



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)

- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 8.1 Organising recreation
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government & politics
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 407 Cultural activities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Beverley Town Hall is a fine example of the 1930s Inter-War Functionalist style. (Criterion 1.1)

Beverley Town Hall is an exemplary design achievement by architect William G. Bennett in response to a rural town hall facility in the Inter-War Functionalist style, with the interior lighting and ceiling design of the main hall being particularly fine examples of the style. (Criterion 1.2)

Beverley Town Hall has a landmark quality demonstrated by the visual impact of the mass and form of the extensive rendered and horizontally banded street frontage contrasted with the tower block entry and recessed upper floor elements. (Criterion 1.3)

Beverley Town Hall makes a significant contribution to the historic streetscape, townscape and character of Beverley, in complementing and enhancing other Art Deco and Inter-War Functionalist style buildings in the Vincent Street streetscape. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The construction of *Beverley Town Hall* in 1938 is illustrative of the general feeling of optimism following the end of the Depression as the world economy experienced a period of prosperity and growth. (Criterion 2.1)

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

Beverley Town Hall was constructed at a time of increase in population and consolidation of the Beverley district, which had occurred during the agricultural boom of the 1920s and continued following the Depression. The building replaced the 1905 Town Hall (former Mechanics Institute), which occupied the site. (Criterion 2.2)

Beverley Town Hall was designed by William G. Bennett, well known in Western Australia for his Art Deco and Inter-War Functionalist architecture, including the Lord Forrest Olympic Pool in Kalgoorlie, the Raffles Hotel and Plaza Theatre and Arcade in Perth and a number of buildings at Araluen as part of his involvement with the Young Australia League. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Beverley Town Hall is highly valued by the local community for its social and cultural associations as the Beverley district's community centre from 1938 to the present, and the venue for picture shows, balls, dances, public meetings, displays, fundraising, wedding receptions and school concerts. (Criterion 4.1)

Beverley Town Hall contributes to the local and wider community's sense of place as a landmark in the town of Beverley and a fine example of Inter-War Functionalist architecture. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

Beverley Town Hall is a rare example of a rural town hall building in the Inter-war Functionalist style, constructed in the late 1930s that comprises a town hall and lesser hall in one building campaign. (Criterion 5.1)

Beverley Town Hall is the only known remaining example of a 1930s former picture garden established as part of the original design of a town hall in rural Western Australia. (Criterion 5.1)

Beverley Town Hall is rare as part of a streetscape which includes predominantly Art Deco style buildings. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Beverley Town Hall is a fine example of a rural town hall building in the Inter-War Functionalist style of the late 1930s, and represents some of the best Inter-War Functionalist work of architect William G. Bennett. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Beverley Town Hall is generally in good condition. There is some evidence of rising damp in the front east corner of the building and some ceiling damage in the same area, but otherwise the place is in good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Beverley Town Hall has retained a high degree of integrity. Minimal changes have taken place over the years to facilitate the continued use of the place as the focus of social and cultural activities within the Beverley Shire district. The picture gardens have not operated since the 1950s and the indoor cinema functions ceased in the 1970s, but the garden space remains intact and the bio boxes are unchanged.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric of the place is mostly intact. The picture garden lettering has been removed from the curved parapet and above the corner doors, the steps to both hall entries have been altered to accommodate disabled access ramps, the space between the two halls has been roofed, the east hall verandah enclosed in places to form store rooms, the kitchen reconstructed, a bar installed in the access corridor, the external rear wall of the stage reclad and ablution facilities constructed at the rear of the site, but no structural alterations have been made to the place, nor do any of the changes impact on the original fabric of the place. Overall *Beverley Town Hall* demonstrates a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Irene Sauman, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Laura Gray, Conservation Consultant.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Beverley Town Hall is a substantial rendered brick and iron public building constructed in 1938 by J. M. Thompson to a design by architect William G. Bennett. The place, designed in Inter-War Functionalist style, comprised town hall, lesser hall, Road Board office and picture gardens. *Beverley Town Hall* replaced the 1905 Mechanics Institute building (later Town Hall), which was situated on part of the site. Alterations to the picture garden entrance and office section may have been carried out in the early years. The picture gardens have since been replaced with a lawned area while the rest of the building continues to function as the civic centre of Beverley.

