



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Assessment Documentation

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.1.3 Creating capital cities
- 5.4 Working in offices
- 7.1 Governing Australia as a province of the British Empire
- 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy
- 7.3 Making City-States
- 7.4 Federating Australia
- 7.6 Administering Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 108 Government policy
- 504 Depression and boom
- 403 Law and order
- 501 World wars and other wars
- 605 Famous and infamous people

11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history

Parliament House & Grounds is a symbol of the establishment of responsible government in Western Australia and provides a strong sense of historical continuity in its function.

The 1904 section of the building, comprising the western wing and the two Chambers, expresses the sense of grandeur and pride associated with the establishment of *Parliament House & Grounds*, through both the external and internal design, finishes and furnishings and by the use of Western Australian building materials.

Designed by the Public Works Department, under the direction of Chief Architect J H Grainger, major aspects of the parliamentary system are embodied in the layout and fabric of the 1904 section of the building, with the Chambers providing a publicly accessible symbol of the parliamentary process for the people of Western Australia.

Set on elevated ground to be seen from all parts of the surrounding country, *Parliament House & Grounds* has a commanding civic presence that demonstrates the changing dynamic of the city at the time of construction. In addition, the site has an important relationship with St Georges Terrace where it was chosen to align and provide a termination to the street.

The failure to complete the 1904 building as originally planned illustrates the austerity of the Government whose concerns over expenditure during the subsequent periods of economic depression and war, placed the need for housing, hospitals and schools above the completion of Parliament House.

11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

Although some documentation exists for the various plans and planting for the grounds of *Parliament House & Grounds*, the investigation of the grounds using archaeological techniques may provide further information where documentation does not exist.

Should the careful removal of additions or accretions to the various buildings that comprise *Parliament House & Grounds* occur in the future, this may provide information about undocumented works or reveal earlier fabric for which a complete understanding has been lost.

11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

Parliament House & Grounds contributes to the community's sense of identity, providing an important physical and symbolic presence, as the centre of government and decision making.

Parliament House & Grounds has provided a backdrop, and site for protest and dissent for the Western Australian community for over a century, and is valued as a focal point for these activities.

Parliament House & Grounds is valued by the many parliamentarians, clerical staff, media and other persons who have worked within its walls over multiple generations.

11(f)¹ Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

Parliament House & Grounds is an important and well recognised landmark, situated in a prominent and elevated location overlooking the city of Perth and the Swan River. The imposing 1964 eastern façade, with its carefully considered proportions and once operable water feature (1971), is clearly visible from a number of major vantage points and is visually linked with Barracks Arch across the Mitchell Freeway. The water feature has been repurposed into office accommodation but maintained the original façade and internal structure.

The streetscape qualities of the building, when viewed from both Harvest Terrace and Parliament Place, in association with the landscape treatment to these streets, serve to emphasise the status of *Parliament House & Grounds* and contribute to the community's sense of place.

The well maintained grounds, of *Parliament House & Grounds* including the repurposed water feature on the eastern frontage, are regarded as a prestigious and symbolic venue for the conduct of important civic ceremonies, as the primary point of contact between the media and parliamentarians, as well as a gathering point for public rallies.

The mature trees, which are remnants of the earliest plantings, have historic and aesthetic value because of their age, landmark qualities and association with the early development of the site.

Parliament House & Grounds forms an integral component of the historic civic precinct, which also includes Hale School (fmr) (now Constitutional Centre), the *Old Observatory* and *Dumas House*. Marked to the east by *Parliament House & Grounds*, the buildings of this precinct are set in open landscaped grounds on the rise of the hill to the west of the complex.

11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

Parliament House & Grounds is associated with multiple prominent Western Australians, from parliamentarians to media personnel, and activists to members of the community.

Parliament House & Grounds are located opposite the former home of the first female Member of Parliament in Australia; Edith Cowan. Sir John Forrest, the first Premier of WA, was the most prominent parliamentary figure in identifying the location for Parliament House.

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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.

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1 CONDITION

Due to continued use and ongoing regular maintenance with recent conservation works, *Parliament House & Grounds* is overall in good condition. In particular the external stonework of all building facades has been restored which has succeeded in revealing the natural colour of the stone.

