



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. DATA BASE No. 3960
2. NAME *Katanning Town Hall Buildings*  
(1896-97; 1904; 1907; 1927; 1945; 1966; 1976; 1999)
3. LOCATION 16-24 Austral Terrace, Katanning
4. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY  
Portion of each of Katanning Town Lots 65 and 427, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 291 Folio 62.
5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA Shire of Katanning
6. OWNER Shire of Katanning
7. HERITAGE LISTINGS
 

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	25/08/2000
	Permanent Entry	24/11/2000
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	10/04/2000
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	25/01/1996
• Register of the National Estate:		-----
8. CONSERVATION ORDER  
-----
9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT  
-----
10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Katanning Town Hall Buildings*, a complex of single and two storey structures in brick, stucco brick and concrete wall construction with metal roofs in the Federation Free Classical, Inter-War Chicagoesque and Post War International styles, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place, incorporating the Agricultural Hall, Mechanics' Institute, the Town Hall, and the Shire Offices, are a significant historic marker that represents the stages of development of the Shire of Katanning, from its early dominant agricultural community through to the townspeople and also the local governing authority;

the place has social value as the centre for many important institutions in Katanning, such as the Agricultural Hall Committee (representing the interests of the agricultural community), the Mechanics' Institute, and the Shire of Katanning, as well as providing an important social and cultural venue for the general community;

the place has aesthetic value as a rich overlay of building design through time. The Inter-War Chicagoesque style additions that completed the inter-war construction have a particularly strong visual presence, notwithstanding the loss of detail such as verandahs and original joinery. The interiors of the main auditorium, the elements of the Agricultural Hall and Mechanics' Institute all contribute to the strong aesthetic values of the place. Both halls are particularly important for their strong aesthetic values;

the spatial qualities and the finishes of the Agricultural Hall and its extensions and the Town Hall Auditorium, together with the first floor offices of the Town Hall, have high aesthetic value and are fine examples of the work of Herbert J. Eales of Oldham and Eales Architects;

the place makes a significant contribution to the streetscape and the vistas within the town. Its imposing size and length make it one of the town's landmarks;

the Mechanics' Institute, which is part of the *Katanning Town Hall Buildings*, more than any other part of the complex, represents a way of life that is now comparatively rare, as mechanics' institutes have generally been replaced by the public library system, and their social function has all but disappeared along with the buildings; and,

the place has rarity value for the completeness, authenticity and fitting out that remains from its earliest campaigns.