



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **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
- 8.5.1 Preserving traditions & group memories
- 8.6 Worshipping

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

- 107 Settlements
- 407 Cultural activities
- 408 Institutions

#### **11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\***

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is a fine example of a building originally designed in the Federation Academic Classical, later altered and extended in the Inter-War Art Deco style, incorporating Art Deco details both externally and internally. (Criterion 1.1)

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is a landmark due to its elevated and visually dominant position and distinctive 1935 Art Deco façade. (Criterion 1.3)

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* contributes to the civic precinct within the Bunbury CBD. The elevated position adjacent to the Police Station along Wittenoom Street strengthens the link between the civic precinct and *Convent of Mercy Group (fmr)* to the north, which houses the Bunbury Regional Art Gallery. The place also forms part of a significant group of Art Deco buildings in the civic precinct, including Bunbury Municipal Chambers, Mayoral Suite & Function Room and Rechabite Hall (fmr) located across Wittenoom Street to the east. (Criterion 1.4)

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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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

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

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* has broad associations with the development of Bunbury since the 1880s and 1890s that resulted in the consolidation of Bunbury as the principal port and the minor capital of the southwest region. (Criterion 2.1)

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is associated with the development of Freemasonry in Western Australia and in particular the establishment of the Wellington Lodge, the first Masonic Lodge in the south west, in 1886. The place has been continuously used by the Wellington Lodge, and later Bunbury Lodge No. 70, since its construction in 1893. (Criterion 2.2)

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* has associations with a number of prominent businessmen and politicians of the area who were members of the Freemasons, including Charles Wisbey, first Mayor of Bunbury, T. W. Paisley, E. Woodrow, W. H. Timperley, and Bro. Sir Newton J. Moore, later Premier of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

The 1935 additions to *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*, which included the significant Art Deco façade, were designed by prominent West Australian architects Herbert Eales and Eustace Cohen. Cohen was also a member of the Wellington Lodge. (Criterion 2.3)

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

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

*Masonic Lodge, Bunbury* is valued for being the centre for administration and ceremonial life for Freemasons living in the Bunbury area since 1893 and, as a result, contributes to this community's sense of place. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

The place is valued for its cultural heritage significance, which is illustrated by its inclusion in the City of Bunbury Municipal Heritage Inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is the second oldest extant purpose-built Masonic building in Western Australia, and continues to be used for the purpose for which it was originally built. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is representative of the characteristics of a Masonic Hall, altered to incorporate Inter-War Art Deco style details. (Criterion 6.1)

The place is representative of the Freemasons movement in Western Australia and is one of the more substantial Masonic halls in the south west of the State. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is in good condition, with continued use resulting in regular maintenance.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* was designed and constructed for the use as a Masonic hall, and prior to 1906 it was also used as a public hall. The place continues to be used for its original purpose and as a consequence has high integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The core original fabric remains intact, which includes the formal and social halls, vestibule, cloak room and kitchen. Alterations and extensions have subsequently been made to incorporate Art Deco details, a porch, entry room, change rooms, male & female toilets, new kitchen, and storeroom, to facilitate ongoing use. Interior fittings and detailing specific to the purposes of Freemasonry remain substantially intact. The place has high authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Kris Bizzaca, Historian and Kent Lyon, Architect, in May 2004, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is a single storey, double volume, brick and corrugated iron building in the Inter-War Art Deco style (1893; 1935; 1985) sited on the western side of Wittenoom Street.

