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)

- 3.7.1   Establishing postal services
- 3.8.6   Building and maintaining railways
- 3.26   Providing health services
- 6.1   Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self-education
- 7.6.1   Developing local government authorities
- 8.1.3   Developing public parks and gardens
- 9.1.2   Promoting mothers' and babies' health

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107   Settlements
- 202   Rail & light rail transport
- 206   Mail services
- 401   Government & politics
- 404   Community services & utilities
- 405   Sport, recreation & entertainment

11. 1   AESTHETIC VALUE[*]

Bunbury Council Chambers is a good example of the Inter-War Art Deco style as applied to a civic building. (Criteria 1.1 and 1.2)

With its distinctive Art Deco styling and decoration and prominent bays, together with its location on a prominent street corner, *Bunbury Council Chambers* is a landmark in the central area of Bunbury. (Criterion 1.3)

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[*]   For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present,* Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate,* Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Bunbury Council Chambers is an integral part of a precinct of civic and heritage buildings at the southern edge of the Bunbury central area and is particularly complementary to *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*, located directly opposite to the west on Wittenoom Street, which was also remodelled in the Inter-War Art Deco style to the design of Eales & Cohen. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Bunbury Council Chambers illustrate the evolution of civic buildings such as these from the 1890s, when Bunbury was a small town, through the 20th century as it grew to become a major regional centre and a city, the development of local government over that period, and the commitment of the Council to develop and upgrade its facilities including the place itself and the City's administrative offices in a three storey building on the adjacent site. The gardens illustrate the development of an open space associated with council chambers and the practice of commemorating significant events. (Criterion 2.1)

Bunbury Council Chambers were built in 1897, during the Western Australian gold boom period when Bunbury grew and developed, and were remodelled and extended in 1935-36, as the State recovered from the Great Depression and Bunbury developed further and looked towards celebrating its centenary, which was commemorated in the Centenary Gardens laid out and planted at the place in 1936. Alterations (1964), erection of new administrative buildings (1977-78), renovation of *Bunbury Council Chambers* building and landscaping of the gardens (1991-92) were also undertaken during periods of development. (Criterion 2.2)

Architect P.W. Harrison designed the first stage of *Bunbury Council Chambers*, which was built by Messrs. J. and H. Gibbs. Well known architect E. G. Cohen of Eales and Cohen designed the remodelling and extensions that were built by well known Bunbury builders J. G. Hough and Sons. Bunbury architect Colin Mort designed the 1964 alterations. As a councillor and as Mayor of Bunbury, Dr E. C. Manea, AM, played a decisive role in determining the future of the place over many years. Hames Sharley Australia in association with Sasha Ivanovich and Associates were responsible for the renovation and refurbishment carried out by Perkin Bros. in 1991-92, and Peter Hunt Architect for those implemented by Perkins Builders in 2004-06. (Criterion 2.3)

Bunbury Council Chambers evidences Cohen's creative and design excellence in remodelling a Federation Free Classical style building to become a notable example of the Inter-War Art Deco style applied to a municipal building and the achievement of builders J. G. Hough and Sons in the 1935-36. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

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11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Bunbury Council Chambers, purpose built as council chambers and offices fulfilled this role for the local government authority 1897-1979 and, since

renovation and refurbishment in 1991-92, as council chambers, function centre and committee room, continues to be an integral part of the City of Bunbury, whose community highly values the place, including the Centenary Gardens, for social, cultural and aesthetic reasons. Those who used the services of the Infant Health Clinic at the place may value it for further social reasons. (Criterion 4.1)

Bunbury Council Chambers contributes to the community's sense of place as the centre of local government in Bunbury for more than a century. (Criterion 4.2)

12.   DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Bunbury Council Chambers is a relatively rare example of a local government building in a regional town that originated in the late 19th century and was remodelled and extended in the Inter-War Art Deco design style, and is one of a limited body of substantial Inter-war Art Deco buildings in regional areas. The Centenary Gardens to commemorate Bunbury's centenary in 1936, are rare in this State. The relatively long term accommodation of an Infant Health Centre at the place was probably rare. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Bunbury Council Chambers is a good representative example of the Inter-War Art Deco style, and represents the type of facilities designed and developed for an important regional local government authority as it has grown and developed from the late 19th century to the present. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

Bunbury Council Chambers was most recently refurbished in 2004, and is in good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Bunbury Council Chambers displays a moderate to high degree of integrity. It is still used for its original and intended purpose of council chamber and civic building, although the associated clerical functions have expanded considerably and have been relocated to the substantial three-storey building adjacent.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The external fabric of *Bunbury Council Chambers* displays a moderate to high degree of authenticity. The major external elements that have been altered from the 1936 remodelling are the windows on the south (front) façade. Internally, *Bunbury Council Chambers* displays a low to moderate degree of authenticity. Most of the internal spaces have been altered and reconfigured and a high proportion of fabric has been altered.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and Lynne Farrow, Architect, in 2008, with amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage and the Register Committee.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Bunbury Council Chambers is a single-storey rendered brick building with a parapeted corrugated iron roof. Architect P.W. Harrison designed the initial building in the Federation Free Classical style, and E. G. Cohen of Eales & Cohen designed the extensions and remodelling in the Inter-War Art Deco style in 1935-36. The Centenary Gardens were laid out and planted in 1936, re-landscaped to provide an open plan garden to complement the newly refurbished *Bunbury Council Chambers* building in 1991-92, and re-landscaped again in 2004-06.

Named in honour of Lieutenant Henry St Pierre Bunbury, of the 21st Regiment,[1] the townsite was surveyed about 1840 and proclaimed in 1841. In 1851, a Town Trust was formed with a Chairman and six members, which continued until 1871, when Bunbury became a Municipality with a Chairman and Councillors.[2] An 1863 photograph shows the future site of *Bunbury Council Chambers* and the Centenary Gardens at the corner of Wittenoom and Stephen Streets. It was cleared and enclosed with a timber fence by this date, with two smaller fenced enclosures (possibly holding yards) near Stephen Street.[3]

In the 1870s, about 300 people lived in Bunbury, with about 2,000 in the district. Bunbury grew gradually in the mid-1880s, and it was declared a Mayoralty in 1887, with the incumbent Chairman, Charles Wisbey, becoming the first mayor until Ephraim M. Clarke was elected to the position. Clarke was mayor six times in all, and was the Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) for South-West Province from 1901 until he died in 1921.[4] In June 1888, the *Southern Advertiser* suggested if the Council went in for a town extension it might 'be in a position to borrow money to build a Town Hall', and noted the Mechanics Institute (1868, demolished),[5] was not adequate for a large audience.[6] The need for a Hall and Municipal Chambers had been recognised, but the Municipality lacked funds and consequently 'a small lean-to shed which disfigured the northern side of the Mechanics Institute' served as meeting rooms for the Council until 1897.[7]

During the gold boom of the 1890s, Bunbury grew rapidly. The South-Western Railway from Perth, which opened in 1893, and improvements to the harbour enabled development of timber exporting, which transformed the

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1   Barker, Anthony J. and Laurie, Maxine *Excellent Connections: A History of Bunbury, Western Australia, 1836-1990* City of Bunbury, 1992, pp. 5-6.