12. 2 INTEGRITY

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

Parliament House & Grounds is overall of high integrity with some areas being of a medium rating due to the phases of development that have occurred and subsequent impact on original fabric. In particular this occurs where fabric has been replaced to match the original detailing or has been modified, but the original detailing is still clearly evident.

12. 3 AUTHENTICITY

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

Parliament House & Grounds has a high degree of authenticity due to still being used as per its original design intent to accommodate the Parliament of Western Australia, including the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. Building extensions and alterations have occurred to support this ongoing use of the place.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005, which was in turn based on the 'Parliament House Conservation Plan (DRAFT)', prepared for the Joint House Committee, Parliament of Western Australia by the Building Management Authority in July 1994, with amendments and/or additions by the Heritage Council and the Department.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Parliament House & Grounds comprises a two and three storey stone and tile building in Federation Academic Classical and Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical style surrounded by sweeping landscaped grounds.

For a full discussion of the documentary evidence refer to the 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005. The following provides a brief summary based on that document.

Aboriginal History

West Perth has long been recognised as a prestigious and favoured location owing to the high ground and commanding views that result from its positioning next to Mount Eliza in Kings Park.² Kaarta Cumba, the Noongar name for Mount Eliza, is an important place for Whadjuk Noongar people due to its use as an early hunting and camping ground prior to European settlement when this way of life began to be disrupted.³ The area has significant ceremonial and spiritual associations, which continue to be recognised through relevant men's and women's places today.⁴ These areas, which extend into West Perth, are registered Aboriginal Heritage Sites.

Early Development of the Site

Originally surveyed by Chas. Evans in 1863, the base of the hill on which Parliament House now stands saw the construction of the Pensioner Barracks by 1870. This was subsequently occupied by the Public Works Department c.1900.⁵

Establishment of Parliamentary Government in WA

Given it was a free colony to begin with as opposed to one established to take convicts, the Swan River Colony was initially governed by a group of officials appointed by the British government. In 1832 the first Legislative Council, established to 'make all necessary laws and to constitute all necessary courts for the peace, order and good government of the settlement' met in Perth. Between 1830 and 1870 the Colony was administered by a series of governors responsible to the British government.

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- ² D'Arcy, R., 1989, *West Perth Study Area: Inventory of Heritage Items*, prepared for the W.A. Heritage Committee
- ³ 720 ABC Radio Interview with Dr Richard Walley and Russell Woolf, 2013. <https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/about-us/information/news/media/audio-transcripts/1746-abcradio-rwalley-ats> Accessed 24 January 2020.
- ⁴ Ibid; 2020, *Aboriginal History*, Kings Park & Botanic Garden. <https://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/kings-park/visit/history/aboriginal-history> Accessed 24 January 2020.
- ⁵ 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005. p. 14.

After 1870 a Constitution provided for a Legislative Council with representation of colonists and elected members; essentially a system of representative government.

In 1889 the *Constitution Act* established the Lower House, or Legislative Assembly, and the Upper House (Legislative Council). With the elections held in 1890 for the Legislative Assembly, responsible government for the colony was achieved. The modern-day political system commenced with Federation in 1901 when Australia as a nation was created, and Western Australia became a State within the new Federation.⁶

Parliamentary Procedure, Members and Staff

Adapted from the Westminster system to accommodate the local context, the Parliament of Western Australia has five main functions; provision of Responsible Government, approval of finance for Government operations, monitoring of Government administration and expenditure, the passage of legislation, and the representation of the people of WA. These functions are embodied in the layout and fabric of Parliament House.

This system of government is based on two Houses of Parliament, the Upper House (Legislative Council) and the Lower House (Legislative Assembly). Currently members of the Legislative Council are elected on the basis of proportional representation from six electoral regions, whilst the Legislative Assembly is compiled from the election of the preferred candidate from each of the 59 electoral districts. The chambers of each form the north and south wings of the original Parliament House building.

In addition, a number of parliamentary officials are responsible for the functioning of the legislative process. These include the presiding officers and the Clerks of each respective House. The Parliamentary Services Department administers the maintenance of the building, gardens, security of the building, dining and bar facilities, reception services amongst other administrative functions such as Hansard, library, finance, IT, Human Resources and education.⁷

Parliament House – Design and Stages of Construction

The first Legislative Council of the Colony met in February 1832 in temporary offices at the site of present-day Council House on St Georges Terrace. The Council continued to meet in these temporary offices until 1836 when they were replaced with more permanent government buildings. These were used until 1870 when the Council allocated funds for a temporary chamber for the Sessions of the Council at the eastern end of the *Perth Town Hall*. Following the establishment of the Legislative Assembly in 1889, the Town Hall Chambers were used by the Assembly, whilst the Council used the above-mentioned government buildings.⁸

Calls for the construction of a dedicated Parliament House began in the 1890s, however with the gold boom in full swing the need to focus on other public works

⁶ ibid. p.16-18.