The Avon Valley district was settled early following the discovery of good pastoral lands in 1830, by a party led by Ensign Robert Dale of the 63rd Regiment. Dale made three expeditions to the region between 1830 and 1831. Sandalwood was collected in the district and pastoral lands were taken up in the 1840s and 1850s. The town of Beverley was surveyed in 1868, on the Perth-Albany Road. On 24 January 1871, the East Beverley Districts Road Board was established, with twelve members. With the construction of the Great Southern railway line linking Perth with Albany, Beverley became the junction of the Government owned line from Perth and the privately owned line to Albany. The line was opened to Beverley in 1886 and to Albany in 1889.¹

Beverley developed rapidly with the advent of the railway line. Three hotels catered for the overnight rail passengers, and passenger and goods traffic increased markedly during the gold boom period of the 1890s, as people arrived at Albany by ship and travelled to the goldfields by rail. Community facilities established in the 1890s included the first Mechanics' Institute (1890), three churches (1890-1892), new school (1895) replacing an earlier school, and courthouse (1897).

The Mechanic's Institute was sited on Suburban Lot 124, a quarter acre lot fronting Vincent Street. Lot 124 was gazetted Reserve 1568 on 20 March 1890. On the west side were the tennis courts on Suburban Lot 123, which was the

¹ Statham, Pamela, *Swan River Colony 1829-1850*, In Stannage, C. T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*, UWA Press, Perth, 1981, pp. 181-210; Thomas, Alf T., *The History of Beverley 1946*, Perth, A. T. Thomas, [1946], pp. 3-11; Dennis, Barry J., *A History of the Economic Development of Beverley and the Upper Avon Valley*, typescript, 1968, p. 17.

showground reserve (Reserve 1569), and on the east side was the 'old school' on Reserve 1570.² The title to Sub Lot 124 was issued to a group comprising three local farmers and a priest, as trustees for the Mechanics Institute.³

In 1895, Beverley was declared a Municipality and the first Municipal Council was elected to control the civic affairs of the Beverley metropolitan area, while the Road Board looked after the surrounding district. Council offices were built in 1898 and Road Board offices were constructed in 1908. The original Mechanic's Institute building was demolished and replaced with a larger building in 1905.⁴

In 1912, discussions were held on the amalgamation of the Beverley District Road Board and the Beverley Municipal Council. Opposition to the move from some elements of the public resulted in a referendum being held on the matter on 12 March 1913. The vote was 58 for amalgamation and 17 against. A newly constituted Road Board was formed in June 1913 and the Municipality became the Central Ward. The former Council chambers were purchased by the Beverley Fire Brigade, while the Road Board offices continued to be used in their original function.⁵

In 1914, the Road Board purchased the Mechanics Institute for use as a Town Hall, with title being transferred on 24 July 1914.⁶ That same year, the adjoining showground reserve, on Suburban Lot 123, was purchased by motor mechanic William H. Dean and the showground was relocated to land at the eastern end of John Street, further from the centre of the developing town. Dean had Lot 123 subdivided on Diagram 4081, but continued to own the whole parcel, part of which he occupied with his garage and motor mechanic business.⁷

In mid 1937, the Road Board Office was condemned by the Health Department and the Beverley Road Board took the opportunity to plan a new town hall and offices. The existing Town Hall (former Mechanic's Institute) was thirty-two years old and no longer large enough for the community. The general economy was improving following the end of the Depression and people were optimistic about the future. With promising prospects for agriculture and dairying in the Beverley district, and the Road Board income sufficient to support a loan for a substantial new civic building, the Beverley community was agreeable to the project.⁸

Lots 1 and 2 of Suburban Lot 123, fronting Vincent Street on the west side of the Town Hall (former Mechanic's Institute) were purchased by the Beverley Roads Board to create a larger site.⁹ Architect William G. Bennett was engaged to design the new building, which was to be sited across the three lots. Tenders for demolition of the existing Town Hall and the construction of

² DOLA, Plan no. 15/2, Diagram 60/39, surveyed 24 November 1894; Reserves Enquiry Index, Reserves 1568 & 1569.