2   *Southern Advertiser* 3 January 1888, p. 4.

3   Photograph 'Bunbury in 1863', in *Bunbury Centenary Souvenir* Municipality of Bunbury, 1936.

4   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., p. 104 and p. 127.

5   *Fremantle Herald* 13 July 1872, p. 3; and *Southern Advertiser* 3 January 1888, p. 4.

6   *Southern Advertiser* 19 June 1888, p. 4.

7   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., p. 134.

economy of the town. Railways were constructed from other centres in the South-West to Bunbury, which provided port and rail services for the developing fruit growing areas. The town made rapid progress and entered a period of prosperity, spreading beyond its original town boundary as it evolved from a small town to include suburbs.[8] In 1894, a two-storey Post Office designed by George Temple Poole (now demolished), was built on the lot adjoining the future site of *Bunbury Council Chambers*.[9]

In the late 1890s, Bunbury became known as a seaside resort offering a welcome respite from the summer heat. In 1896-97, the Council instituted street tree planting to beautify the town, developed the recreation ground, and construction of the important breakwater to the harbour began, with Premier Sir John Forrest tipping the first bucket of stone.[10] A granite stone from the breakwater is the base of a memorial to him in the Centenary Gardens.[11]

In 1896, Bunbury Municipal Council proposed a new building to provide offices and Council Chambers. In November it called for plans, offering a bonus of £15 for the best design. Three plans were submitted at the December meeting, at which the Council was advised £500 was included on the government Estimates for Municipal buildings for Bunbury.[12] From 1894 to 1914, Grants-in-Aid comprising land and/or funds towards construction of halls helped build municipal and road board offices, public libraries and agricultural halls.[13] In 1897, Bunbury received £500 towards the Municipal Chambers, and a further £500 for development of the recreation ground.[14]

In January 1897, the Council chose the design of architect Percy William Harrison. Subsequently he advised 'he would like to supervise the erection of the building, as no one else would take as much interest in the work'.[15] Harrison (b. London, 1864) had served his five year indenture under Thomas Watts, and then worked as his chief draftsman until establishing his own practice in 1893. In 1895, he arrived in Western Australia and initially practised with Wyburn.[16] As Honorary Architect to the Ministering Children's League, Harrison designed the buildings (1897-1909) at the Ministering Children's League Convalescent Home (present day *Wearne Hostel*) and the Memorial Gates (1923). In the early 1900s, he was also Honorary Architect

8   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., pp. 121, 134-46; and Molyneux, Ian 'Bunbury National Estate Survey' 1978.
9   Oldham, Ray and John *George Temple-Poole: Architect of the Golden years 1885-1897* UWA Press, Nedlands, 1980, p. 54.
10   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., pp. 138-48.
11   Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.
12   *Southern Times* 3 Nov. and 10 Dec. 1896, p. 8 and p. 3 respectively.
13   Candy, P. C. & Laurent, J. (Eds.) *Pioneering Culture: Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in Australia* Auslib Press, Adelaide, 1994, pp. 1-8 and 126-50.
14   Bunbury Council Minutes, 1 Feb. 1897, and Balance Sheet to 30 April 1897.
15   *Southern Times* 5 Jan. 1897, p. 3.
16   Morison, Margaret Pitt 'Immigrant Architects' 1983; and Battye, J. S. *Cyclopedia of Western Australia* The Cyclopedia Company, Perth, 1913, Fasc. Ed. Hesperian Press, Carlisle, Western Australia, 1985, Vol. 1, pp 623-24.

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for the Victoria Institute for the Blind, and consulting architect to the Children's Hospital.[17]

Messrs. J. and H. Gibbs were awarded the contract, and the Council decided it was to be completed within four months, with a penalty of 15s. per day if not achieved, and work commenced in February.[18] John and Harold Gibbs were experienced local builders. In 1893, they had built the Freemasons' Hall in Wittenoom Street, John Gibbs built additions to Bunbury Post Office in 1896, and Messrs. Gibbs built further additions to the Post Office in 1897.[19]

In March 1897, the Council invited Premier Forrest to lay the foundation stone for the new Municipal Chambers. The Town Clerk was instructed to obtain a stone. Voting tied on a motion 'that the names of the Council be engraved upon the foundation stone', and Mayor E. M. Clarke gave his casting vote in favour.[20] Henry Reading, proprietor of the *Southern Times* and a critic of the Council, succeeded in his campaign against this proposal, but his newspaper supported a suggestion photographs be taken of the Mayor and Councillors and 'enclosed in the bottle to be placed in the cavity of the stone'.[21]

On 15 March 1897 Premier Forrest, F. H. Piesse, Commissioner for Railways, R. A. Sholl, Postmaster General, Colonel Phillips, Commissioner of Police, J. Cookworthy, MLA, E. McLarty, MLC, the Premier's father (William) and brothers (Robert and George) travelled to Bunbury on a special ministerial train where they were met by the Mayor and Councillors, Resident Magistrate, W. H. Timperley, Inspector Clifton, and a large crowd of townspeople. As the Premier emerged from the station the Volunteer Corps band greeted him with a rendition of 'Our Jack's come home today'. Huntley Allen 'representing Mr. Jackson, the architect, had everything in readiness for laying the foundation stone' inscribed 'Foundation stone laid by Sir John Forrest, KCMG, Premier of the Colony, March 15th, 1897'.[22] No other reference to Jackson as architect has come to light. It is unlikely he was responsible for the design as Harrison was paid £15 for his design, and Allen was paid for supervising the project.[23]

In his address, the Premier noted it was 'absolutely necessary for the welfare of any town that the Municipal Council – those elected by the people – should have a domicile', and he was 'very pleased to think that he had something to do with providing the funds for the work'.[24] He hoped this would be the 'starting point of their municipal prosperity', and at a future date it would 'not be nearly large enough to transact the business of the town, and ... they would have to erect a far more commodious and important one'.[25] He considered Bunbury needed a Town Hall, the people of Bunbury should work

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17   Considine and Griffiths Architects with Robin Chinnery 'Wearne Hostel, Cottesloe, Conservation Plan' Oct. 2000, p. 7, pp. 129-30; Annual Reports, Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind, 1903-10; and *W. A. Mining, Building and Engineering Journal* 3 June 1911, p. 19.

18   *Southern Times* 2 Feb. 1897, p. 3.

19   Oldham, Ray and John, op. cit.; and Assessment Document *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* RHP 380, p. 5.

20   Bunbury Council Minutes, 1 March 1897; and *Southern Times* 2 March 1897, p. 3.

21   ibid; and Barker and Laurie, op. cit., p. 161.

22   *Southern Times* 16 March 1897, p. 3; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.

23   Bunbury Council Minutes, Feb. - Sept.1897.

24   *Southern Times* 16 March 1897, p. 3.

25   ibid.