⁷ ibid. p. 7-12.

⁸ ibid. p. 16-18.

was greater and it was not until 1900 that the land on which the current building sits was set aside as a reserve for parliamentary buildings.⁹

In 1896 a Commission was 'appointed to inquire into and report upon a site and suitable plans for the proposed New Houses of Parliament'. The Commission's report was tabled in 1897 and recommended the site used by the Legislative Council for the new Parliament House. However, not all the Commissioners were in agreement with two strongly dissenting, presumably being more in favour of the other site considered, which is where Parliament House sits today.¹⁰

A decision was subsequently made that the new Parliament House be constructed in time for the session of 1902. Designs were then invited, to be submitted by April 1901, but none was accepted due to excessive costs and it was decided to entrust the design of the place to the Chief Government Architect, J. H. Grainger.¹¹ In May 1902 M. Barry was awarded the contract to construct the first stage of Parliament House and the official opening was held in July 1904.¹² It was conceived as a classically derived building, which was to have been completed with a grand eastern face overlooking the city, but only the western section was realised. The open space to the east of the west wing eventually became the present courtyard, which in its turn has been subject to gradual change.

Although some proposals were put forth for further additions to Parliament House, no major works were undertaken until 1958.¹³ Designs were again prepared by the Public Works Department, and construction of the east wing completed between 1958 and 1961. The final stage was completed 1962/63 and officially opened in March 1964. Designed in the Late Twentieth-Century Stripped Classical architectural style, likely to complement the existing building, there were some criticisms of the result.¹⁴ Notwithstanding the design expression, this façade has now become the face of Parliament House due to its unobstructed view from the city which most people are familiar with.

In 1978 the south colonnade was extended to accommodate more office space, and in 1980 a bar was constructed within the courtyard.¹⁵ Although other proposals have been put forth over the years, the only additional major works undertaken were the refurbishment of the kitchen in 1982, and the construction of a gymnasium in 1988, until 2003.¹⁶

In the 1990s concerns were raised about space and fire safety at Parliament House, and a number of projects were implemented to respond to these concerns. These included new light fittings, electrical upgrades, the upgrading of some roof

⁹ ibid. p.19

¹⁰ 'Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon a site and suitable plans for the proposed New Houses of Parliament'. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command, Perth, 1897. Accessed 13 May 2020
[https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/intranet/libpages.nsf/WebFiles/Royal+Commission+A+site+new+houses+of+Parliament+b/\\$FILE/5611.pdf](https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/intranet/libpages.nsf/WebFiles/Royal+Commission+A+site+new+houses+of+Parliament+b/$FILE/5611.pdf)

¹¹ 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005. p. 19-20.

¹² ibid. p. 24.

¹³ Ibid. p. 34.

¹⁴ ibid. p. 5-58.

¹⁵ ibid. p. 73.

¹⁶ ibid. p. 73-74.

structures and the replacement of roof tiles, re-grouting of plaster ceilings and re-painting and upgrades to toilets.¹⁷

Some building expansion and improvement was undertaken between 1999 and 2005, whilst some major works included an extension to the northern wing, undertaken by Cooper and Oxley and Spowers Architects in 2003. Stonework conservation was undertaken between 2002 and 2004 by Tony Graneri.¹⁸ The water fountains to the eastern frontage were decommissioned in 2006 due to serious operational issues that deemed them uneconomical to maintain. The colonnade underneath the fountains has since been converted to accommodate additional office space whilst retaining the original concrete structure. This was a sympathetic redevelopment undertaken between 2017-19 by John Flower Architect.

The Grounds

While the focus was on the building that the Houses of Parliament would occupy, the grounds were intended to complement and enhance the place.¹⁹ However, it was over two years before the work commenced in earnest, and was not completed until 1911.

