



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Interim Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 16722
2. **NAME** *Art Gallery of Western Australia Complex (1897, 1905, 1976, 1977-79)*
3. **LOCATION** Perth Cultural Centre, James Street Mall, Perth
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Lot 3001 on Deposited Plan 41740 being Reserve 47747 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume: 3128 Folio: 940 as is defined in Heritage Council of WA survey drawing No: 16722 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth
6. **OWNER** State of Western Australia  
(Management Order: Board of the Art Gallery of Western Australia)

### 7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

- Register of Heritage Places:

Included in curtilage:	
P2025 Art Gallery Admin Bdg	
Interim Entry &	6/03/1992
Permanent Entry	24/3/2000
P1963 Court of Petty Sessions	
(Centenary Galleries)	6/03/1992
Complex (Interim Entry)	09/05/2006
- National Trust Classification:

Centenary Galleries: Classified	11/06/1973
Art Gallery Admin Bdg: Classified	07/03/1978
- Town Planning Scheme:
- Municipal Inventory:

Art Gallery Admin Bldg	13/03/2001
Court of Petty Sessions (Centenary Galleries)	
- Register of the National Estate:

Court of Petty Sessions (Centenary Galleries): Registered	21/03/1978
	21/10/1980
Art Gallery Administration Building	
Registered	

### 8. CONSERVATION ORDER

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### 9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

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## 10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Art Gallery of Western Australia Complex*, consisting of Main Gallery Building (1979), a five storey Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style concrete-framed building clad with concrete blocks and with a space frame awning; Centenary Galleries (1905), a two-storey Donnybrook sandstone wall and tiled roof building constructed in the Federation Second Empire style; Art Gallery Administration Building (1897), a two-storey Donnybrook sandstone wall and tiled roof building constructed in the Federation Romanesque style; additions and link buildings (1976) in Late Twentieth Century International style; and, a paved concourse containing Gerhard Mack's sculpture *Der Rufer* and water feature as its main setting elements, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is highly valued for its function as a cultural institution housing an important art collection. It is an integral part of the Perth Cultural Centre and contributes to the community's sense of place;

Main Gallery Building is a fine example of Late Twentieth Century Brutalist architecture with interior spaces of a high order of aesthetic merit. With the hexagon as the basic planning unit, the gallery was designed on Bauhaus principles that were popular in art gallery design at the time;

Art Gallery Administration Building is a fine and rare example of a public building in the Federation Romanesque style, and a fine example of the work of prominent architect Hillson Beasley;

Centenary Galleries, a long-standing landmark at the northern end of Barrack Street Bridge, is a very fine example of the Federation Second Empire style, and of the work of Hillson Beasley, featuring distinctive fenestration, roof-scape and clock and fine interiors;

built between 1977 and 1979, Main Gallery Building was part of the realization of the Perth Cultural Centre. It was the first building constructed as part of the new development and marks the re-emergence of investment in Western Australia's cultural institutions;

the construction of Main Gallery Building is representative of the improved economic conditions that resulted from the mineral boom of the 1970s and the impetus provided by the State's impending anniversary of 150 years of European settlement in 1979;

the place holds the State's art collections, including Australian and International Modern Art from the 1960s to 1980s, a nationally renowned Indigenous collection and an international collection of Craft;

the use of the slab and shear head column system in Main Gallery Building was innovative in Western Australia's construction history; and,

Art Gallery Administration Building and Centenary Galleries are important for their long use for police purposes, the former having been constructed as police quarters in 1897 and used variously by the police until 1975, and the latter having been constructed as police courts and offices in 1905 and operating as such until 1982.

The adjacent carpark to the west, garden sheds, and sculpture court in their present state of presentation are intrusive, and have not been included in the curtilage.