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towards this goal, and 'might rely upon the Government being only too glad to come to their assistance as far as possible in any work of that kind'.[26] Subsequently a crowd of more than 1,000 people watched the Premier lay the foundation stone for the new Bunbury Hospital.[27]

In early May 1897, the Council granted Messrs. Gibbs an additional five weeks for completion of the Municipal Buildings, which were completed mid-year. Council Minutes did not note an official opening but record meetings at the place from 9 August. Tenders were called for a caretaker and May Properjohn was appointed. The Council was presented with 'a view of the Municipal Offices and Chambers, Council and officers', which may be one of the historic photographs on display at City of Bunbury in 2008.[28]

In September 1897, the Council agreed the minimum rent to be charged to the Bunbury Building Society and the Chamber of Commerce for use of the Council Chambers would be £6 per annum, and to advertise that Council business 'would in future be conducted in the Municipal Chamber'.[29] In October, the Council decided to extend the hospitality of the Municipality at the Municipal Chambers to the Governor and the Parliamentary party.[30]

In 1899, a photograph of Bunbury shows the modest single-storey Municipal Chambers in the Federation Free Classical design style and on the adjoining lot the substantial, two-storey, Federation Free Classical style Post Office.[31]

In 1901, the Balance Sheet for the Town of Bunbury included expenditure of £193 13s 9d for erection of caretaker's quarters.[32]

In 1904, *Bunbury Council Chambers* were described as:

> ….neat in outward appearance, while internally they are commodious and comfortable. Attached to the official rooms is the Municipal Library and free reading-room (an exceedingly attractive feature of the town), which is well patronized by the residents and by visitors.[33]

In the inter-war period, community groups making use of *Bunbury Council Chambers* included the Ex-Naval Men's Association, the Bunbury Operatic Society, and it was used for orchestral practice. The area at the rear of the building was cultivated with lawn, and the Central Croquet Club was granted seasonal use of the lawn area in 1930-32. In 1933, the Council agreed to a request from the Chamber of Commerce to make the greens used by the Croquet Club suitable for bowling and in return they agreed to form a Bowling

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[26]   ibid.
[27]   ibid, 13 and 16 March 1897, p. 3.
[28]   Bunbury Council Minutes, 3 May - 6 Sept. 1897; Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.
[29]   Bunbury Council Minutes, 6 and 20 Sept. 1897.
[30]   Bunbury Council Minutes, 18 Oct. 1897.
[31]   'View of Bunbury 1899', Battye Library 24925P, reproduced in Barker and Laurie, op. cit., p. 137.
[32]   Balance Sheet for Bunbury in *Government Gazette* 6 Dec. 1901, p. 2148. Further research may ascertain details of these quarters.
[33]   Quoted in HCWA Backlog Form for *Bunbury Council Chambers*, no details

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Club.[34]   However, this may not have been implemented as there was no mention of such use in 1936, when the gardens were developed.[35]

In May 1934, G. E. Clarke said the time was favourable to erect a Town Hall and he considered the most suitable site was that of the Municipal Buildings. Mayor George Reading proposed converting the existing committee room to two offices, one for the Town Clerk and one for the Health Inspector, and the existing Town Clerk's office to a committee room. At the suggestion of Councillor Higgins, well-known architect Eustace Gresley Cohen was 'engaged to re-plan the whole of the building, including the library'.[36]   His initial proposal was 'a very expensive scheme', which the Mayor did not consider justified, and in view of continued agitation for a Town Hall the Council decided to leave in abeyance the proposal for alterations to the Municipal Buildings.[37]   In December, the Council agreed Miss Paisley could have the books and fittings in the library for £55 and granted her a gratuity of £25 on her retirement as librarian, and the library was closed.[38]

In early 1935, eighty-nine ratepayers petitioned the Council for a Town Hall at Bunbury and requested a loan of £15,000 be raised for this purpose or a Special Meeting of Ratepayers be called to discuss the matter. On 6 May a large number of people attended the Special Meeting at which 14 people voted in favour and 32 voted against the proposal to have plans prepared by architects or by competitive design for a Town Hall to cost about £15,000.[39]

In mid-1935, E. G. Cohen of Eales & Cohen prepared plans and specifications for extensive alterations and additions to the Municipal Chambers, and tenders were called in September. For the three alternatives proposed, ten builders submitted tenders. The lowest was from well-known local builders J. G. Hough and Sons, who were responsible for many inter-war buildings at Bunbury, and they were awarded the contract.[40]

In early October 1935, at a meeting of the South Bunbury Progress, there was vigorous discussion of the plans to reconstruct the existing municipal buildings and the proposal to raise a loan for £7,000 to fund the project. As reported in the *South Western Times*, Chairman, J. F. Withers, MLA, said

> It seemed to be a necessary adjunct of local governing authorities that they should have a reasonably decent hall. We in Bunbury entertained distinguished visitors and spoke of the wealth and potentialities of the district, but it did not seem we had much faith in the district when we entertained them in a civic

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34   Bunbury Council Minutes, 1930- 1934.
35   *South Western Times* 25 April, 16 and 19 Dec. 1936.
36   Bunbury Council Minutes, 30 May 1934- 8 Oct. 1934
37   Bunbury Council Minutes, 12 Nov. 1934.
38   Bunbury Council Minutes, 21 Dec. 1934.
39   Bunbury Council Minutes and Special Ratepayers Meeting in Bunbury Council Minutes, February-April 1935 and 6 May 1935.
40   Bunbury Council Minutes, July-Sept. 1935; and *Building and Construction* Sept. 1935. Note: For biographical details of J. Herbert Eales refer to Battye, J. S. (ed.) *Cyclopedia of Western Australia* The Cyclopedia Company, Perth, 1912, Fasc. Ed. Hesperian Press, Carlisle, Western Australia, 1985, Vol. 1, p. 631, and for Eustace Gresley Cohen refer to Morrison, Margaret Pitt 'Immigrant Architects' Typescript, Battye Library, PR 13589, p. 3.

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building which suffered very sadly indeed by comparison with other buildings elsewhere.[41]

For example, the new Road Board Hall at Harvey was 'a credit to the district', which 'made one ashamed of the civic building in Bunbury'.[42] Mr Oldfield noted high Council rates at Bunbury compared with other towns, criticised the Mayor for opposing the Town Hall at first but supporting these proposals, and contended 'the building which it was intended to provide now would be obsolete in 20 years' time'.[43] After more discussion the meeting decided 'that the proposed plans not be proceeded with until other works, considered to be more important' were done.[44] In November, the loan poll recorded 412 votes against the proposed town hall, 288 in favour, and 35 informal votes, reflecting the extent of the opposition, and it did not proceed.[45]

In 1935-36, J. G. Hough and Sons completed the Inter-War Art Deco style renovation, alterations and additions at a cost of £2,250.[46] An advertisement and photograph in *Bunbury Centenary Souvenir* noted 'Plasterite' ceilings were selected 'for the new Bunbury Municipal Chambers' and supplied by Perth Modelling Works Ltd's branch at Bunbury.[47] In January 1936, the Council decided to postpone the ceremonies at which Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell was to relay the foundation stone of the 'reconstructed Council Chambers' because the Town Clerk was ill.[48]

Subsequently, on 22 April 1936, Sir James Mitchell laid the stone, which was inscribed with details of the occasion, the names of the architects, Eales & Cohen, contractors, J. G. Hough & Sons, and Mayor J. Verschuer. At the civic reception that followed, the Mayor said the remodelled Council Chambers would be 'a great convenience to everybody, especially the staff'.[49] That afternoon, the Governor planted 'a growth of a tree taken from the garden where he used to play as a boy', to launch the Council's effort 'to convert the unused land at the back of the now remodelled Council Chambers into an attractive garden'.[50] It is not known whether this tree is among the mature trees surviving at the place in 2008.

