



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*

North Perth Lesser Hall is an original and well resolved work in the Federation Free Classical style, demonstrating a high quality of architectural design. The quality of detailing of the Lesser Hall is not confined to the facade, but extends to the eastern elevation and interiors of the building. (Criterion 1.1)

Built of red brick masonry construction with stuccoed ornamentation, *North Perth Town Hall Complex* forms a visually important and cohesive complex. (Criterion 1.1)

Although not located on one of the main traffic routes through the suburb, the *North Perth Town Hall Complex* is among those most prominent in North Perth, located at the crest of View Street. The Lesser Hall forms the termination of a long vista of similarly styled buildings along Leake Street. (Criterion 1.3)

North Perth Town Hall Complex contribute to the character of the immediate area which has a high proportion of pre World War Two building stock, some of which is of very fine quality. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

North Perth Town Hall Complex is a significant feature in the development of the suburb, marking the time when its population and income were sufficient to support the creation of a municipality. The importance that civic affairs had in the community is demonstrated by the impressive form and the prominent siting of the building. (Criterion 2.2)

The grandeur of North Perth Lesser Hall, which was planned to be the eastern wing of a greater complex, reflects the wealth of Western Australia and the increase of public buildings built during the gold boom years. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Since 1914, with the amalgamation of North Perth into the City of Perth in that year, *North Perth Town Hall Complex* has been used as a venue by the local community for a number of social and cultural activities. (Criterion 2.2)

Architect Henry James Prockter was responsible for the design of the Lesser Hall and for the masterplan of the site. North Perth Lesser Hall is a fine example of his architectural work. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

North Perth Town Hall Complex is highly valued by the local community for its administrative associations and its use as a venue for major civic, social and cultural activities dating from 1902. (Criterion 4.1)

North Perth Town Hall Complex, prominently located at the crest of View Street and forming the termination of vistas along Leake Street, has been a landmark in the suburb since 1902 and as such had contributed to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The place is a representative example of municipal halls designed in the Federation Free Classical style for the inner suburbs that emerged around the city of Perth in the early 1900s. The style was a common stylistic idiom used for public buildings in Western Australia during the gold boom period. (Criterion 6.1)

The North Perth Lesser Hall is a fine example of the architectural work of H. J. Prockter. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

North Perth Town Hall Complex is in poor condition. The buildings do not appear to be regularly maintained and major works have been carried out in an ad hoc fashion. Failure of roofing materials and rainwater goods has caused considerable damage to internal fabric and finishes. Problems with rising damp were also identified.

A number of inappropriate works have been carried out to the building, including repairs using cement mortar instead of lime, installation of downpipes of an inappropriate size and section, and the uninformed selection of paint types and colours for interior work.

12.4 INTEGRITY

With the amalgamation of most suburban municipalities into the City of Perth in 1914, the council chambers that are a part of the *North Perth Town Hall Complex* were no longer required for their intended function. However, the halls have continued to be used as a venue for gatherings of the local community dating from 1914. The place has a moderate to high level of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

North Perth Town Hall Complex has a moderate to high level of authenticity. The complex has seen few changes that have affected the function and appearance of the place.

In terms of specific areas and building fabric, the principal components of the place have retained much of their original details. Important interiors such as the public office, town clerk's room, Lesser Hall, foyer, main hall, and the main elevation of the buildings, have seen few changes of a permanent nature. Most of the painted finishes are not authentic.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'North Perth Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Vincent, October 1998.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'North Perth Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Vincent, October 1998.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'North Perth Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Vincent, October 1998.

13.3 REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'North Perth Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Vincent, October 1998.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
