



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** P09957
2. **NAME** Hale School Memorial Hall (1960-61)
3. **LOCATION** 20 Unwin Avenue, Wembley Downs
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Portion of Lot 123 on D 20292 Vol. 1279 Fol. 452
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Stirling
6. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Registered 29/04/2024
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Local Planning Scheme – Heritage List: -----
 - Local Heritage Survey: 17/06/1997
 - Register of the National Estate: -----
 - Aboriginal Sites Register: -----
7. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**

8. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

9. **STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**
What is significant?

Hale School Memorial Hall, constructed in 1960-61, and designed by prominent Western Australian architect Tony Brand with contributions from Ronald Jack (Gus) Ferguson, in the Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style and constructed in the Bêton Brut style of reinforced off-form concrete, forms part of the Hale School Campus in Wembley Downs.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- Béton Brut concrete forms
- Bas-relief moulded balustrades
- Honour Boards
- Prominent east elevation
- Concrete columns
- Concrete fenestration including vertical concrete sun shading
- Internal void spaces
- Timber baton ceiling lining
- Off-form in-situ concrete staircases with painted steel double handrails
- Industrial brass pendant lights
- Salmon coloured pressed brick masonry
- Original timber doors and transom lights
- Upper gallery with bio box, jarrah risers and off-form concrete bridge.
- Past student signatures on ceiling joists
- Polished aggregate concrete floor

Elements that do not contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Newly constructed stage, male and female changerooms, drama & media studies staff room and scene dock (2023).
- Brick and glazed infill to north and south colonnades including glazed awnings (2023).
- Metal framed curtain wall elements to main entrance (2023).
- New timber acoustic panel ceiling (2023).
- New development including New Theatre, new media studies and house hubs and external walkway (2023).

How is it significant?

The *Hale School Memorial Hall* is of aesthetic, historic, scientific, and social value and satisfies the following factors relevant to cultural heritage significance:

- A. importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;
- B. Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;
- C. importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

- D. strong or special meaning it has for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;
- E. importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;
- F. special association it has with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;
- G. importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

Why is it significant?

Hale School Memorial Hall was constructed in 1960-61 and is of historic value as the first Brutalist style building constructed in Australia. It makes a significant contribution to the evolution of Western Australian contemporary architecture. (Factor A)

Hale School Memorial Hall is of scientific and historic value as it demonstrates achievement in construction technology, in its use of reinforced off-form concrete using the Bêton Brut construction method and was the earliest application of this technique in Australia in 1961. The place is the exemplar and precedent for the use of this technique and for the evolution of Brutalist buildings in Western Australia. (Factors A, C & H)

Hale School Memorial Hall is of aesthetic value as a fine example of Late Twentieth-Century Brutalist style architecture and was designed by prominent Western Australian architect Anthony Brand who was recognised for his pioneering use of the Bêton Brut construction method that demonstrated a high degree of innovation at the time. (Factors F & G)

Originally built to honour the Old Haleians who had died in war, *Hale School Memorial Hall* continues to have social value to past and present students, teachers and school staff as demonstrated in a documentary film produced in October 2021 by the Old Haleians Association and the stage play 'My Hall', by Julie Jarel in the same year. (Factor E)