In May 1936, the Council decided to call tenders for clearing the site at the rear of the Council Chambers, and to erect 'suitable buildings ... at rear of Pumping Station to include, if possible, accommodation for a garage and cycles'.[51] A. Nilsson was awarded the contract at a cost of £411.[52]

In June 1936, George Clarke, former Mayor of Bunbury, suggested celebrating the town's centenary. Visitor numbers to Bunbury had declined

41   *South Western Times* 9 October 1935, p. 2.
42   ibid.
43   ibid.
44   ibid.
45   Results of Loan Poll held 6 November 1935, in Bunbury Council Minutes, 1935.
46   Bunbury Council Minutes, 1935-36.
47   *Bunbury Centenary Souvenir* Municipality of Bunbury, 1936.
48   Bunbury Council Minutes, 6 January 1936.
49   *South-Western Times* 22 and 25 April 1936
50   ibid; commemorative stone, site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.
51   Bunbury Council Minutes, 11 May 1936.
52   Bunbury Council Minutes, 8 June and 10 August 1936.

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during the Depression, so it was hoped that together with the establishment of a trotting venue the centenary celebrations would attract tourists, which would be assisted by completion of bituminising the Perth-Bunbury road.[53] In August, the Council agreed to erect a monument for the centenary. The only tender submitted was for a brick kiosk, which A. Nillson erected in the garden at the rear of the Municipal Chambers.[54]

Laying out and planting of the Centenary Gardens transformed the area at the corner of Wittenoom and Princep Street:

> The barren aspect which once characterised the rear of the council chambers is gone and the ground has been converted to a picturesque plot, surrounded by a low ornamental wall. Grass and flowers have been planted, paths laid out in attractive design, and the kiosk in the middle of the ground has been completed, with the tablet to the memory of Lieutenant Bunbury built into the western side.[55]

A photograph in *Bunbury Centenary Souvenir* shows the remodelled Municipal Buildings, with lettering above the three entrances at Stephen Street reading (from left to right), PUBLIC HALL, BUNBURY MUNICIPAL OFFICES below the year '1935', and PUBLIC OFFICE, and the newly erected brick kiosk building in the Centenary Gardens.[56]

On 21 December 1936, foundation day celebrations included a re-enactment of the arrival of the Scott family and unveiling of a monument to the failed venture at Australind. About 500 pioneers of the district and their descendants were present, together with members of State and Federal Parliaments and other official guests. Chief Secretary W.H. Kitson, on behalf of the State Government, delivered the congratulatory message to the people of Bunbury on achieving its centenary, Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Mitchell unveiled the memorial tablet to Lieutenant Bunbury, which was built into the west wall of the kiosk, and Dr Battye gave an address.[57]

In July 1937, the Minister for Health opened an Infant Health Centre, known as Bunbury Infant and Maternal Welfare Centre. It operated from Stirling Street until about 1946, when it relocated to *Bunbury Council Chambers* with access at the rear of the building, as shown on 1964 plans of the north elevation where signage above the entrance reads INFANT HEALTH CLINIC.[58]

Interest in mother and child health dates from the turn of the twentieth century when there was much concern about the high levels of maternal and infant mortality. For example, in 1900, '1 in 240 mothers died in childbirth and 1 in 8 babies did not reach the age of one year.' Lack of trained midwives and poor maternal practices were blamed for these high rates and the Public Health Department attempted to counteract this through the establishment of the

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53   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., pp. 256-57.
54   Bunbury Council Minutes, August-Sept. 1936.
55   *South Western Times* 16 and 19 Dec. 1936, p. 5 and p. 6 respectively; and Centenary Gardens, Bunbury, www.littlehills.com/travel_information/wa.bunbury.shtml
56   Photograph 'Bunbury in 1863', in *Bunbury Centenary Souvenir* Municipality of Bunbury, 1936.
57   *South Western Times* 22 Dec. 1936.
58   Bunbury Council Minutes, July 1937; *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1938-49; Colin Mort 'Working Drawings for Alterations to Council Offices for Bunbury Town Council' Feb. 1964; and *South Western Times* 12 Nov. 1964, p. 28, which noted Bunbury was the eighth centre to erect its own Infant Health Centre. Note: In 1954, plans for alterations that were not carried out did not show the Infant Health Centre.

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Midwives Registration Board and the employment of visiting nurses who could help 'train' mothers in infant health care. Yet, there was still no real provision of child health services as such. The Silver Chain Nursing Association had established rooms in Kalgoorlie in 1920 and a pilot infant health clinic had been introduced in Perth around 1920.[59]

In 1922, the Infant Health Association of Western Australia was formed to work with the Public Health Department in establishing infant health clinics, with three opened in Perth, followed by clinics at Fremantle and Northam in 1924. Infant Health Nurses weighed babies, discussed infant progress, health and development with the mother, and made referrals to a doctor or hospital. The Infant Health Clinic was seen as an educational institution for mothers and one of the main aims of the clinic was to help and teach mothers how to provide for the good health of their infant[60] 'hoping to help her to produce a happy, healthy, well-adjusted Australian citizen'.[61] These places were an important move towards improving infant health in Western Australia and are likely to have played a significant role in the lives of the parents and children who attended them.

By 1 July 1945, when the State Government took over responsibility of nurses' salaries and travelling expenses, there were 31 infant health centres and 72 sub-centres. This number rapidly increased and, by September 1955, there were 26 country centres and 215 associated sub-centres, and 25 metropolitan centres and 95 sub-centres.[62]

In 1952, APEX erected a wishing well (removed) in the Centenary Gardens as shown in a 1995 photograph.[63] In the post-World War II period, wishing wells were erected in numerous parks and gardens, including Kings Park, and were a popular feature that raised funds for charities such as APEX.

In 1954, plans show a proposed hall at the corner of Prinsep and Wittenoom Streets, with the main entrance from Prinsep Street, on the site of the gardens behind the Council Chambers building, and proposed additions to the Council Chambers.[64] These proposals were not implemented; however, some alterations and additions were made to the rear of the Council Chambers building as evidenced by a 1964 plan.[65]

In the 1950s-early 1960s, Bunbury's considerable growth required increased public administration, necessitating additional office space. In 1963, local

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59   Office of Heritage Assessment Documentation. *Place No. 11375 Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr).* p. 4

60   ibid. p. 5.

61   Report of the Public Health Department, 1939 to 1943, pp. 9 & 18, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1944, Vol. 2; 'Infant Health Work in Western Australia', Sept. 1955, Infant Health – Establishment of Clinics, SROWA AN 120/4 Acc. 1003 Item 760/1938, pp. 85-101; and Holman, D'Arcy *Report of the Special Consultant on Community and Child Health Services* Health Department of Western Australia, 1991, Vol. 1, pp. 85 & 92.