Despite having been proclaimed a townsite in 1841, as well as being the principal port of the southwest and the capital of the Wellington district, the population of the Bunbury area was still low in the 1870s. At this time, only 300 people lived in the town and approximately 2,000 in the district itself.<sup>1</sup> The Bunbury area had this modest growth primarily because of the low levels of agricultural and mineral production in the hinterland, inadequate transport and communication lines, and the lack of development of the port facilities.<sup>2</sup> With the availability of public monies and the increased population as a result of the goldrushes in the 1880s and 1890s, funds were provided for the construction of the Perth to Bunbury railway line, which opened in 1893, and works to the Bunbury harbour. The larger population and therefore market base also ensured the opening up of the district's agricultural areas.<sup>3</sup> These factors contributed to the development of the town itself as the minor capital for the region and subsequently the provision of further public and commercial services.<sup>4</sup>

It was during this time of growth in the 1880s and 1890s that the first Freemason's Lodge in the South West was established in Bunbury. The consecration ceremony for the opening of the Wellington Lodge, No. 1846, E. C., was held in the town on 10 May 1886.<sup>5</sup> Its foundation coincided with the opening of two churches, schools and other events, which was an indication the developing social life of the town and, in this case, in particular the association of Freemasonry with an increasingly influential group of local politicians and businessmen.<sup>6</sup>

Freemasonry in Western Australia dates from the 1840s. On 1 September 1841, a group of prominent Western Australian Freemasons, including Governor John Hutt and Colonial Secretary Peter Brown, sought a charter from the Grand Lodge of England granting them the right to establish a Lodge

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1 Barker, A.J. & Laurie, M., *Excellent Connections: A History of Bunbury 1836 – 1990*, City of Bunbury, 1992, p. 104.  
2 Ibid, pp. 121, 132 - 133, 135.  
3 Ibid, pp. 135, 140 – 144, Ch. 5.  
4 Ibid, Ch. 4.  
5 *West Australian*, 19/5/1886.  
6 Barker & Laurie, op. cit., pp. 126, 132.

in Western Australia, based in Perth.<sup>7</sup> On 4 April 1843, the Lodge of St John, No. 712, E.C. (English Constitution), was consecrated.<sup>8</sup>

In 1845, a second Lodge, the Lodge of Unity, was established. However, this eventually amalgamated with the Lodge of St John in Perth and it was not until 1865 that a another independent Lodge was formed. This was Fremantle Lodge, No. 1033, E.C.<sup>9</sup> By 1888, five other Lodges had been formed. These were Plantangent Lodge in 1873, Geraldton in 1877, and Wellington (Bunbury), York and St George's in 1886.<sup>10</sup>

The consecration ceremony for the Wellington Lodge on 10 May 1886 was performed by Bros. F. L. Hussey, the Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge, R. Pethbert and C. Y. Dean, also of the Perth Lodge. In attendance was H. W. Fordham of the Fremantle Lodge.<sup>11</sup> The first office bearers to be installed at the Lodge read like a who's who of Bunbury with Charles Wisbey, Bunbury's first Mayor, appointed the Worshipful Master of the Wellington Lodge, and other Bros. such as William Spencer.<sup>12</sup> The membership of the Lodge originally comprised 10 local Freemasons.<sup>13</sup>

The land at Wittenoom Street was purchased by the Wellington Lodge for the purpose of erecting their hall on 17 December 1891. The Certificate of Title shows that three Lodge members; Charles Wisbey, Thomas Hayward and Ephraim Clarke, were listed as the property owners.<sup>14</sup>

The erection of the building was delayed to allow sufficient membership to be able to justify, and finance, the cost of construction. Several years' later tenders were invited and subsequently awarded to Messrs. John and Harold Gibbs. The foundation stone of the new hall was laid on 20 January 1893 by Charles Wisbey. During the formal Mason ceremony, a bottle containing two newspapers, a program of the event and coins were placed into the cavity of the stone.<sup>15</sup>

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* was opened in July 1893 however it was not officially consecrated for Masonic purpose until 23 March 1906. In the intervening period the building was used as a Lodge and as a public hall. Its consecration as a Temple resulted in some alterations to the building to allow this sole use. The details about this work are not known.<sup>16</sup>

An early photograph of *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* at the turn of the twentieth century shows the original Federation style façade of the building and other details. The main core of the building, the hall, is located east-west on the lot, with the eastern elevation being that which faces Wittenoom Street. The façade is divided into three bays with a parapet and central pediment. The

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7 Collins, N.R., 'Golden Jubilee History 1900 – 1950', Grand Lodge of WA of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, Perth, 1950, p. 5.