In 1906 a design for the layout, prepared in collaboration with Government Gardener D. Feakes, was reported by A/Chief Architect Hillson Beasley which was largely the same as the plans prepared in 1901. Work was commenced in 1907, and shortly after management of the grounds was taken over by a committee appointed by both Houses. One of their first actions was to appoint a permanent gardener and funds were set aside for works. There are limited records of what was planted in this early period, and the species of the 150 trees provided by the Woods and Forests Department from *Hamel Nursery* is unknown. However, in August 1907 it was recorded that cotton palms, Norfolk Island pines, ficus trees and silky oak had been planted.²⁰

The grounds continued to be developed and maintained, although early records about this are limited. Between 1911 and 1914 a further 1800 trees were supplied, though some of these may have gone towards replacing earlier trees which had not survived. Aerial imagery indicates that there were well developed trees to the north and east of Parliament House by 1942. Hedges, likely cyprus, were planted c.1920 along the fence lines, with another highly manicured curved hedge at the north-west approach to the building. Many of these early plantings have since been removed.²¹ Other plantings included a row of flame trees along Harvest Terrace and Canary Island date palms along Hay Street.²² In 1926 roadworks were undertaken along Hay Street and a limestone retaining wall was constructed but this no longer remains extant.²³

The extension to Parliament House in the late 1950s to early 1960s also resulted in changes to the grounds. A new carpark was constructed, along with a sunken

17 *ibid.* p. 74-75.

18 *ibid.* p. 78-79.

19 *ibid.* p. 23.

20 *ibid.* p. 30-32.

21 *ibid.* p. 42-46

22 *ibid.* p. 46.

23 *ibid.* p. 47.

garden, tennis court and formal driveway, with a further section of the latter added in 1971 when the fountains and water garden were completed.²⁴ The plantings for these new works were designed in 1959 by landscape architect John Oldham, who worked for the Public Works Department at that time. This included an avenue of eucalypts along the driveway, informal massing of trees, and mixed hibiscus along Harvest Terrace, whilst a number of native Western Australian plants were also incorporated into the design which was a somewhat innovative approach in the late 1950s.²⁵ The additions to the east side (1958-1964) had resulted in a reduced area of garden, and a number of mature trees had to be removed along with other plantings.²⁶ A large lemon-scented gum was retained at the front of the new building, which became a prominent feature of the place, particularly when floodlit at night.²⁷ This was however removed in 2007 for safety reasons due to falling limbs.

Although the 1950s plans had included the concept for incorporating the Barracks into the grounds, the Stephenson-Hepburn Plan for the extension of the freeway no longer allowed for this and approximately 1.2 hectares were excised from the parliamentary reserve to allow for its construction (c.1960s).²⁸ Originally it had been planned to demolish the Barracks to provide for a ceremonial entrance to parliament facing the city.

In 1972 members of the Western Australian Aboriginal community erected a tent consulate in the grounds of Parliament House to protest the poor housing conditions for Aboriginal people.²⁹

Work was also undertaken on the grounds between 1999 and 2005 with improvements relating to traffic management and security, whilst some work was done to open up views and vistas, and establish plantings along more 'waterwise' principles.³⁰

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Parliament House & Grounds comprises a prominent two and three storey stone and tile building in a combination of the Federation Academic Classical and Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical architectural styles. It was built over a number of stages with the first being from 1902-04 which remains in place with many of the spaces and elements being authentic fabric from this time. It was conceived as a classically derived building, which was to have been completed with a grand eastern face overlooking the city, but only the western section was realised. The open space to the east of the west wing eventually became the present courtyard, which in its turn has been subject to gradual change.

The development from the 1958-64 period produced the built form and landscape setting that is now most visible from the city and city approaches. The eastern wing is a stripped classical design made the more imposing by its elevated location and the fact that most of the foreground is open and landscaped with lawns, trees and

24 *ibid.* p. 62.

25 *ibid.* p. 66.

26 *ibid.* p. 62.

27 *ibid.* p. 66.

28 *ibid.* p. 62.

29 *ibid.* p. 71.

30 *ibid.* p. 83.

water features. The work in the 1980's resulted in improved facilities, but also in the increase of visual clutter, with the introduction of built forms in the previously open courtyard. The work during the 1990s has largely been upgrading and conservation works. Work undertaken from 1999–2005 has largely involved the construction of the northern wing and improvements to the Harvest Terrace streetscape.