62   Office of Heritage Assessment Documentation. *Place No. 11375 Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr).* p. 4.

63   Centenary Gardens, Bunbury, www.littlehills.com/travel_information/wa.bunbury.shtml; and photo by Aaron Bunch, National Library of Australia at http://nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an11579951-30

64   'Bunbury Municipal Council Proposed Civic Buildings Proposal B', 1 Sept. 1954.

65   Colin Mort 'Working Drawings for Alterations to Council Offices for Bunbury Town Council' Feb. 1964.

architect Colin Mort prepared sketch plans, which would provide extra office space, a new Infant Health Centre on the east boundary fronting Stephen Street, relocate the Mayor's Parlour, and retain the assistant Town Clerk's office in its existing location.[66] In January 1964, the Council approved a new Infant Health Centre, to be built between *Bunbury Council Chambers* and the Post Office.[67] Use of Infant Health Clinics increased during the late 1950s to 1970s, with more children in the 1-2 and 2-5 year age brackets being seen as mothers continued to bring in their children past the infant stage.[68] In February, Colin Mort was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for alterations to the Council Offices, including entrances, doors and windows, removal of the fireplace, hearth and mantle, removal of some partitioning, and installation of new partitioning. The words 'Public Hall' above the entrance at the south elevation and that reading 'Infant Health Clinic' above the north elevation entrance were to be removed.[69]

In July 1964, it was announced the Council Offices were to be re-constructed as per plans by Colin Mort at an estimated cost of £16,500. The project was to be funded in part by the sale several years earlier of Bunbury's old electricity undertaking for £12,000 to the State Electricity Commission (SEC), a donation of £500 from the Lotteries Commission towards the cost of the new Infant Health Clinic, and a subsidy from the State Government. Some walls were to be removed as part of the conversion of the infant health rooms at the west to become the Mayor's Parlour and of the old council hall to become office space. The main offices to front Stephen Street included those of the Town Clerk, his secretary, and the engineer's office and the drafting room in the west wing of the main building. The general office for public business such as payment of rates etc. was to remain in its existing location but was extended in area by incorporating the Town Clerk's room. The frontage boasted an 'attractive … brick-pier pergola entrance to the municipal gardens from Stephen-street'.[70]

On 12 November 1964, Lieutenant-Governor Sir Douglas Kendrew officially opened the 'reconstructed administrative buildings', completed at an estimated cost of £16,760.[71]

On 3 March 1968, the Mayor of Bunbury, Dr Ernest Cosmo Manea, unveiled a memorial at the Centenary Gardens on the site of the first railway station at Bunbury in 1893. The plaque 'to honour the courage, endurance and enterprise of Western Australia's early settlers' is inscribed with details of its unveiling of the railway.[72]

[66]   Bunbury Council Minutes, July- Oct. 1963.
[67]   Bunbury Council Minutes, Jan. 1964.
[68]   Office of Heritage Assessment Documentation. *Place No. 05174 Beverley Infant Health Centre (fmr)*. p. 7.
[69]   Bunbury Council Minutes, 10 Feb. 1964; and Colin Mort Mort 'Working Drawings for Alterations to Council Offices for Bunbury Town Council' Sheets 1 & 2, Feb. 1964, Sheet 3, March 1964.
[70]   *South Western Times* 9 July 1964. Note: Later that year the Public Health Department advised an increase in the subsidy for the new Infant Health Centre. (Bunbury Council Minutes, Dec.1964.)
[71]   *South Western Times* 12 Nov. 1964, p. 28.
[72]   Barker and Laurie, op. cit., p. 310; Taylor, Alister (ed.) *The Australian Roll of Honour National Hounours & Awards 1975-1996* Alister Taylor, Sydney, 1997, p. 624; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.

In 1969, the Bunbury Historical Society was concerned for the 1890s Post Office when it was proposed to erect a new Post Office on a different site. After the new Post Office was completed the earlier building was utilised as the Court House in 1970-74. In the post-war period, the need for a Town Hall and a new administrative centre had been raised on numerous occasions but had not received much public support, which was reflected in the resounding rejection of a proposal for a five storey civic centre and library on the Parkfield Hospital site, and it did not proceed. Instead a separate new library was completed and opened in spring 1974.[73]

In 1976, the Town of Bunbury acquired the former Post Office, which was designed by architect George Temple Poole.[74] The building was demolished to allow for the erection of new administrative buildings.[75] J. M. Best & Son Holdings Pty Ltd were awarded the contract to erect a three storey 'prestige quality building' at a cost of $740,619, per the design by G. Whiteley of the Bunbury office of well known architects Parry & Rosenthal, with completion due in July 1978.[76] It was anticipated the new building would fulfil the requirements of the Council Administration 'for many years'.[77]

On 9 January 1978, the Council resolved not to demolish the existing Council building, and that the front of the building should 'retain its identity and not be made to blend with the new building'.[78]

In September 1978, Premier Sir Charles Court officially opened the new administrative buildings, although they were not ready for use until 1979. Thereafter the earlier Council Chambers were utilised by other agencies for some years, including Legal Aid Commission.[79] On 8 October 1979, Bunbury was officially proclaimed a city.[80]

In early 1990, after considering plans for a new administration building, the Mayor, Dr Ern Manea, recommended extending the existing building over the Civic Hall site rather than constructing a new building adjacent to the Regional Theatre. Hobbs Winning Architects was engaged to prepare a feasibility study, concept plan and cost estimates.[81] In May 1991, Hames Sharley Australia in association with Sasha Ivanovich and Associates prepared plans for extensive renovations and refurbishment of the 1897 Council Chambers. These works were carried out in 1991-92, and included repairs and restoration to walls, restoration of windows at the east, south and north elevations, removal of some windows at the south and north elevations and bricking up of the openings.[82] This project enabled a modern space for council meetings and returned the place to its intended purpose.

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73   Barker and Laurie, ibid, pp. 340-41.
74   Certificate of Title Vol. 1443 Fol. 023.
75   Oldham, Ray and John, op. cit.
76   Mayor's Report for year ended 30 June 1977.
77   ibid.
78   Bunbury Council Minutes, 9 and 23 Jan. 1964.
79   op. cit., pp. 340-41; and photo in *Waltzing Moderne* Sept. 1993.
80   Barker and Laurie, ibid, pp. 342-43.
81   Bunbury Council Minutes, Jan–Feb 1990.
82   Bunbury Council Minutes, 1990-92; Hames Sharley Australia in association with Sasha Ivanovich and Associates 'City of Bunbury Old Council Chambers' Elevations, Drawing WD 03, May 1991.