³ Certificate of Title, Vol. 63 Fol. 143, 22 January 1895.

⁴ Thomas, Alf T., op cit, pp. 15-23 & 28, photograph of 2nd Mechanic's Institute showing date on pediment; Dennis, Barry J. A., op cit, 1968, pp. 20-22.

⁵ Thomas, Alf T., op cit, p. 28.

⁶ Certificate of Title, Vol. 63 Fol. 143, 24 July 1914.

⁷ Certificate of Title, Vol. 1036 Fol. 690; DOLA survey Diagram 4081, 27 April 1914; *Wise's Post Office Directory*, 1914-1920.

⁸ *West Australian*, 14 November and 4 & 6 December 1937.

⁹ Certificates of Title, Vol. 1056 Fol. 476 (Lot 2), 11 November 1937 & Vol. 1787 Fol. 560 (Lot 1).

Beverley Town Hall were advertised on 14 November 1937.¹⁰ Tenders received ranged from £5,240 to £6,112. The tender of J. M. Thomson was the lowest, but the figure was increased to £5,575 to allow for the provision of stronger foundations than were called for in the specifications. A loan of £6,250 was raised to meet the cost of construction and furnishings.¹¹

William Garnsworthy Bennett (1896-1977) was a practitioner of modern architecture. Born in Victoria, Bennett came to Western Australia with his family in 1910. He studied architectural drafting at Perth Technical School and joined the Young Australia League. In 1920, he was articled to architect F. J. Coote and, four years later, became the first locally trained architect to pass the Architect's Board of Examination. He was awarded the first Bronze Medal of the Royal Institute of Architects (WA) the following year, and served as the Institute's secretary from 1924-29. In 1931, he became the first West Australian architect to become an Associate (Overseas) Member of the Royal Institute of British Architects.¹²

Before setting up practice on his own in 1936, William Bennett was in charge of the drawing office at Eales and Cohen, where he worked with art deco theatre designer, William Leighton. Among the work that passed through William Bennett's office in the late 1930s were: the Dalkeith and Nedlands tennis clubs; Lord Forrest Olympic Pool, Kalgoorlie; infant health centres at Dalkeith, Manjimup and Nedlands; the Scarborough, Ocean Beach, Majestic and Raffles hotels in Perth, Checkers Hotel Bullsbrook, and hotels in Beverley and Sawyer's Valley; Plaza Theatre and Arcade in the Hay Street Mall, and the Regal Theatre in Subiaco with William Leighton; Applecross town hall, the Masonic Temple, Nedlands; a number of private houses in suburbs such as Dalkeith, Cottesloe and South Perth; and over a dozen buildings and structures at Araluen. Bennett was also responsible for the refurbishment of Bunbury's Rose Hotel, the Mt Barker Hotel, and Perth Motor House with Powell, Cameron and Chisholm.¹³

Beverley Town Hall was officially opened by the Governor, Sir James Mitchell, on 1 September 1938. The opening was celebrated with a ball, which was described as the 'most brilliant social gathering yet held in this district'. Music was provided by James Black's five-piece orchestra and nine debutantes were presented to the Governor on the night.¹⁴ A detailed description of the building was published:

The new buildings which are designed to meet every social and entertainment need of the community are strikingly modern in design, and provide the people of the district with facilities such as are possessed by few country towns in Western Australia... Mr. J. M. Thomson, of Katanning, was the contractor for the buildings and Mr. W. G. Bennett, of the city, the architect. It is generally agreed that the finished job is a credit to both these gentlemen and comprises a very handsome addition to the town's architecture.

