



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 2143
2. **NAME** *Wesfarmers Building (fmr)* (1898)
3. **LOCATION** 569 Wellington Street, Perth
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Portion of Perth Town Lot V26, being part of the land on Diagrams 911 and 4056 and being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 2068 Folio 809.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth
6. **OWNER** Dragon Properties International Pty Ltd
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 23/06/2000  
Permanent Entry 15/12/2000
  - National Trust Classification: Classified 04/05/1981
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: -----
  - Register of the National Estate: Permanent 25/03/1986
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*Wesfarmers Building (fmr)*, a Federation Warehouse, four storey brick and steel framed office building with a corrugated iron clad roof supported on timber trusses, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a particularly fine and rare example of the Federation Warehouse style architecture in Perth;

the place is a dominant visual element in the Wellington Street streetscape to the west of the William Street intersection. The articulation of the façade sets the pattern for adjacent structures, such as the Wills building;

the place was the long time administrative centre for the agricultural co-operative movement in Western Australia and a physical representation of Wesfarmers' achievements in the primary industry sector. Its urban location has contributed to the Western Australian

community's awareness of the significance of the agricultural industry in the state's economy;

a number of Western Australia's most prominent businessmen and politicians have been members of the Wesfarmers agricultural co-operative. Walter Harper, Hon. T. H. Bath C.B.E., Basil Murray, John Thomson and Sir Thorley Loton, all served as prominent board members and employees at the Wellington Street premises;

the place was designed by, and is a fine example of the work of, prominent turn of the century architect and soldier, Sir J. J. Talbot Hobbs;

the place is important for its structural system of cast iron columns, with the capitals used both to decorate and to support the beams and the complementing corbel brackets at the walls. This combination of function and decoration is rare; and,

the place is associated with Wesfarmers' establishment in 1924 of 6WF, Perth's first radio station. The station operated and transmitted from the top storey of the Wellington Street premises. 6WF was the first broadcasting service in Western Australia and initially transmitted primary industry prices to rural farmers. Entertainment later complemented this early emphasis on rural programming. 6WF was sold in 1928 to the Australian Broadcasting Company, now known as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.