



## 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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from "Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan", prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 2.3 Coming to Australia as punishment
- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 7.7.2 Preparing to face invasion

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 501 World wars and other wars

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* comprises well resolved examples of the Inter-War Art Deco style of architecture. The Town Hall, constructed in 1937, features a symmetrical rendered façade with stylistic features including the tower, dominant entrance, stylized banded ornamentation and distinctive lettering. The adjacent Library, remodeled to match the Town Hall in 1937, features more discreet detailing designed to complement, but retain the

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

prominence of, the Town Hall. Both buildings feature the Guildford town crest located prominently on their facades. (Criterion 1.1)

Guildford Town Hall is a particularly fine example of a civic building designed in the Inter-War Art Deco style, which was considered innovative in the Inter-War period. (Criterion 1.2)

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* is a visual landmark in its prominent location in the centre of the historic town of Guildford. The façade of the Town Hall, with its distinctive central stepped tower and curved portico, dominates the James and Meadow Street intersection when viewed from the north, the west or the east. The adjacent Library, which was remodeled to match the style of the Town Hall, complements and reinforces the visual impact created by the Town Hall building. (Criterion 1.3)

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* comprises civic buildings constructed at the time when the town of Guildford was the administrative centre of the district. The place represents the growth of local government in the City of Swan region and in the State. It also illustrates the development of local government in the early and mid twentieth century and the commitment the Guildford Town Council had to the development of facilities for the town from the time of its declaration in 1871. (Criterion 2.1)

The site is linked with the Western Australian convict system, as it was associated with the Royal Engineers and contained the Sapper's quarters, the stabling for the engineers' horses and the Commissariat store. The convict depot buildings extended to the north of James Street and were located on the current railway reserve and the eastern side of Meadow Street. (Criterion 2.2)

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* was commandeered by the Civil Defence Department from 1942 to 1945 for use as the Headquarters for military control of the eastern sector of the metropolitan area during the Second World War. (Criterion 2.2)

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* comprises significant examples of the work of Eales, Cohen and Fitzhardinge, who are credited with their Interwar design and the design of a number of other civic buildings of similar architectural quality of the period. (Criterion 2.3)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

The Carpark associated with *Guildford Town Hall and Library* has the potential through archaeological excavation to provide information on the former convict depot use of the site. The site may contain deposits associated with the Western Australian convict system. (Criterion 3.2)

#### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* has provided the major civic focus for the Town of Guildford since the buildings' construction in 1900 and 1937 respectively. The Library (former Council Chambers) was the venue for council meetings from 1900 to 1962 and has been the venue for the town's public library from 1963. The Town Hall has been used for civic and community activities from 1937 to the present. As such, the place has been an integral component of Guildford community life. (Criteria 4.1 and 4.2)

#### **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

##### **12. 1. RARITY**

The Carpark is one of only a limited number of clearly identified surviving potential archaeological sites relating to the Western Australian convict system. (Criterion 5.2)

##### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

The Guildford Town Hall is a representative example of a town hall designed in the Inter-War Art Deco style in the 1930s in Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

The Guildford Library (former Council Chambers) is a representative example of a council office built at the turn of the century and remodeled in the Inter-War Art Deco style. (Criterion 6.1)

##### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Guildford Town Hall and Library* is in good condition.

##### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

The Town Hall has high integrity as it continues to be used for community purposes, although since the refurbishment of the Midland Town Hall most community activities associated with the City are held there. The Guildford Town Hall continues to be used for public functions in the town.

The Library has moderate integrity. It is no longer able to fulfill its original purpose of accommodating council meetings, however it is still able to be used for community purposes, having been adapted for library use.

##### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The Town Hall has very high authenticity, being substantially as originally constructed. The Library has low authenticity in relation to its original 1900 design, and moderate authenticity in relation to its adapted form in 1937.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from "Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan" prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

Documentary evidence has been taken from "Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan" prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence pp.11-29, and p.79

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

Physical evidence has been taken from "Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan" prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001.

Key sections used: Physical Evidence pp.31-78, and p.79

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

Comparative information has been taken from "Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan" prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001.

Key sections used: Comparative Information pp.28, and 79-80

The Guildford Town Hall is a representative example of a town hall designed in the Inter-War Art Deco style in the 1930s in Western Australia. Other similar places include Applecross District Hall (1934), Bunbury Council Chambers and Function Centre (1935), Armadale District Hall (1936), Mosman Park Memorial Hall (1939), Nedlands Council Chambers (1937), Beverley Town Hall (1938), Morowa Town Hall and Lesser Hall (1937), Mukinbudin Memorial Hall (1935), Mullewa Shire Town Hall and Council Office (1936), and Nungarin Shire Office (1936).

The floor plan of Guildford Library (former Council Chambers) is typical of numerous similar places. The place is unusual, but not unique, for its remodeling in 1937 to match the style of the adjacent Town Hall. Claremont Municipal Chambers, which was also originally erected at the turn of the century, was refurbished and remodelled in 1935.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

"Guildford Town Hall and Library (Fmr. Council Chambers) Conservation Plan" prepared by the Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the City of Swan in June 2001.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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