8 Ibid.

9 Ibid, pp. 5 & 6.

10 Ibid, p. 6.

11 *West Australian*, 19/5/1886.

12 *West Australian*, 19/5/1886; Barker & Laurie, op. cit., p. 132.

13 'City of Bunbury Municipal Inventory', prepared for the City of Bunbury, 2001, B232.

14 Certificate of Title, Vol. 12, Fol. 28.

15 *South Western Times*, 28/1/1893.

16 'Masonic Temples of W.A. No. 12. Bunbury', undated & sources, in Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection.

Masonic symbol is located within this pediment. High windows, characteristic of Masonic buildings, are shown in the eastern and southern elevations, and there is an arched window in the central bay of the main façade. There is a single storey brick section to the building, which forms an L-shape at the south-western corner. A timber picket fence runs along the Wittenoom Street boundary.<sup>17</sup>

The Wellington Lodge, Bunbury was one of the founding members of the Grand Lodge of Western Australia, and became Lodge No. 4.<sup>18</sup> The first attempt to found a Grand Lodge for the Freemasons of Western Australia was in 1894 in a proposal put forward by the Geraldton Lodge.<sup>19</sup> At this time, it was thought that the number of constituent Lodges was too small to warrant the formation of a Grand Lodge. It was not until 1899 that the issue was again raised. By this time, 35 Lodges were in existence, as well as others formed under the Scottish and Irish Constitutions. Prominent Freemasons had also begun to actively support the move, including Governor Sir Gerard Smith KCMG, the District Grand Master.<sup>20</sup>

In 1899, with 33 of the 35 Lodges in support, the District Grand Lodge resolved:

That the lodges in favour of a sovereign Grand Lodge for Western Australia... hereby declare themselves as a Sovereign Grand Lodge for Western Australian to be regularly constituted, consecrated and dedicated in such manner and at such time and place as shall hereafter be prescribed.<sup>21</sup>

On 27 February 1900, at a ceremony held at the Government House Ballroom, the Grand Lodge of Western Australia was dedicated and Governor Smith was installed as the first Grand Master.<sup>22</sup> After Smith returned to England, Sir John Winthrop Hackett became Grand Master in 1901, followed by Archbishop C.O.L. Riley from 1904 to 1917.<sup>23</sup>

During this time, the Wellington Lodge supported the formation of another Lodge in Bunbury under the Scottish Constitution. This was later consecrated as Bunbury Lodge, No. 882, S. C., and after the establishment of the Grand Lodge became Lodge No. 70. The Bunbury Lodge used *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* as their Temple for their ceremonies and other events.<sup>24</sup> It is likely that the growing membership of both Lodges using the facilities resulted in a need to increase accommodation at the 1893 building through the construction of additions, although no evidence has yet been found to support this conclusion.

In 1935, prominent West Australian architects Herbert Eales and Eustace Cohen were commissioned to design the additions to *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*.

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17 'Masonic Temples of W.A. No. 12. Bunbury', undated & sources, in Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection.

18 Information from Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection; 'City of Bunbury Municipal Inventory', op. cit., B232.

19 Collins, op. cit., pp. 6 & 7. Grand Lodges are able to establish independent constitutions, relating specifically to the area over which the Grand Lodge has jurisdiction.

20 Ibid, pp. 7 & 8.

21 Ibid, p. 8.

22 Ibid, p. 9.

23 Ibid, p. 11.

24 Information from Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection; *The West Australian Craftsman*, Vol.2 No. 3, 8/10/1935, pp. 17 – 18.

This work comprised the erection of a larger formal hall, ancillary rooms including the enlargement of the southern wing, and the modernisation of the external appearance of the entire building to incorporate a new Art Deco façade and entrance portico where the southern and hall sections joined. A new brick and timber fence was built to the Wittenoom Street elevation complete with a brick path leading to the portico.<sup>25</sup>

The hall was reopened on 20 September 1935 by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Lodge, Bro. F. A. McCullen in front of a crowd of 200 Freemasons. For the ceremony both Wellington Lodge No. 4 and Bunbury Lodge No. 70 met together. At the time, Bro. Trotter was the Worshipful Master of the Wellington Lodge and Bro. Donaldson the Worshipful Master of the Bunbury Lodge.<sup>26</sup>

Grand Master Bro. McCullen also unveiled a memorial tablet at the front of the building to commemorate the occasion. After this were the formal proceedings of the ceremony including the pledging of two new craftsmen.<sup>27</sup> A number of toasts were made following this, several of which are described below:

After harmony by Bro. Brav. V. W. Bro. Parkes rose again to propose a toast to "The Builder." V. W. Bros. Herbert Eales and Eustace Cohen. He stated that the former was well and favourably known to many Craftsmen in the metropolitan area as was also V. W. Bro. Cohen, who was a member of Wellington Lodge of many years' standing. The proposer was supported by the M. W. G. M., who paid a tribute to the splendid work, and said, "The Beauty of the Building is in its elegant simplicity."

V. W. Bro. Cohen suitably responded on behalf of his partner and himself.

W. Bro. T. Downes next submitted the toast of "The Furnisher", Bro. Hunt, S. W. of Victoria Park Lodge, who in responding said, "The work was more a labour of love than a toil."<sup>28</sup>

It was at this time that Bunbury Lodge No. 70 became joint owners of *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*.<sup>29</sup> A joint company named 'The Wellington and Bunbury Masonic Hall Company Limited' was formed for this purpose and was registered as the proprietor of the place on 1 April 1936.<sup>30</sup>

Over the years, *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* has been associated with a number of local prominent businessmen and politicians as well as Craftsmen, who went on to become involved in the Grand Lodge of Western Australia and the District Grand Lodge. These have included: Bro. T. W. Paisley, second Worshipful Master (W. M.) of the Lodge and granted the rank of *honoris causa* after the establishment of the Grand Lodge; Bro. E. Woodrow, W.M. and later Junior Grand Master to the District Lodge; Bro. W. H. Timperley, Bunbury Resident Magistrate; and, Bro. Sir Newton J. Moore, W. M. and later Pro Grand Master of the Grand Lodge who was also State Premier (1906 – 1910), Agent-General to London, and a member of the House of Commons.<sup>31</sup>

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25 *The West Australian Craftsman*, op. cit., p. 17.

26 *The West Australian Craftsman*, op. cit., p. 17.

27 *The West Australian Craftsman*, op. cit., p. 17.

28 *The West Australian Craftsman*, op. cit., pp. 17 – 18.

29 'The Wellington Lodge – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Consecration', 1986, 2 page typed manuscript, in Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection.

30 Certificate of Title, Vol. 666, Fol. 148.

31 All information from Wellington Lodge Vertical Files, City of Bunbury Local Studies Collection.

With the exception of maintenance, very little change has been made to the place since 1936. In 1985, renovations and additions were undertaken to *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*. The former took the form of a new kitchen and toilet wing built to the rear of the building.<sup>32</sup>

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of the Wellington Lodge was celebrated in 1986. As part of this, a short history of the Lodge was prepared.<sup>33</sup>

Photographs of the place in the early 2000s show that various landscaping works have been carried out in front of the building, along the Wittenoom Street elevation. This appears to have resulted in the removal of the 1935 fence and in the planting of shrubbery and pencil pines.<sup>34</sup>

In June 2004, *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* continues to be used for the purpose for which it was originally built in 1893.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is the product of three building phases. The initial phase comprises an original Social Hall (1893) and Vestibule, run in the north-south axis along the western boundary. The subsequent alterations of an original Formal Hall in 1935 running in the east-west axis creates the 'L' shaped plan form fronting Wittenoom Street. A later addition in 1985 extends the north-south axis further to the south and incorporates ancillary spaces such as a Kitchen, Store & Change Rooms and Male & Female Toilets.

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is elevated above Wittenoom Street by a low brick retaining wall and steeply pitched landscaped bank. The elevated ground level adds emphasis to the buildings' prominent position. The site is accessed by a set of 11 steps from Wittenoom Street with brick rendered balustrade, painted in a fine imitation of a sandstone finish.

The building is directly to the north of the path leading to the elevated porch. On the south of the path are a low garden bed and a grassed open area. Informal or vehicle access has been allowed from the neighbouring Police Station driveway on the southern boundary. There is a steep basalt rock pitched retaining wall along the western boundary, with a portion removed due to current building works to the adjacent property on this boundary. The open area to the north of the building to the boundary is relatively inaccessible from the *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*. The ABC station building is the northern neighbour.

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is on the edge of what is described as the civic precinct within the Bunbury CBD. The place forms part of a significant group of Art Deco buildings in the immediate precinct, including Bunbury Municipal Chambers, Mayoral Suite & Function Room and Rechabite Hall (fmr) located across Wittenoom Street to the east.

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is a single storey, double volume, brick and corrugated iron building in the Inter-War Art Deco style (1893; 1935; 1985) set on the western side of Wittenoom Street. The main entry to the building is facing Wittenoom Street with a low-pitched verandah over an elevated porch and

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32 'City of Bunbury Municipal Inventory', op. cit., B232.

33 'The Wellington Lodge – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Consecration', op. cit..

34 See photographs in 'City of Bunbury Municipal Inventory', op. cit., B232.



three steps. The porch is paved with terracotta, cream and black coloured tiles. The Verandah supports are in the Tuscan order with square capitals and bases painted to imitate Donnybrook stone. The two vertical paneled double entry doors are painted a burgundy with cream 'Freemasons' symbols of setsquare and dividers central and decorative motifs top and bottom to each of the four panels.

The roofs are gable pitched corrugated iron. There is also a skillion roof over the bay west of the original social hall. There are sheerline gutters to all eaves and a variety of round PVC, square and rectangular metal downpipes. There is an interesting simple timber bargeboard detail to the western roof gable, with both the top and bottoms tapering in the centre and the bottom edge curved as it reaches the gutter. The barge flashing over the corrugated iron over this barge appears to be asbestos material.

The single storey constructed brick walls are rendered ashlar finish with a stepped parapet frontage. There are also portions of painted face bricks to the eastern and western face to the southern portion of the building. The symmetrical front wall has a plinth and four full height piers or fins, adds to the stepped skyline, these are painted to imitate Donnybrook stone and divide the main façade into three vertical bays which are punctuated by small painted timber framed windows. The concentration of ornament is on the upper part of the main façade with tapering to the tops of the piers or fins. The stylized 'Freemasons' symbol of set square and dividers is high on the central bay with pleated features to window lintels.

The north and south side elevations of *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* are simple expressions. The windows to the north and west elevations of the Social Hall are square shaped two paned, timber framed horizontal pivoting positioned high on the wall with low vaulted 'jack' arch lintels. The windows on the north elevation of the main hall are smaller square shaped two paned; timber framed horizontal pivoting positioned higher on the wall with level lintels. The windows on the east and south elevations of the main hall are also square shaped timber framed horizontal pivoting positioned higher on the wall with level lintels, however they are multi-paned with a double 'X' pattern and obscured glazing. The remaining windows to the building are aluminium sliding with clear glazing and fixed lights with obscured glazing to the toilets of the 1985 addition.

The rear or west elevation of the 1985 addition is almost obscured due to the narrow gap between the wall and high basalt retaining wall to the boundary. The eaves lining has been removed and exposes the internal brick leaf and roof framing. The south elevation of the 1985 addition is raking brick parapet wall on the boundary, which extends above the roofline. From the southeast the south-facing gable, above the earlier building is evident and highlights the difference in slope to the roof of the 1985 addition.

