



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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.5 Forming associations
- 5.3 Working in Offices

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 308 Commercial services and industries
- 408 Institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Chamber of Commerce Building is a good example of the Federation Free Classical style of architecture. (Criterion 1.1)

Chamber of Commerce Building demonstrates fine design qualities in the sense of balance and proportion of its façade, its pleasing surface textures, and attractive stained glass windows. (Criterion 1.2)

Chamber of Commerce Building is an integral component of Phillimore Street, a streetscape of high aesthetic and historic value. Together with its neighbours, the place forms an important heritage precinct. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Chamber of Commerce Building is significant for its association with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, the longest surviving Chamber of Commerce in Western Australia, and for its direct links with the first Western Australian Chamber of Commerce which was established in the Swan River colony in 1853. (Criterion 2.2)

Chamber of Commerce Building is closely associated with a number of important individuals who formed the merchant class of Fremantle during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and were significant players in the development of the State. (Criterion 2.3)

Chamber of Commerce Building is a good example of the work of architect, Joseph Allen, who designed a number of buildings in Fremantle in the early 1900s. (Criterion 2.3)

The style of *Chamber of Commerce Building* reflects the type of commercial structure erected in Fremantle during the expansive gold boom years, and together with adjacent buildings illustrates the building evolution of

Phillimore Street. The 1956 extension is indicative of a functional design aesthetic, which became a prominent feature of post-World War Two building. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The role of *Chamber of Commerce Building* as the hub of the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce activities gives it high social value. The membership of the Chamber has included, and continues to include, leading business figures and organisations in the Fremantle community. The building provides a venue for social and business events, and has been a repository of information relevant to its members. For much of its history the Chamber has provided an exclusive club-like institution for its male, predominantly Anglo-Saxon membership. Recent changes to its membership and policies are reflective of wider social changes that have occurred within the community as a whole. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Chamber of Commerce Building is the oldest extant Chamber of Commerce building in the State, and may also be the first Chamber of Commerce building to be erected in the State. It retains its original function. (Criterion 5.1)

Chamber of Commerce Building is an integral component of Phillimore Street, a highly intact streetscape of aesthetic and historic value. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2. REPRESENTATIVENESS

The 1912 portion of the building is representative of commercial buildings constructed in Fremantle during the first decades of the twentieth century. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3. CONDITION

Chamber of Commerce Building is in sound condition.

12. 4. INTEGRITY

Chamber of Commerce Building continues to be used by the Chamber of Commerce. The place has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5. AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric of the 1912 building and the 1956 extension is largely intact with most changes having the ability to be reversed, therefore its authenticity is high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Slavin Architects Pty Ltd with Erickson and Taylor, 'Fremantle Chamber of

Commerce, 16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle: Conservation Plan 1999', prepared for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, 1999.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Slavin Architects Pty Ltd with Erickson and Taylor, 'Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, 16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle: Conservation Plan 1999', prepared for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, 1999.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Information refer to Slavin Architects Pty Ltd with Erickson and Taylor, 'Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, 16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle: Conservation Plan 1999', prepared for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, 1999.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Slavin Architects Pty Ltd with Erickson and Taylor, 'Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, 16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle: Conservation Plan 1999', prepared for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, 1999.

13.4 REFERENCES

Slavin Architects Pty Ltd with Erickson and Taylor, 'Fremantle Chamber of Commerce, 16 Phillimore Street, Fremantle: Conservation Plan 1999', prepared for the Board of the Chamber of Commerce, 1999.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH