



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Interim Entry

1. **NUMBER** 1963
2. **NAME** *Perth Court of Petty Sessions*
3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

A two storied building with three frontages in dressed Donnybrook stone with enrichments of the wall surface. The court building is notable for its mansard roof, the ends and central portion being treated as pavilions and finished with ornate zinc crestings and finials.

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Perth
5. **LOCATION** Beaufort/Roe Streets, Perth
Reserve 37000 Lot Perth 960 P 16382
6. **OWNER**
7. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE (ASSESSMENT IN DETAIL)**

The place has been assessed by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and has been entered in the Register held by that body as a classified building with the following statement of significance:

The building is architecturally significant in its own right and as a townscape element associated with the Cultural Centre Group.

The place has been assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and entered in the Register of the National Estate. The following statement of significance is attributed to it:

This building was designed on classical lines and is an excellent example of that era. The three main facades are carried out in dressed Donnybrook stone; these are well detailed and demonstrate a high standard of workmanship. This building influenced greater use of Donnybrook stone in public buildings in later years.

The place has also been assessed by R McK Campbell and I H van Bremen in the course of preparing a Conservation Report. The following statement is included in that Report:

The classical plan form, the large rooms with lofty ceilings, the quality of the materials, add up to an architectural grace and space which could not be afforded in the early days of the Colony and disappeared forever after World War One. The external expression is in the tradition of the gold boom - a grand and decorated public building, making a strong civic statement and contributing "an ornament to the city's architecture".

Sited on a prominent corner of the Perth Cultural Centre, it forms a close group with the Barracks building, and together they make an essential contribution to the architectural character and historic value of the precinct as a whole.

The massing, proportion and fine detail create a comfortable human scale that contributes to the urban quality of the streetscape.

HISTORIC VALUE:

The building is a landmark in the evolution of public building in Western Australia.

The building was produced by the re-organised and expanded Public Works Department under the direction of three of its most significant architects, George Temple Poole, John Harry Grainger and Hillson Beasley.

SCIENTIFIC VALUE:

The building is an important bridge between 19th and 20th century technology. While the materials are a mix of local and imported, their assembly is clearly of this century and many of the construction techniques and details are still in use today.

While the open fireplaces would not have provided adequate heating of the large volume rooms, the mains water and gas supplies, the electric lighting and the water-borne sewerage were, and still are, of this century.

The design also includes sophisticated controls for light, noise, fire and ventilation.

The whole thing is a useful resource, which will be increasingly appreciated by students of art architecture and building science.

SOCIAL VALUE:

The building is an important element in the evolution of court building in Western Australia.

The building, and the courtrooms in particular, still demonstrates the judicial process and social functions it was designed to house.

8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES (DATE OF GAZETTAL)

Interim Entry 6/3/1992

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition
Register of the National Estate