



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **NUMBER** 2240

2. **NAME** *Old Observatory*

3. **DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ENTRY (GENERAL)**

George Temple Poole originally designed this two storey red brick building in a Victorian style with a shingle roof to serve as an office and residence for the Government Astronomer. Completed in 1896, the building has a high square tower and a semi circular two storey verandah which links verandahs on the south and east. The shingle roof has been replaced with clay tiles. A separate building built to accommodate the dome has been destroyed.

4. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Perth

5. **LOCATION** 4 Havelock Street, West Perth
Lot Perth 972 D 87481

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 significant as it is a unique example of a building developed specifically for use as an Observatory.

It has high townscape values being an important landmark located in a prominent position near Parliament House and Old Hale School.

The building is architecturally significant as being an example of colonial Architect G T Poole's work and late 1890s Victorian style architecture.

The building has scarcity value.

The building is historically significant with its links to the West Perth area, Parliament House, Kings Park and the recording of astronomical and meteorological data from the early 1900s to the 1960s.

The place has also been assessed by the Australian Heritage Commission and has been entered in the Register of the National Estate with the following statement of significance:

The Observatory is architecturally and aesthetically significant as one of the few remaining elegant structures where classical and traditional details have been successfully combined.

The foundation stone was laid in 1896 by the Premier of the State Sir John Forrest.

The building is one of the well known landmarks of Perth.

(Nominator - RAIA West Perth 21.5.87)

The building is significant as it is a unique example of a building developed especially for use as an Observatory.

It has high townscape values being an important landmark located in a prominent position near Parliament House and Old Hale School. The building is architecturally significant as being an example of colonial architect G T Poole's work and late 1890s Victorian style architecture.

The building is historically significant with its links to the West Perth area, Parliament House, Kings Park and then recording of astronomical and meteorological data from the early 1900s to the 1960s.

(Nominator - National Trust of WA 6.8.88)

**8. REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES
(DATE OF GAZETAL)**

Interim Entry 02/7/1993

Permanent Entry 02/07/1993

9. CONSERVATION ORDER

10. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

11. REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment Exposition
Register of the National Estate