



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES PERMANENT ENTRY

1. **DATA BASE No.** 18404
2. **NAME** *Riverbank Detention Centre (fmr), Caversham*  
(1960; 1969/1970; 1978/1979; 1980s/1990s; 1998)  
  
OTHER NAMES Pyrton; Riverbank Reformatory for Boys; Riverbank Secure Treatment Centre for Boys; Riverbank Maximum Security Centre
3. **LOCATION** 130 Hamersley Road, Caversham
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Reserve 33481 being Lot 9332 on Diagram 14007 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3016 Folio 43.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Swan
6. **OWNER AT PERMANENT REGISTRATION**  
State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Dept. of Corrective Services;  
Management Order: Minister for Corrective Services)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Permanent 16/09/2016  
Interim 17/06/2016
  - National Trust Classification: -----
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: 15/10/2010
  - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Riverbank Detention Centre (fmr) Caversham*, a former youth detention facility comprising a secure walled compound containing a single storey building designed around a quadrangle and exhibiting some elements of the Post War International Style; three former residences comprising one detached house and one duplex; with an orchard of mature olive trees, open paddocks and areas of indigenous vegetation; and archaeological sites associated with the 19th century Hamersley estate 'Pyrton', the 1940s market garden and the

1960s detention centre; on the north-western bank of the Swan River at the entry to the Swan Valley has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place tangibly shows the development and implementation of child welfare practices by the Western Australian Government, particularly in the secure care and treatment of thirteen to eighteen year old male offenders from 1960 to 1997;

the place is significant to the many male offenders and staff who stayed there during its time of operation as a secure facility for teenagers from 1960 to 1997 and for vulnerable adults from 1998 to c.2001. One of these juvenile offenders was the future lead singer of AC/DC, Bon Scott (1946-80);

the buildings are a representative example of utilitarian architectural design by the Public Works Department of Western Australia in the 1960s, exhibiting some elements of the Post War International Style;

the series of decorative wrought iron security door and window grilles that are located strategically throughout the complex exhibit aesthetic design qualities that are in contrast with the overall utilitarian nature of the site.

the place was one of the earliest 'ribbon' land grants to be issued in the Swan district and was developed by the prominent Hamersley family who owned the land from 1837 to c.1940s, as a large agricultural landholding known as 'Pyrton';

the setting on the north-western banks of the Swan River provides a tranquil rural environment that includes cultural landscape elements that date from the earliest period of settlement of the Swan Valley in the early to mid 19th century;

the place has potential to yield important information through archaeological investigation of the former use and development of the site from the 1830s to the 1950s; and,

the cabin/cell accommodation at *Riverbank Detention Centre (fmr) Caversham* is a rare extant example of this form of accommodation used for juveniles at this period.