*Masonic Hall, Bunbury* has three planning components – the original (1893) building; Art Deco façade alterations, Formal Hall alterations, additions of an Entry Room, Change Room and Porch (1935); and ancillary accommodation (1985).

Entry to the building is gained through a double set of narrow doors, described previously. Entry is through a jarrah portal with another double set of half glazed jarrah doors which open into the Entry Room (1935). It is a

square room with blue carpet over timber floorboards, jarrah skirtings and two rows of coat hook rails to the west and south walls. Walls are plastered and painted to imitate red/green marble below the lower coat hook rail and light green with a rag finish up to the ceiling. The two metre wide opening to the vestibule is painted to imitate Donnybrook stone flat arch with a keystone in the centre. There is a jarrah single door opening, with door missing (possibly used for one of the toilet doors) which leads to the Change Room (1935) at the west end of the southern wall. Ceilings are lower than the Vestibule and Halls, finished with flat plaster and battens painted white. The cornices are splayed profile also painted white.

The Vestibule, which is accessed through the two metre wide opening from the Entry Room (1935), is painted to imitate Donnybrook stone flat arch. It is a long narrow room with blue carpet over timber floorboards, jarrah skirtings and chair rail to the east wall. There is a tall glass cupboard, which houses memorabilia, at the northern end of the room. Below the chair rail is boxed, upholstered and carpeted seating that appears to be a later addition. Above the seating are two memorial tablets mounted to the eastern wall, backing onto the main hall. Walls are plastered and painted to imitate red/green marble below the lower coat hook rail and light green with a rag finish up to the ceiling. Ceilings are flat plaster and battens painted white. The window in the north wall is located close to the eastern wall, with its frame painted white and the surrounds painted to imitate Donnybrook stone quoining. There are two ceiling roses centrally located and equally dividing the room, with suspended fluorescent lighting. The cornices are splayed profile also painted white.

The Formal Hall is a rectangular room with a raised dais around all four walls. The room is entered from the Vestibule at the northern end of the west wall, through a classical pediment (or entablature) supported either side with squared composite pilasters painted to imitate marble with a gold capital. The inset of the pediment is painted burgundy and a gold stylized 'Freemasons' symbol of set square and dividers. The door is single jarrah paneled with an ornate brass knocker and door handle with the 'Freemasons' symbol of set square and dividers. The floor has a blue coloured carpet over timber boards. The floor in the centre of the room is covered in vinyl with an inlaid pattern set in a 2:1 rectangular proportion panel. Walls are plastered and painted white above a gold 'chevron' art deco motif dado and fibrous cement sheeting set flush with upper wall and painted cream. The windows have royal blue with gold trimmed curtains fixed over them. Ceilings are raking to the perimeter up to a flat panel approximately 1/2 the width of the room and batten painted white divided into five bays defined by painted royal blue and gold beams. Inset in the flat portion of three ceiling bays are fluorescent lighting in decorative plaster cofferings. There is a decorative cornice also painted royal blue and gold. Bench seating arranged on the perimeter dais and four high back-upholstered chairs are set at each point on the compass, together with four timber lecterns. An organ is located on the dais in the southwest corner of the room.

The Social Hall is a rectangular room with a raised bay off the western wall. The room is entered from the Vestibule through a six metre wide opening framed by jarrah beam, frame and architraves. The floor is wide blackbutt timber boards with jarrah skirtings and chair rails set around the perimeter of

the room. Walls are plastered and painted to imitate Donnybrook stone below the chair rail and green with a rag finish up to the ceiling. The window frames are painted white and the surrounds painted to imitate Donnybrook stone quoining. There is a jarrah door and pass-through servery on the southern wall. Ceilings are flat plaster and battens painted white. There are three ceiling roses centrally located and equally dividing the room, with suspended fluorescent lighting. The cornices are splayed profile also painted white.

A West Bay off the Social Hall is elevated with the blackbutt timber floorboards with jarrah skirting. The walls are plastered and painted green with a rag finish up to the lowered ceiling.