The buildings comprise main hall, lesser hall, picture gardens, and social rooms constructed behind an imposing continuous frontage, the feature of which are two massive square topped towers which rise above the entrances to the two halls. Inside the main entrance is a vestibule opening

¹⁰ *West Australian*, 14 November 1937.

¹¹ *West Australian*, 4 & 6 December 1937 & 5 February 1938.

¹² Geneve, Yvonne 'Artist of the Month: William G Bennett', *Art Deco Society of WA Newsletter*, Vol. 5 No. 4 July/Aug, 1992, pp. 10-11.

¹³ Geneve, Yvonne, op cit.

¹⁴ *Beverley Times*, 9 September 1938, p. 4.

to the main hall with a social room, which is provided with a fireplace, on the left, and gents cloakroom on the right. The main hall measures 77ft. by 41ft. and is designed to accommodate 620 persons. The walls to a height of 7ft. are of special ornamental bricks which have been left untreated and above this are finished with rough acoustic plaster into which delicate colouring has been introduced. The ceilings are beautifully finished and the alighting, which is provided along the length of the ceiling with special fixtures on the walls at each exit, is shaded to tone with the wall finish. A wide stage is provided with dressing rooms at each side. A special battery circuit has been installed to conform with regulations with regard to exit lights.

Cloak-rooms are also situated just off the vestibule which leads to the lesser hall which measures 48ft by 25 ft. Here the treatment of walls, ceilings and lighting is not so elaborate but is never-the-less modern and tasteful. At the rear of the lesser hall is a kitchen replete with every convenience needed for the expeditious preparation of suppers, etc. A covered way leads from the main hall to the lesser hall and this enables the latter being used as a supper room on the occasion of big social gatherings.

To the left is situated the summer gardens the projection room for which is in the tower above the entrance to the lesser hall. The main projection room is in the tower fronting the large hall and is up to date in every respect, there being ample space for operators to work in comfort, as well as for housing of all the mechanism needed for screening of talkie films. A covered passage leads from one projection room to the other so that in the event of any sudden change in the weather during summer months the show can be rapidly transferred to the main hall.

The building frontage, cement-faced and finished with cream colouring, is set back about 20 ft. from the Vincent-street road way and the intervening area has been surfaced with concrete with four circular beds provided in which Kurrajong trees have already been planted. Special light panels are situated each side of the main door way and the whole building is flood-lit when the hall is in use. Moulded in cement above the main entrance is the Beverley Road Board insignia. A flag pole is provided above the main tower...

The building has been designed so that any portion can be rented without access being given to the whole premises, this being regarded as an important feature in country towns where many of the small social functions held do not warrant the use of a large hall. It is also possible to have two entertainments on the same night without one interfering with the other. The general design is such that the buildings can be enlarged with a minimum expense.

The original plan, titled 'Proposed Picture Halls & Garden for the Beverley Road Board', shows the curved corner structure as an enclosed entrance to the picture gardens, complete with a granolithic floor. The current floor plan shows this area and the adjoining office as a larger area extending into the picture garden space. The stairs accessing the bio box area from the picture garden entrance are also not part of the current layout. No boardroom is shown on the proposed plan and the published description of *Beverley Town Hall* makes no mention of office or boardroom so does not help in discerning how this area was actually constructed. A photograph published in the *Western Mail*, 8 September 1938, shows the lettering 'PICTURE GARDENS' both on the upper section of the curved wall and immediately below over the double entry doorway, so it seems safe to assume that this was originally the entrance to the picture garden and not the office. Another indication that this section of the building has been altered are the windows, which are metal-framed awning style throughout the building except for those in the back

(north) wall of the office and board room overlooking the picture garden, which are timber-framed double-hung windows. This suggests they are a later addition, associated with creating new office spaces in the area and extending the rooms northward into the picture garden.¹⁵