For a full discussion of the physical evidence refer to the 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005. The following provides a brief summary based on that document.

Siting

The site boundary of *Parliament House & Grounds* is defined by Harvest Terrace to the west, Hay Street to the north, the Hay Street exit of the Mitchell Freeway to the east and Malcolm Street to the south-east. It was intentionally located in this position to provide a termination to St Georges Terrace. The surrounding built-up urban landscape is a varied mix of low-rise commercial and office buildings in the vicinity of Hay Street, and multi-storey residential developments on Malcolm and Cliff Streets. Kings Park, with its extensive areas of bush and parkland, is in close proximity along the ridge which forms a backdrop to the site. The hillside on the west is predominantly open space which includes Parliament Place and the reserve on which *Dumas House*, the *Old Observatory* and the former *Hale School* buildings are located.

Parliament House & Grounds was built in a number of stages of construction and subsequent extensions that can be categorised and summarised under the following stages of development and key physical components.

Stage 1: 1902 – 1904

Designed in the Federation Academic Classical style, the first phase of construction of Parliament House took place between 1902 and 1904 and was a good example of a monumental civic and commercial building constructed at the turn of the century. Typical of this style, the building is symmetrically planned around a central axis, which is reflected in its western (rear) façade.

The plan consisted of a U-shaped block with the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly chambers at each end with a central courtyard between the two. The chambers are two stories in height with the main parliamentary functions at lower level and visitors' galleries encircling the chambers at the upper level. Both chambers have original colonnaded verandah/balconies facing the courtyard.

The western central section of the U-shaped block housed dining rooms, serveries and a kitchen on the Harvest Terrace level with a library, meeting and staff rooms above. Either side of this central section are two stories of offices, connected to the west end of the chambers by corridors. There is also a basement level that has undergone many changes to the original fabric, which now accommodates staff rooms and amenity facilities. Originally a temporary wooden and tin structure provided additional offices in what is currently the courtyard.

Stage 2: 1958 - 1964

This section of Parliament House was designed in the Late Twentieth Century Stripped Classical architectural style and built in stages between 1958 and 1964. It is located where the original plans suggested an elaborate eastern entrance

facing the city should be formed. The minimal detailing in the exterior has been carried through to its interior and the design of this section reflects an attempt to integrate a modernist aesthetic with the earlier building fabric. This eastern extension does not attempt to achieve the ornate detailing of the original proposal, but still tries to reflect the broad concept in its monumental scale, symmetry, prominent entry and the use of Donnybrook stone.

The plan consists of a simple three storey block utilising the slope of the grounds to enter at the original basement level from the east. The main block runs north-south and spans the two chamber ends. Wide central corridors extend the length of this block and are terminated at the northern and southern ends by entries at ground floor and balconettes on the first and second floors. Corridors linking the extensions with the 1902-04 section were designed and built to enclose the Council chamber on the north and Assembly chamber on the south. The plan also created an enclosed courtyard.

Stage 3: 1978 - 1980

This section of Parliament House is a two storey extension to the south colonnade that includes a block of twelve offices that adjoin the corridors south of the Legislative Assembly Chamber on the first and second floor levels. The works also involved modification to the 1960s component of the building with matching internal detailing and finishes. The exterior uses Donnybrook stone, as per the 1960s section. Visually, this section sits unobtrusively within the southern facade of the building.

Stage 4: 1980 - 1998

This stage of works involved construction of the visitor's lounge and bar in 1980. The lounge is located east of the Members' Bar that projects further into the courtyard space. It bears little relation to existing buildings in its detailing but is of a similar scale and appearance to the Member's Lounge when viewed from the courtyard. The structure is visually intrusive within the courtyard space.

Major works began in 1988 that involved the construction of an exercise room, sauna, spa and change rooms for use by parliamentary members and staff. These structures are located in the basement, beneath the courtyard level and are visible and accessible at the basement level from the ground floor.

Works also included lighting of the Legislative Assembly Chamber implemented in 1994 consisting of three large scale hanging pieces. Service upgrades were also undertaken that are generally concealed. New clocks and a master clock system were installed and a general suite of remediation and maintenance works undertaken throughout the building.

Stage 5: 1998 – 2004/05

This stage of works involved modest improvements and assisted in revealing the significance of the fabric, reversing previous intrusive elements and conserved significant elements of the fabric.

