floor. From the first floor foyer, via the balcony, external stairs accessed the bio box above. The bio box serviced both the hall and the picture gardens.²²

The renovated Hall was opened by the Lieutenant Governor, Sir James Mitchell, KCMG on 12 April 1939.

A new administration centre for the Town of Mosman Park was built in Memorial Gardens in Bay View Terrace in 1965. Following the staff move to the new venue, Memorial Hall was again renovated, this time for use as a social centre with some continuing office use. The architect was Marshall Clifton, resident of Mosman Park and architect of the Administration Centre.²³ The contractor was Daniels & Ward. The work consisted of walling off the gallery space from the main hall, removal of the tiered floor in the gallery, the provision of internal toilets, a first floor servery and two new, internal stairways. Inter-War Functionalist details were removed or subdued.²⁴ The place was known from the mid 1960s as Mosman Park Reception Centre or as Camelot Lodge. In 1965, it was leased for a ten year term.²⁵

Renovations were again carried out in 1973, these were done for Camelot Caterers who were using the Hall as a reception centre.²⁶ The alterations were designed and constructed by Westland Development Co Pty Ltd. The changes appear to have been primarily decorative with the installation of dark brown, clinker brick arches to external doors and timber mock arches to some internal doors. Stud walls were installed to alter the internal plan in minor ways. The double height portion of the main hall had a false ceiling installed to match the single level ceiling below the former gallery. The concrete floor and steps of the front entrance was replaced with brick paving.²⁷

A 1989 photograph of Memorial Hall²⁸ shows the 1973 renovations and also the subsequent replacement of the brick balcony balustrading with

21 1939 photo; HCWA file PD 3832.

22 A. B. Kreitmayer and G. A. Rowe Architects, 'Additions and Alterations to Road Board Hall and Offices for the Mosman Park Road Board', 1939.

23 Tuettemann, op. cit., p.195

24 Marshall Clifton Architect, 'Mosman Park Town Hall, Conversion of Part to Social Centre', 1966.

25 Tuettemann, op. cit., pp. 68-69.

26 Alf Snell, former part owner of Camelot Caterers, personal communication with Adele Adelphi, 2 September 1998.

27 Westland Development Co. Pty. Ltd., 'Proposed Renovations to Premises at cnr Solomon & Lochee St Mosman Park for Camelot Caterers', 1973; Daniels & Ward, letter of quotation to Mr Saunders, 12 April 1973.

28 Tuettemann, op. cit., p.69.

metal railing. The fin, reduced by Clifton in 1967, has been completely removed by 1989.

In 1992-93, Memorial Hall was conserved and redecorated for use in part as a child health centre, reception area and for theatre purposes. The design work was undertaken by Marcus Collins Architects, who researched the history of the building in order to ascertain earlier layout and decorative details. The 1992-93 work included the addition of a store room to the south end, division of the main hall at ground floor level, relocation of the toilet areas, removal of one staircase and relocation of another, reconstruction of a kiosk and reconfiguration of most of the spaces in the north-east corner of the building. The picture garden was also upgraded with the removal of bitumen and the construction of a paved terrace.²⁹

A plaque to commemorate the refurbishment of Memorial Hall was unveiled by the Hon. Colin Barnett MLA, Member for Cottesloe, on Saturday 9 October 1993. The child health centre was opened by the Mayor, Dr B. H. Moore, on 25 November 1993.³⁰

The limestone and brick stage and steps to the west of the Hall and the south of the picture gardens were constructed in 1996.³¹

Memorial Hall is currently used as a community arts centre and child health centre.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Memorial Hall is a two-storey, brick building with a zincalume roof and an adjacent walled courtyard.

The Hall is on the south-west corner of Lochee and Solomon Streets, facing Lochee Street. The courtyard/picture gardens is to the west, abutting the Lochee Street boundary. Memorial Hall is surrounded by large ovals on three sides, Mann Oval to the west and south and Davis oval to the east. Solomon Street has been closed at a point centrally between Lochee and Victoria Streets, the section of Solomon Street adjacent to the Hall has been adapted for greater car parking use. On the south-east corner of Mann Oval is Alf Adams Pavilion (1971) and beyond that is the Mosman Park Primary School (1906). The Mosman Park Kindergarten (1969) is to the east of the Primary School and behind that is Nash Field. This combines to form a large community use precinct. Memorial Hall is particularly distinctive in its open setting. Across Lochee Street, to the north, is a small deli. Further afield the setting is modest residential.