A square room, south of the Social Hall, which appears to have served as the original kitchen to the hall, is accessed through a solid jarrah six-panel door from the Social Hall. There is also a jarrah servery in the same wall. This room has green carpet tiles over timber floorboards and jarrah skirtings. Walls are plastered and painted a golden yellow up to 1.5 metres high and white up to the ceiling. There is a painted timber 9 pane half glazed door, which leads to the kitchen (1985) at the west end of the southern wall. There is an aluminium window in a larger timber framed opening at the east end of the southern wall. Ceilings are as high as the hall, finished with flat plaster and battens painted white.

There is a rectangular Change Room (1935) accessed from the Entry to the south. This room has green carpet tiles over timber floorboards and jarrah skirtings. In the northeast corner of the room is a large timber cupboard. Walls are plastered and painted cream. There is a jarrah single door opening, with door missing (possibly used for one of the toilet doors) which leads to a narrow cloakroom at the north end of the western wall. There is an aluminium window with imitation mullions and obscured glazing in a larger timber framed opening central in the eastern wall. The ceiling is the same height as the entry, finished with flat plaster painted white. The cornices are splayed profile and are also painted white.

There is a long narrow room accessed from the Change Room to the east. The room has green carpet tiles over timber floorboards and jarrah skirtings and two rows of coat hook rails to the west wall. There is a large timber dresser in the southeast corner of the room. This room appears to have served as the original Cloakroom to the Hall. Walls are plastered and painted cream. There is a painted timber half glazed door, which leads to the Passage (1985) central in the southern wall. Ceilings are as high as the hall, finished with flat plaster and battens painted white. The cornices are splayed profile and are also painted white.

The additions of 1985 on the southern leg of the 'L' comprise a change room, toilets, kitchen and store room. The area is either floor tiles or carpet tiles on a concrete slab. Generally, the plastered brick walls are painted yellow. The only exception is the southern walls to the older portions of the building, which are face brick walls painted yellow. Doorframes are steel painted white with a variety of doors, including two jarrah doors on the toilets that are believed to be part of the older building. All windows are aluminium framed. All ceilings are 2.7 metres high plasterboard with scotia cornices all painted white.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

The Art Deco Significant Buildings Survey identifies 3 Masonic Halls in the regional area, including Bunbury.

The HCWA Database identifies 7 Masonic Hall entered into the State Register of Heritage Places. These are: *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* (c. 1892); *Masonic Lodge (fmr)*, Cue (1899); *Masonic Lodge, Kalgoorlie* (1899); *Masonic Temple, Boulder* (1902/1902); *Masonic Hall, Pinjarra* (1903); *Bassadean Masonic Lodge (fmr)* (1934); and, *Nedlands Park Masonic Hall* (1935).

All the halls listed above that were constructed between c.1892 and 1901/1902 are in the Federation Academic Classical style, and *Masonic Hall, Pinjarra* (1903) is representative of Federation Gothic architecture. *Bassendeen Masonic Lodge (fmr)* and *Nedlands Park Masonic Hall* are in the Inter War Free Classical and Art Deco styles respectively.

The most comparable Registered place to *Masonic Hall, Bunbury*, in terms of its history and use, is *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton*. This is the only Masonic building on the State Register that was purpose built and is of earlier construction to the one in Bunbury. The Geraldton Lodge was the third established in Western Australia and continues to be used for the purpose it was originally built. Although *Masonic Lodge, Geraldton* has been added to at the rear, the original façade of the stone building remains intact, unlike the modernised Bunbury building. *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* is therefore the second oldest extant purpose-built Masonic building in Western Australia and still remains in use for its original purpose.

Also of direct comparison is the work of architect W. T. Leighton who remodelled the *Lyric Theatre (fmr)* (374) also in Bunbury. This building underwent a transition from a Federation Academic Classical style to Inter-War Art Deco style significantly changing the front façade in 1937.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

No key references.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

Not all details about the construction, alterations and changes from the 1935 extensions and alterations to the *Masonic Hall, Bunbury* are known. This is an area of further research.