A three storey extension was added to the northern wing of the building to provide additional office accommodation in a similar style to the eastern wing, and a staff cafeteria. The exterior has been clad in Donnybrook stone to match the eastern wing. The extension sits comfortably within the context of the whole façade and is similar to the southern extension.

Internal works consisted of office refurbishments that improved the presentation and amenity of the spaces. Completion of the paint schemes to the corridors in the 1904 section which pick up the cornice and skirting detail have enhanced and revealed the significance of the fabric. The integration of a new Parliamentary Library located within a central room of the western wing on the second floor (its original location) has improved the presentation of significant fabric.

North Elevation

The northern facade is three stories high with its eastern corner terminating the main 1958-1964 block that has a central projection of balconettes and exit doors. On the western corner is a stairwell, adjacent to the 1902-04 section of the building that is similar in proportion and detail to that on the eastern side. At the north-west corner, the end of the older building is visible on the upper levels. There is a garage and gardener's store at ground floor level that date from the 1960s.

Cladding to all 1958-64 sections is in Donnybrook stone and there are moulded stone string courses at the sill and head of the first and second floor windows. There is also a square profile raised course above ground floor door height. The balconettes have stone clad balustrades and there is a bronze section rail on the first floor balustrade. The base and entry steps to the eastern door are granite clad as to the eastern entry portico.

The 2003 northern extension is built between the two corner projections and extends beyond the face of these elements. There is a relief column detail between windows in the central section. It has glazed openings to all bays at all three levels, apart from the two western most bays at ground level, which contain decorative metal screens. The cladding is Donnybrook stone to match the 1958-64 sections, but the stone string courses have been simplified to a straight square line. Windows and doors are of bronze section.

East Elevation

The east elevation consists of the 1958-64 extension, built in the stripped classical architectural style being of static rather than dynamic expression that shows no vestiges of classical detail. The façade is symmetrical with a horizontal skyline, regular bays with their height exceeding their width, a colonnade echoing the classical peristyle, columns without a base or capital and a broad horizontal member echoing a classical entablature. There is little other detail, with the exception of moulded stone windows sills. The building's walls, fins, columns and parapet are clad in dressed Donnybrook stone and the base, steps to podium and podium plinth clad in grey granite. The podium floor is inset with pink granite and its ceiling has a coffered concrete soffit with lighting set into the coffers.

South Elevation

Details of the south elevation are generally the same as for the north, although the central section projects beyond the stairwell and eastern block, which is the office extension built in 1978. Horizontal dimensions are the same as on the northern facade with similar column and recessed window detail, parapet, head and sill mouldings. The western and central part are of two stories, and the eastern end is three stories with an exit porch at ground level and balconettes at first and second floor levels.

West Elevation

The west elevation is built in the Federation Academic Classical architectural style. It is of two stories with a central arched colonnade, flanked by small projecting portico entrances and offices on the ground floor. The upper most floor of the central section is stepped back from the main facade.

Rottnest and Donnybrook stone was used for the exterior walls of the 1902-04 section of the building. The Rottnest stone is of a white/grey tone, which can be seen in all except the central second storey. This section is of Donnybrook stone, which has yellow/cream tones and contrasts with the rest of the western façade. It is clearly the same stone as that used in the 1958-64 and the 1978 works. The base of this part of the building is a rock faced granite with a dressed upper edge.

The lower section of the elevation has entry porticos at the north and south ends of the central colonnade. These have a rock faced stone base and dressed columns and pediments. There are 6-panel double timber entry doors central to each portico with highlights capped by a stone semi-circular arch, set onto a stone string course. The former central colonnade, which has nine semi-circular stone arches set onto a stone string course, has been extended into and is now used as part of the dining room. The colonnade has been fully glazed with fixed timber framed windows.

Windows to all, with the exception of the colonnade, are timber framed, double hung sashes. Second floor windows to the north and south offices are flat-topped with stone pilasters to both sides and a timber hood. Each has a decorative panel above the window frame. The central second storey has segmental arch window heads of dressed stone, with pilasters either side of the end windows. These windows are also double hung and timber framed. There is a stone decoration to each window head of a keystone and semi-circular pediment. Each pediment has ribbed brackets.