To Lochee Street, Memorial Hall presents a facade in the style known as Inter-War Functionalist. Externally it is only the front section of the Hall that is in this style, the main section of the building is a large, barn-like structure which is essentially the shell of the original Federation Free Style building.³² Memorial Hall is mostly two-storey, although there is a single room on a third level which is the projection room. All the external brickwork of the Hall is painted.

²⁹ Marcus Collins, research notes, HCWA file 3832.

³⁰ 1993 plaques in Memorial Hall entrance and child health centre foyer.

³¹ Town of Mosman Park, Memorial Hall building file.

³² *ibid.*, pp. 136-139.

The Lochee Street facade, added in 1939, is asymmetrical. The east bay provides definition to the corner with the building abutting both street boundaries. Walls are curved around corners and on the first floor a window curves around the north-east corner. There is a double doored, inset entrance which accesses the child health centre in the east bay. Above the entrance is a small concrete and brick balcony with steel framed, French windows providing access to the halyards of the flagpole mounted atop the east bay. The central bay of the front facade provides the main entrance to the Hall by a brick paved entrance porch and two sets of double doors. Above the entrance is a wide balcony with concrete floor and brick balustrade. The balcony curves around the west bay of the front facade, which is itself curved and occupied by the stairwell. The parapet wall is decorated with horizontal and vertical bandings and mouldings common to Inter-War Functionalist styling. From east to west the parapet wall rises section by section and a horizontal band increases from one to two to three stripes. The west bay is topped by a fin with a rounded head on which are the words 'MEMORIAL HALL'. Around the top of the west side of the west bay, there are five small windows in the projection room on the third level. The half gable of the main roof is visible beyond the parapet wall. The front section of the Hall has steel framed windows with transoms dividing the windows and accentuating the horizontality. External doors are timber framed and fully glazed with vertical divisions, these may be original. Around the windows decorative, recessed brickwork has been laid suggestive of quoining. The brickwork of the two balconies does not match the main brickwork, the balustrades of the balconies are reconstructions.

The east, Solomon Street, facade is in three sections, with the north portion continuing the Inter-War Functionalist style as for the Lochee Street facade. The central section is the original 1921 Hall with changes to door and window placement. A small, skillion roofed section was added to the rear in 1993.

The south facade presents a large wall with a double height, steel door to the east. The picture garden is to the west.

The west facade is more complex, having the three basic sections from 1939, 1921 and 1993 as for the east facade. The picture gardens are accessed by west facing doors. On the ground floor is a colorbond clad addition. On the first floor is a wide, roofed balcony. A limestone walled and brick paved terrace links the Hall and its picture gardens to Mann Oval.

The picture gardens are to the west of the Hall and abutting Lochee Street. The north wall of the courtyard is of limestone, the height has been raised and brick capping added. The west and south walls are tilt up concrete construction. The large picture screen is to the west. The courtyard is grassed and conifers line the interior walls. There is a terrace area between the Hall and the grassed area, it has limestone retaining walls, steps and piers with brick paving and a timber and steel pergola with shade cloth covering. The terrace includes a mosaic wall section and counter top to the south. A new entrance has recently been cut into the north, limestone wall and an inset gateway with double timber gates installed. The limestone wall is deteriorated in places where the mortar is crumbling.

Through the north-east corner of the picture gardens is another entrance, arched with double timber gates. The style of this entrance is similar in detailing of the keystone and banding to that of the entrance arch in the original, 1921, facade of the Hall. This was probably the original entrance to the picture gardens and, along with the north wall of the courtyard, the only remains of the pre 1939 facade.