Register of Heritage Places
Bunbury Council Chambers
28 January 2011

In October 1991, the Council resolved to demolish the kiosk building in the Centenary Gardens to make way for implementation of an open plan garden as an extension to the refurbished Council Chambers building. A submission from Bunbury Joint Heritage Group outlining the historical significance of the structure was received and considered, but the Council decided to proceed with demolition and agreed the plaques would be preserved.[83]

In May 1992, Premier Carmen Lawrence laid the stone to commemorate 'the reconstruction' of *Bunbury Council Chambers*, carried out by Perkin Bros.[84]

In June 1994, Bunbury Municipal Chambers were included in the Art Deco Significant Building Survey, which recommended they be entered in the Register of Heritage Places. On 6 June 1995, the place was classified by the National Trust (WA). In 1996, the place was included in the Municipal Inventory for Bunbury, which also recommended entry in the Register of Heritage Places.[85]

In 2004, prominent Perth architect Peter Hunt prepared plans for Bunbury Civic Centre comprising the administrative building and *Bunbury Council Chambers*, which were to be extensively refurbished. The demolition plan shows considerable change to the interior of the Council Chambers building, demolition of the 1960s Infant Health Centre and public toilets to make way for a new glazed foyer connection to the administrative building, which were implemented. The plans show removal of some structures, walls, paths, and trees, and which trees and paths were to be retained in the gardens.[86] In 2006, Aqwest Water Board, Bunbury, donated a floating stone executed by Richard Williamson, to commemorate a century of service by the Board to the town and its close working relationship with the City of Bunbury.[87] In 2007, the Bunbury Civic Centre project was awarded the Master Builders' Association Excellence in Construction Award for the refurbishment.[88]

The Centenary Gardens continue to be a popular recreation place and venue for various functions including weddings in 2008.[89] *Bunbury Council Chambers* continues in use as council chambers, function room and committee room in 2008.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Bunbury Council Chambers is a single-storey rendered brick building with a parapeted corrugated iron roof. It was constructed in the Federation Free Classical style in 1897, and in 1935-36, when major alterations and additions designed by architects Eales & Cohen were constructed, the façade was remodelled to its present Inter-War Art Deco style.

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[83] Bunbury Council Minutes, Sept-Dec 1991; site visit, Lynne Farrow and Robin Chinnery, 17 Sept. 2008.

[84] Plaque, site visit, Robin Chinnery, 17 Sept. 2008.

[85] Bunbury Municipal Chambers, Art Deco Significant Building Survey, 30 June 1994; Assessment National Trust (WA), 6 June 1995; Bunbury Municipal Inventory Adopted 31 July 1996.

[86] Peter Hunt Architect 'Bunbury Civic Centre' for the City of Bunbury, May 2004; and site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, 17 Sept. 2008.

[87] Centenary Gardens, Bunbury, Western Australia – Shopsafe Australia Travel Directory, www.australia.shopsafe.com.au/attraction/stopover/western_australia/south_west

[88] Plaques at City of Bunbury, site viist, Robin Chinnery, 17 Sept. 2008.

[89] Centenary Gardens, Bunbury, www.southwestlife.com.au/outdoors0107a.

Bunbury Council Chambers is located on the corner of Stephen and Wittenoom Streets, Bunbury, at the southern end of the central business district, in a civic precinct opposite the Bunbury Courthouse on Stephen Street and the Police Department and *Masonic Hall* on Wittenoom Street. The *Masonic Hall* was also remodelled by Eales & Cohen in the Inter-War Art Deco Style and is a particularly complementary building in the precinct.

The south (front) and west side façades are constructed against the Lot boundaries of Stephen Street and Wittenoom Street respectively. The rear (north) façade faces the Centenary Gardens, which continue across the west end of the city block to Prinsep Street to the north. A three-storey building comprising the City of Bunbury administration offices is located to the east and is joined to the north end of the east façade of the building by a single-storey glazed foyer. A mature palm is extant near the southeast corner of the building on Stephen Street, which may be significant.

Centenary Gardens is level with *Bunbury Council Chambers* and consists of lawned areas with planter beds along the Wittenoom and part of Prinsep Street boundaries. The planter beds contain shrubs and small trees and there is an area planted with grasses and hardy indigenous vegetation near the north façade of *Bunbury Council Chambers*. There are five mature Jacaranda trees interspersed along the perimeter of the gardens, a mature Eucalypt in the southwest corner, and two mature Box trees. A particular feature is a fountain consisting of a large spherical sculpture introduced as part of the refurbishments of 2004, which is sited on the former site of the wishing well. A number of brick paths cross the park in a symmetrical arrangement converging at the sculpture.

Approximately ten metres from the northwest corner of *Bunbury Council Chambers,* on the west boundary, is a public entrance to the gardens. A plaque is located on either side of this entrance: the southern one to commemorate the site of the original Bunbury Railway Station and the northern one to commemorate Lord John Forrest. On the east side of the Centenary Gardens, is a wide path and separate ramp which lead to the north entrance of the recently refurbished City of Bunbury Administration building.

The front (south) façade of *Bunbury Council Chambers* has three projecting bays. The central bay is the dominating feature of the facade, with three symmetrically placed three pane timber hopper windows with very deep fluted reveals that continue down below the window to the level of a plinth that runs the full length of the facade. Below the central window is the foundation stone laid by Premier John Forrest in 1897, which was re-laid in 1936. The windows were modified in the 1960s. Above each window is a horizontal band with a repeating circular motif. Above the motif the words BUNBURY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL are set in bas relief and painted in a contrasting colour and above the words is the date 1935, with a coat of arms in the middle of the date. At the head of the parapet is a plain shallow recessed pediment.

The other two projecting bays are smaller and each contain a pair of panelled timber doors with glazed fanlights over and deep arched reveals. The fanlights are covered with a diamond patterned grille. The words PUBLIC OFFICES are set over the eastern door. There is no evidence of the former

sign PUBLIC HALL over the western door. Each of these bays has a plain shallow pediment and a stepped streamlined effect at the corners.

In the recessed plane of the building, the western entrance is flanked by timber casement windows. Each of the windows has a panel beneath with a diamond patterned grille that matches that on the fanlights of the doors. The recessed bay to the east of the central bay contains a pair of timber panelled doors with a fanlight over, again with the diamond pattern grille to the fanlight. The recessed bays have a wide projecting band above the windows and doors that returns down the west façade.

The west façade is relatively plain, with the projecting band at the upper level and a single aluminium window towards the north end of the façade.

The north façade, which faces Centennial Gardens, has a number of planes of plain stuccoed walls with no fenestration at its east end. The introduced pyramid roof of the 1992 addition with its glass curtain wall and pergola, projects forward from the centre of the façade. At the eastern end is a modern glazed and panelled parapeted façade constructed in 2004, which links *Bunbury Council Chambers* to the City of Bunbury administration offices.

On the east façade, the parapet wall returns approximately 900 mm from the front façade, with the eaves of the original 1897 hipped roof continuing down the rest of the façade. There are two windows and a door in this façade.

The entrance is at the north end of the east wall, from the single-storey foyer of the City of Bunbury administration building, which is lower than *Bunbury Council Chambers*. Steps lead up from this foyer to a new exhibition area constructed on the northeast corner of *Bunbury Council Chambers*. This leads through to the introduced foyer of 1992, with its pyramid ceiling and central pyramid skylight. The function room opens up off the south wall of this area, with a further lobby leading through to the public seating area and the toilets. Beyond the public seating area are the Council Chambers on the southwest corner of the building, with a door on the east wall leading through to the Function Room. An alcove and bar on the east side of the function room has been created from a former corridor. To the east of the alcove, is the committee room, with a store on the southeast corner of the building. An additional bar is located to the north of the committee room, with a kitchen, store and cool room on the northeast corner of the building.