The parapet on the western facade is stone, divided into panels. On the roof of the colonnade these form a balustrade for the balcony decorated with three panels over each of the colonnade windows. The north and south sections have a detail of two small inset panels followed by a larger panel with a central ball. On the second story above the colonnade, there are two inset panels and a ball above each window. There is a stepped cornice detail with brackets to the stone parapets and hipped tile roofs behind them.

Courtyard

The courtyard is located at the centre of the building at first floor level with a tiled floor finish. Verandahs on two levels face the courtyard from the north and south. The first floor verandahs have arched colonnades with wide columns. One colonnade on the southern side has been filled with glazing. The second floor verandahs have flat-topped colonnades with columns and pilasters. The colonnades have a plaster finish and the first floor columns are ruled in an ashlar stone pattern. The balustrades are also plastered with panel detailing between the columns on the second floor.

The 1902-04 western wall has a balustrade parapet with a rendered finish. The upper part of the wall is smooth rendered and shows evidence of earlier ashlar ruling. There are double hung timber windows at the second floor level. The lower 1902-04 wall is below a moulded string course. It is also rendered and ruled as

ashlar stone. The wall is obscured by the additions at courtyard level. The eastern wall of the courtyard is rendered to match the other walls with ashlar course ruling to all except the columns.

At first floor level there are single storey intrusions along the western side of the courtyard. Toilet blocks at the north and south corners were to the original design, but have had pitched roofs replaced by flat roofs. The south-west wall to the 1902-04 toilets is rough rendered and cracked in places. The north toilet block is painted over render that shows evidence of earlier ashlar ruling. The lounge and bar areas were built between the two toilet blocks. A contemporary canopy was installed in the central courtyard in 2017.

The Grounds

The present layout of the grounds is the legacy of the major reconstruction of the site which occurred in the late 1950s through to the early 1970s, with a number of sections further improved between 2003 and 2005. There is little evidence of the physical fabric remaining from the earlier period prior to World War II.

A semicircular driveway once spanned between the original entrances on the western side prior to its removal in 2004 with the modifications to Harvest Terrace. Driveways from the north and south on Harvest Terrace encircle Parliament House and passes in front of the main entrance and also connects with Malcolm Street.

A limited number of service facilities are located within the grounds and are concentrated on the north side of Parliament House. The garages and service yard are visible from the main visitor vehicle entry. The area between the service yard and the main driveway contains the bin store and electricity sub-station. A fire hydrant water storage tank was installed adjacent to the sub-station in 2011. Both buildings have been clad with Donnybrook stone to match the northern elevation, which has reduced the intrusiveness of these elements in this prominent location. Universal access public toilets were installed in 2017 and covered in a similar fabric.

Landscaping

The eastern forecourt in front of Parliament House is the main public area and protest location where the formal entry steps and visitor parking are located. The line of ten aluminium flagpoles defines the area and signifies its ceremonial function. The area is used as a scenic viewing place and is used when required for civic functions and ceremonial events. The driveway is bitumen with precast concrete kerbs. Paving to the forecourt areas are a combination of precast concrete slabs adjacent to the building which date from the early 1960s development and exposed aggregate finish associated with the water gardens dating from the early 1970s. The landing which hosts the flagpoles is covered with concrete pavers.

The structure of the redundant water gardens and fountains associated with the forecourt still exist and extends over two levels with the lower colonnade now infilled to create additional office space. The remnants of the original fabric consists of retaining walls, ornamental pools and raised garden planter beds; all constructed of grey concrete with exposed aggregate surface finish. There is a mix of garden areas of lawns and plantings around the perimeter of the building that provide amenity space and connection to pathways and the surrounding streets.

The southern entrance on the western façade includes a contemporary Perspex canopy.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a full discussion of the comparative evidence refer to the 'Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review', Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005. The following provides a brief summary based on that document.