Over the almost eight decades of the existence of Memorial Hall there have been four major reconfigurations of the internal layout of the building. The internal form and fabric are a combination of elements from each building or alteration phase. The 1993 conservation work sought to emphasise the 1939 style of the building, and while this has resulted in a reasonably harmonious interior, it has not made it easy to read the phases of change. Most walls and floors appear to be early fabric. Most ceiling, light fitting and some other decorative details date from 1993.

Generally, the Hall has recent, plaster ceilings with modest decorative detailing in harmony with the 1939 styling. Most walls are plastered with a textured finish. Floors are generally timber floorboards, mostly carpeted. Light fittings, signage and similar detailing is in simple Inter-War Functionalist styling.

The east entry accesses the small child health centre. This area has been adapted for its present use by the relocation of walls. It has a foyer, clinic, waiting room and toilet.

The main entry accesses an 'L' shaped foyer to which most of the rooms on the ground floor are connected. The north section is concrete floored and the south wall of this section has an unusual swirl textured pattern to the plastering, a large mirror is hung on this wall. The west section of the foyer is carpeted.

The reception room, part of the original main hall, has three doors from the foyer. The south wall is smooth plastered, that having been added in 1993. A fourth door leads to the kitchen. The kitchen connects to Solomon Street via a small service entrance.

To the south of the reception room is the theatre, also accessed via the foyer and also part of the original main hall. It has a very narrow gallery on the north side and a stage to the south. The 110 mm floorboards are exposed. The seating is on a tiered, steel and timber platform. The battened ceiling suggests that this is early fabric. The highly decorative plaster details around the stage are probably 1939 elements. The stage is not raised, but covered in a black rubberish material. To either side of the stage, bevelled wings lead backstage. Behind the theatre are two dressing rooms and a store room. The store room has a loft and double height, steel doors to both north and south walls which access the stage and the exterior of the building.

At the south end of the foyer the toilets are located. To the west of the foyer is a small office. At the north-west corner of the foyer is a kiosk with counter and grille. Between the main entrance and the kiosk, timber stairs lead to the first floor. The baluster of the staircase is in masonry with a stepped configuration reinforcing the horizontal and vertical lines of the Inter-War Functionalist style.

On the first floor there is a large foyer which accesses the main balcony by both north and south doors, to the 'gallery' (which is not a gallery) and to an ante room. The ante room in turn leads to three rooms, the corner room is the former board room. These three rooms are presently vacant offices. The gallery appears to be used as a rehearsal room, has mirrors on two walls and accesses the west part of the main balcony. On the north wall is a narrow, timber staircase which leads to a projection room with concrete floor. The projector room now services only the outdoor screen, previously it serviced both indoor and outdoor screens. There is evidence on the external brick wall surface showing the location of the 1939 staircase and door to access the bio box from the balcony.

Memorial Hall is in good condition.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Once a common feature of metropolitan Perth, there are few picture gardens still in operation. From the 1910s, and reaching a peak c. 1930, a considerable number of picture gardens were established throughout the metropolitan area, as well as in Rockingham, Midland and Mundaring. Picture gardens no longer in operation include:

Cygnets Theatre, Como (established 1938)
Astor Theatre, Mount Lawley (established c. 1930)
Windsor Theatre, Nedlands (established 1937)
Broadway, Victoria Park (closed c. 1965)
Amusa, Victoria Park (closed c. 1965)
Savoy, East Victoria Park
Hurlingham Picture Gardens, Canning Highway (established 1933)
Perth Oval, East Perth (outdoor screenings by 1911)
Leederville (outdoor screenings by 1911)
Murray Street, Subiaco and Fremantle (outdoor screenings established 1911)
Claremont Picture Gardens (established 1929)
Dalkeith Picture Gardens (established 1929)
Broadway Cinema & Picture Gardens, Nedlands (established c. 1930)

In 1999, seasonal outdoor cinemas in Perth include the Outdoor Nextdoor, Leederville, and the Somerville at the University of Western Australia. Occasional outdoor screenings are also shown in Kings Park.

13.4 REFERENCES

National Trust of Australia (WA), Historic Places Assessment Form, Memorial Hall Mosman Park., 1991.

H. S. G. Downey, Mosman Park: Western Australia, Town of Mosman Park,

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