Floors throughout are generally carpeted timber. Walls are plastered brick. Skirtings are moulded but do not appear original. Ceilings are plaster board. Some deep decorated art deco cornices remain in some areas. Other cornices are coved. One timber panelled door remains, but most doors are flush panel. Most of the windows have been modified.

The council chambers is a large room, over 11.7 metres wide and 9 metres deep. The floor is carpeted with an inlaid circular decorative timber feature in the centre of the room, which appears to date from the 1992 campaign, and is the focus for the council table and councillors' chairs, which are arranged in a circular form around it. A series of timber veneered panels have been mounted close to the south wall (in the 2004 campaign), covering the original double doors and part of the timber windows, which are retained. The ceiling

is approximately three metres high with a raised coffered section in the centre. A door at the south end of the east wall opens into the function room.

The north wall has been removed to open the council chambers to an area that is now used as the public gallery. The only window to this area is located at the north end of the west wall. A pair of doors on the east wall opens into a lobby area. The ceiling is lower than that of the adjacent council chambers.

The function room is a long narrow room, 7.5 metres wide by 13 metres deep, with three timber windows on the south wall and an operable wall on the north wall. At the east side, a former entrance corridor has been incorporated into the space with the removal of the west wall of the corridor, and a bar has been introduced to the north end of the corridor. The floor is slightly lower than that of the council chambers. The ceiling cornice is decorated and appears to date from the 1936 alterations. The ceiling is plasterboard, with two raised coffered sections.

The committee room is 5.5 by 7 metres with a bay on the south wall containing the double doors and fanlight, which were the entrance to the public offices. A bar opens up on the west side of the north wall. A three panel timber door at the north end of the west wall appears original but the set of bifold doors at the south end of the wall appear introduced. A pair of flush panel doors on the east wall open into the store.

Bunbury Council Chambers was refurbished in the 2004 campaign and appears to be in good condition. Minor defects include some rising damp in the function room.

13. 3   COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Architects Eales & Cohen

Eustace Gresley Cohen (b. 1882, d. 1938) and his brother came to Western Australia for health reasons in 1904, and settled at 'Beachlands', near Busselton, where they engaged in farming and raising horses. Pre-World War I, when there was a demand for architects in the region, Cohen resumed practising as an architect and in 1913, he entered into partnership with established architect J. Herbert Eales (b. 1864) as Eales & Cohen. In about 1928-34, W. G. Bennett was a partner and it became Eales, Cohen and Bennett, then reverted to Eales & Cohen in the mid-1930s, until J. B. Fitzhardinge was admitted as a partner and the name changed again.

Cohen's residential design work includes *P00332 Myrniong,* 'P00364 Kaeshagen House (demolished 1980)', 'P00365 Walker House', 'Chennel House' and 'P05654 Moorlands' at Bunbury; and 'P00393 Beachgrove' and 'Reynolds Homestead' at Busselton.[90] He was notable for designing 'some remarkable houses in a variety of English vernacular styles', often reflecting 'the Arts and Crafts manner' as in his own home at South Perth, at 20 Karoo Street (1922), and its neighbour (P09193) at no. 18 (c. 1923).[91] Eales & Cohen designed the Hadfield residence (1926), Mill Point Road, South Perth, and Cohen is believed to have designed a residence for William Robertson at View Street, Peppermint Grove, a photograph of which appeared in *Australian*

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[90]   Morrison, Margaret Pitt, op. cit.

[91]   Cuffley, Peter Australian *Houses of the Twenties and Thirties*, p. 120.

Home Beautiful in April 1929.[92]   In 1935, Eales & Cohen designed remodelling and extensions in the Inter-War Art Deco style to *P00380 Masonic Hall, Bunbury* in Wittenoom Street, which was originally designed in the Federation Academic Classical style. Eales & Cohen were prominent architects who individually and in partnership designed many notable buildings including churches, banks, hotels, residences, town halls and offices, and war memorials in the period through to Cohen's death in 1938.

Inter-War Art Deco

There are 50 places in the Office of Heritage database noted as being Inter-War Art Deco buildings outside the Metropolitan Region. Fourteen of these places are entered in the State Register of Heritage Places. The following are comparable with *Bunbury Council Chambers*:

P00374 Lyric Theatre, Bunbury (1905, 1937): the 1937 re-modelling in the Inter-War Art Deco obscures the intrinsic aesthetic characteristics of the original building complex of 1905. This place contains a remarkable interior ceiling and truss structure, thus providing an exceptional provincial theatre.

P00380 Masonic Hall, Bunbury (1893, 1935): a single storey, double volume, brick and corrugated iron building constructed in the Federation Academic style and remodelled in the Inter-War Art Deco style in 1935. Contains the Masonic Hall proper along its north and eastern boundaries, with a wing of smaller rooms along the western boundary.

P05681 Rechabite Hall, Bunbury (1898, 1939; demolished 2005): single-storey brick building altered several times to suit various purposes. When the South West Printing and Publishing Company Ltd occupied the site in 1939, the northern street façade was altered to have an Art Deco style appearance.

P00162 Hotel Beverley (1885, 1938): a two-storey face brick building, originally constructed in the Federation Filigree style and enlarged in the 1890s. It was substantially remodelled in the Inter-War Art Deco style, when the frontages and some interior fittings were modernised. Both periods of development are visible throughout.

P00248 Freemasons Hotel, Bridgetown (1905, 1930s): a two-storey hotel and pair of shops in the Federation Filigree style on a prominent corner site, with Inter-War Art Deco additions. It has a prominent gabled roofline, bracketed eaves, tall brick corbelled chimneys and red face brick and stucco finishes.

P01060 Radio Theatre Building, Geraldton (1937): one of few Inter-War Art Deco buildings of its type and size remaining in Geraldton.

P01350 Commonwealth Bank, Katanning (1937): a two-storey rendered brick building with a hip clad roof of terracotta tiles, designed in the Interwar Art Deco style with elements of the Inter-War Stripped Classical style.

P03940 Geraldton Customs House Complex (1935): Inter-War Art Deco style offices, with a residence in the Inter-War Mediterranean style. The offices have a rendered front facade and parapet that screens a long tiled roof.

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92   ibid, pp. 120-21.

P14788 National Australia Bank, Northam (1940): a two-storey bank in a prominent corner location. It is double storey face brick construction, with a brick plinth and truncated entry detail, hipped tile roof, original double hung windows on the first floor, and replacement windows on the second floor.

Other places in the South-West which may be comparable, but which need further investigation, include: P00351 Federal Hotel (fmr), Bunbury (1897, with Inter-War Art Deco modelling); P00441 Boyanup Hotel (1921); P01185 Harvey Shire Council Chambers & Town Hall (1914, 1935); P01192 Brunswick Memorial Hall (1925, 1936); and various banks throughout the South-West.

Although it is problematic to directly compare *Bunbury Council Chambers* with all of the above, it is representative of older buildings that were given an Inter-War Art Deco remodelling in the 1930s, and is also comparable to those buildings constructed in the 1930s.