By its very nature *Parliament House & Grounds* is the only place with this function in Western Australia, so any meaningful comparative requires a review of comparable places nationally. Each State and Territory has its own current Parliament House, and some jurisdictions also have earlier Parliament building that have since been replaced:

- Parliament House, Capital Hill, Australian Capital Territory (1988)
Designed by Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp, the Parliament of Australia is situated within the 1912 Walter Burley Griffin plan for Canberra. The place, in a post-modern design, comprises a circle plan with two white curved linear walls.
- Old Parliament House, Australian Capital Territory (1923)
Designed by John Smith Murdoch, Commonwealth Architect, in an inter-war stripped classical style, it is a brick structure with white cement render. It has a symmetrical layout, and housed the Commonwealth Parliament until 1988 when it relocated to Capital Hill.
- Parliament House, Adelaide, South Australia (1883-89; 1936-37)
Replacing the original Parliament House (which remains extant) constructed in 1875, the western portion was constructed 1883-1889, followed by the central and eastern sections in 1936-37. The place was designed by E.W. Wright and Lloyd Taylor, and was built by Government Architect E.J. Woods. The building is square in plan with a columned western façade.
- Parliament House, Brisbane, Queensland (1868; 1891; 1979; 1998)
Designed by Charles Tiffin the building was constructed from sandstone in a French Renaissance style commencing in 1868.
- Parliament House, Hobart, Tasmania (1841; 1858; 1938-60; 1978-80)
An ashlar and slate building it was designed in an early renaissance Florentine Palazzo style. The first stage of the building, Customs House was constructed in 1841, and now makes up the east elevation. Further building programs saw additions in 1856, 1938 and the 1970s and 1990s.
- Parliament House, Sydney, New South Wales (1811; 1843; 1856; 1974)
Originally the Principal Surgeon's quarters, the Colonial Georgian sandstone building now forms the central section. In 1843 Mortimer Lewis designed the additions to the northern side which house the Legislative Assembly Chamber. A prefabricated corrugated iron building was added to the southern end in 1856, and in 1974 a modern six-storey east wing was added.

- Parliament House, Melbourne, Victoria (1856-57; 1858-60; 1878-79; 1885-1890; 1930)

Designed in the Greek Revival style and built in five stages from Stawell stone on a bluestone plinth, the layout is symmetrical on an east-west axis.

- Parliament House, Darwin, Northern Territory (1994)

Completed in 1994 this is Australia's newest Parliament Building. Designed for Darwin's tropical climate the façade of the building diffuses 80% of direct sunlight and the interiors display a very modern style.³¹

It could be suggested that many of the above are comparable to *Parliament House & Grounds* in Western Australia in some design attributes and for their function.

With regard to other places in the State which, it could be suggested, are somewhat comparable only the following may be noted, all of which are on the State Register:

- P2095 *Government House & Grounds* (1864)

Comprising Government House (1864), Ballroom (1899), Landscaped Gardens and mature plantings, including commemorative trees, Perimeter Wall (c.1850), Lodge (1904) and archaeological deposits, the place is of exceptional cultural heritage significance for its historical and ongoing role as part of the administrative centre for Western Australia, its essential contributions to the story of governance of the State, and as the continuing official residence of the Governor. Furthermore, the place is exceptionally aesthetically pleasing for its eclectic and unique architectural style in its extensive garden setting, and is a landmark which makes a striking contribution to the streetscape of the State's capital city.

- P3849 *Dumas House* (1966)

A fourteen-storey government office building constructed in the Post-War International style, the place has considerable landmark value and contributes to the Perth community's sense of place. Located on a prominent, elevated site, it is clearly visible from many points around the city and wider metropolitan area, and its location, at the western edge of the urban skyline, further enhances its landmark value. *Dumas House* has been associated with the State Government of Western Australia since its construction in 1966, providing office accommodation for Government departments and Ministers.

- P2097 *Council House, Perth* (1960)

Designed in the Post-War International style, the place is an important part of the streetscape of St Georges Terrace, and a city landmark. Its architectural design and detailing, commensurate with its image as Perth's Civic Administrative Centre, reinforces the continuous development of the site as part of the central precinct for State and Local Government in Perth, and reflects the growth of the City and corresponding Council administration.

³¹

Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, About Parliament, Parliament House Features. Accessed 1 May 2020 <https://parliament.nt.gov.au/about/parliament-house-function-rooms/features>

The above indicates that *Parliament House & Grounds* is largely in a class of its own with regard to other comparable places within the State. This does not necessarily make it rare given there is no need for other places which serve the same function. However, it is notable and unique for its ability to tell the story of the legislature and its functions.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

‘Parliament House Conservation Plan (DRAFT)’, prepared for the Joint House Committee, Parliament of Western Australia by the Building Management Authority, July 1994.

‘Parliament House Draft Conservation Plan – Review’, Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd, October 2005.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
