



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 10551
2. **NAME** *Perth Observatory* (1964, 1965, 1971, 1980, 1982, 1992, 2000)
3. **LOCATION** 337 Walnut Road, Bickley
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
That part of State Forrest No. 22, together with portion of Canning Locations 791 and 792, also part of State Forrest No. 22 and portion of Reserve 6203 as shown on Heritage Council of Western Australia Drawing No. 10551 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Kalamunda
6. **OWNER** Department of Conservation and Land Management (as to manager of SF No. 22 and the State Observatory program)  
Water Corporation (as to Reserve 6203)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	24/09/2004
	Permanent Entry	19/07/2005
• National Trust Classification:		-----
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	21/07/1997
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Perth Observatory*, a complex of Late Twentieth Century International style buildings constructed to accommodate the equipment and functions of the former Observatory (1896) in West Perth, and comprising Administration Building (1964), Transit/Meridian Building (1964), Astrographic Building (1964-66), University Dome Building (1964), Pump House and Water

Storage Tank (1965), Caretaker's Residence (1965), 24" Reflector Building (1971, 1982), the Celestron Building (1980), the Visitor's Observing Facility (1992), and the Millennium Telescope Building (2000), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is the sole remaining State astronomical observatory in Australia, and through its role as the continuation of Western Australia's first purpose-built observatory it is Australia's oldest continuously operating observatory;

the place demonstrates scientific and technical achievement at a State, national and international standard, and uses a collection of highly sophisticated scientific equipment, some of which is of great scientific-historical importance, including a relocated custom-built dome dating from the late nineteenth century;

the place was established in West Perth as part of a move in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to foster the intellectual and cultural life of the Western Australian community and its survival, including relocation, in the face of questions of viability raised throughout its history by the State Government demonstrates strong community support for ongoing State sponsorship of intellectually and culturally enriching activities and institutions; and,

the place is a well resolved and representative example of the Late Twentieth-Century International style, set amongst thirty acres of State Forest, and is a rare example of this style of building used as an observatory;

the place is one of the most important scientific research and educational institutions in the State, having an ongoing role of great significance in international astronomical research, and demonstrates continuing efforts to educate the public through a variety of educational programs, including regular and well-attended public tours.

The secondary facilities at the place, being the Transformer Room (1964) and the Public Toilet Block (1991), are of little significance.