Municipal Buildings

In the late 1920s, when regional areas were expanding in the wake of Group Settlement a number of new halls and administrative offices were designed and built for Road Boards and Municipalities, including *P01426 Kulin Town Hall* (1928) designed by Eales & Cohen, and a new hall at Bridgetown designed by Eales, Cohen & Bennett in 1928. Architect P. W. Harrison, who had designed *Bunbury Council Chambers* (1897), designed P00586 Corrigin Town Hall (1929), and *P01620 Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* (1930), which are in the Inter-War Free Classical style and Inter-War Functionalist styles respectively.

When the State was recovering from the Great Depression in the mid-1930s, more new halls and offices were built for local government authorities. Eales, Cohen and Bennett designed *P01543 Applecross District Hall* (1934), a single-storey building with a distinctive tower, in the Inter-War Art Deco style. Their design for P04896 Quairading Roads Board Office (fmr) (1934; in assessment program) in the Inter-War Art Deco style, incorporated the 1915 building, as did the remodelling and extension of *Bunbury Council Chambers* in this style in 1935. Eales & Cohen designed P01664 Mullewa Town Hall and offices (1935), and offices and a board room (1936) for Nungarin Roads Board (*P01920 Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin*), in the Inter-War Free Classical style, which has been utilised by the local Country Women's Association (CWA) since 1975.[93] Eales & Cohen also designed alterations and additions to some such buildings among them 1927-28 works to *P03960 Katanning Town Hall Buildings*, RHP 3960, which included new two storey Road Board Offices, in the Inter-War Chicagoesque style. Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge designed *P02460 Guildford Town Hall and Library* (1937), which

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[93]   *Building and Construction* 19 July, 9 Aug. and 26 Oct. 1928, 22 Feb. 1929, 1 Feb. and 6 Sept. 1935; Assessment Documents *Alice Williams Memorial Building, Nungarin* RHP 1920 and *Morawa Shire Office & Town Hall* RHP 1620.

comprised a new town hall in the Inter-War Art Deco style and remodelling of the 1900 Council Chambers in the same style.[94]

There are 55 Governmental Office or Administration Buildings on the Register of Heritage Places (RHP), of which fourteen are in regional areas, including *P01748 Pinjarra Court House* (fmr) (1935), designed in the Inter-War Art Georgian Revival style with Art Deco decorative elements, and *P03629 Narembeen Civic Precinct* (1923-40), designed in part in the Inter-War Art Deco style. Also designed in the Inter-War Art Deco style are P01939 Perenjori Shire Hall & Offices (1929-38), which was assessed in 2004, and found to be below threshold; and P12211 Tammin Civic Precinct (in the current assessment program), designed in part in the Inter-War Art Deco style. In the metropolitan area, *P00484 Claremont Council Offices and Surroundings*, designed by architect Edwin Summerhayes were built in 1899, and were remodelled and extended in the Inter-War Art Deco style in 1935.

In the latter half of the 20th century, changing needs led local government authorities to build new administrative offices and other facilities and/or alter existing buildings to provide facilities and accommodation to fit their requirements. Consequently Federation period and Inter-War buildings such as *Bunbury Council Chambers* have been considerably altered internally to enable ongoing use for their intended purpose, or more commonly, as occurred in the interwar period, they have been replaced by more modern buildings and no longer fulfil their intended purpose. Renovation and refurbishment of *Bunbury Council Chambers* to return it to use as council chambers, function room and committee room appears to be relatively uncommon. The refurbishment drew praise from the Art Deco Society, and the place is considered a good example of the design work of Eales & Cohen in the Inter-War Art Deco style.[95]

No inventory of Infant Health Centres and former centres has been prepared to date and those entered in the Register of Heritage Places and HCWA database were purpose designed and built. An ante-room at P02768 Wyalkatchem Town Hall was used for a baby clinic from 1944, until an Infant Health Clinic was established in 1951, which also operated from there until late 1952, when the Road Board purchased *P02757 Lady Novar Hostel* to serve as the Infant Health Centre until 1959, when a purpose built centre was completed.[96] Most Infant Health Centres were purpose designed and built, including the first such clinic at Bunbury in 1937, and the P05682 Lady Mitchell Memorial Infant Health Centre at South Bunbury in 1950. The use of accommodation at *Bunbury Council Chambers* for an Infant Health Centre from about 1947 to 1964, when a new centre was built at the east side of the Council Chambers building, thus continuing the association, is probably rare.

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[94] *Builder and Engineering Register* 1 June 1927, p. 12; *Building and Construction* 9 June 1927, 26 January 1928, and 4 June 1937; Assessment documents *Guildford Town Hall and Library* RHP 2460, and *Katanning Town Hall Buildings*, RHP 3960.

[95] *Waltzing Moderne* Sept. 1993, pp. 5-6.

[96] Wyalkatchem Road Board Minutes, SROWA Cons. 289 Item 1300/ 13, 16 Sept. 1944, and Item 1300/14, March-August 1952; *Wheatbelt Tribune* 28 August 1952; Infant Health Centres, Wyalkatchem Infant Health Centre, SROWA Cons. 6781 Item 1958/1785. Note: re Lady Novar Hostel, see Assessment Document RHP 2757.

There is no database available to provide information about gardens established in association with the offices and halls of local governmental authorities. In the metropolitan area, two examples are Claremont Park and Subiaco Municipal Gardens (est. 1899). The latter appears to be the only such garden in Western Australia included in *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens*. It lists only one garden whose name includes centennial, Centennial Park, Sydney, which was laid out in 1888, to celebrate the centenary of European settlement in Australia.[97] There are a small number of centenary parks and ovals in the Perth metropolitan area but no centenary gardens. Thus the Centenary Gardens (est. 1936) at *Bunbury Council Chambers* appear to have some rarity value.

In conclusion, *Bunbury Council Chambers* is one of a number of such buildings extended or built in the interwar period to the designs of prominent architects Eales & Cohen, and a good example of their design work in the Inter-War Art Deco style. The place has some rarity value as one of a relatively small number of Federation period local governmental buildings extended and remodelled in this style, and its Centenary Gardens appear to be rare.

13. 4   KEY REFERENCES

National Trust Classification, 6 June 1995

The following offer comparative information on the design of Town Halls and Council Chambers in the Inter-War Art Deco and Functionalist styles:

Guildford Town Hall and Library (fmr Council Chambers) James Street Guildford: Conservation Plan, Perth, WA, Heritage & Conservation Professionals, 2001.

Claremont Council Offices, Claremont, Western Australia: Conservation Plan Cottesloe, WA, Ronald Bodycoat, 2002

13. 5   FURTHER RESEARCH

No plans for the original 1897 building or the 1935-36 alterations and additions were located at the City of Bunbury, Battye Library or State Records Office of Western Australia. Further research may reveal additional information about the original floor plan of *Bunbury Council Chambers*, changes to the place at various periods and its uses through time.

Further research into Infant Health Centres may also provide additional information on the social role and significance of the place.

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[97]   Aitken, Richard and Looker, Michael (eds.) *Oxford Companion to Australian Gardens* Oxford University Press, South Melbourne, Victoria, 2005, pp. 133-34, 576.