Beverley Town Hall has been the venue of community and celebratory activities throughout its existence. Picture shows, balls, dances, wedding receptions, dinners, school concerts, cabarets, ballet, live performances, theatre, Repertory shows and exhibitions featured in the place. The picture gardens were popular in the summer months, but it is likely that they, and other picture gardens in the State, did not operate during World War Two because they were an outdoor light source. No advertisements for picture shows at *Beverley Town Hall* gardens were found for the early 1940s, although shows were held inside the building.¹⁶ In 1952, new picture gardens were established at Beverley, further east on Vincent Street and it is possible that *Beverley Town Hall* picture gardens did not reopen after the War.¹⁷

The shops in Beverley were open on Saturday afternoon and closed Wednesday afternoon. Families dressed up and did their shopping and socialising in town on Saturday, frequenting the railway tearooms and then going to the pictures or a dance at *Beverley Town Hall*. In 1961, a referendum was held which resulted in the shops closing Saturday afternoon and opening Wednesday afternoon instead, effectively altering the pattern of social life in the town. The drive-in theatre opened early in the 1960s, and the 1952 picture gardens closed around this time.¹⁸

In 1961, Beverley Road Board became Beverley Shire, and the Council continued to occupy the boardroom and office. In 1967, the Council moved into the refurbished former headmaster's house. This building was replaced with a new Shire office building in 1989. The old offices in *Beverley Town Hall* were used as art rooms and, later, as the Quaker meeting place.¹⁹

In 1992, the Shire considered removing the three large pine trees, known by some as The Sentinels, which stand at the front of *Beverley Town Hall*. The public debate that followed resulted in the trees remaining.²⁰

In 1996, *Beverley Town Hall* was included on the Shire of Beverley Municipal Heritage Inventory but has not been allocated a management category. The place was classified by the National Trust in 1995.²¹

In 2003, *Beverley Town Hall* continues to be the focal point of community activity and social life in Beverley.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Beverley Town Hall, a single-storey brick, render and corrugated iron building, comprising foyers, offices and amenities across the front of the main and lesser halls, a stage, dressing rooms, kitchen, storerooms and a former picture

15 'Proposed Picture Halls & Garden for the Beverley Road Board', William G. Bennett [1937]; physical evidence.

16 *Beverley Times*, various issues, 1942-1945.

17 *Beverley Times*, Beverley Road Board Minutes in various issues February-April 1952 and Health Department Public Plan Register, Beverley Town Hall.

18 Various issues of *Beverley Times*; O'Brien Planning Consultants, *Shire of Beverley Municipal Heritage Inventory*, July 1995, Place no. 05.

19 O'Brien Planning Consultants, op cit.

20 O'Brien Planning Consultants, op cit.

21 O'Brien Planning Consultants, op cit; National Trust assessment, Beverley Town Hall.

garden on the ground floor and bio boxes above, is designed in Inter-war Functionalist style.

Beverley Town Hall is located on the north side of Vincent Street, the main street of the town of Beverley. Vincent Street comprises a number of substantial buildings dating from the mid 1880s through to recent times, with a representation of Art Deco architecture as demonstrated in the fire station building adjacent to *Beverley Town Hall*, the Infant Health Centre opposite, and Beverley Hotel (refurbished by the same architect, W. G. Bennett, in the late 1930s) further south in Vincent Street, as well as various retail outlets.

Beverley Town Hall has an expansive street frontage, with a paved setback and three mature pencil pine plantings symmetrical about the two hall entries, with one pine between the two doors and one on either side. The west end of the building curves around the corner of the site where there is a driveway and car parking with a fence delineating the grassed area that was formerly the picture gardens, at the rear of the front offices and to the west of the lesser hall. The rear of the site is integral with the bitumen carpark at the rear of the Shire of Beverley Administration Offices adjacent on the south side, and connected by a pergola along the east side of the hall, and a covered walkway access to the side entry near the front of the east side of the hall.

Beverley Town Hall displays characteristics of Inter-War Functionalist style, popular in Western Australia in the late 1930s. The horizontal banded exterior is typical of the 'streamline moderne' expression of the Inter-war Functionalist style. Although the frontage is not symmetrical, it is a well-balanced façade with symmetrical elements apparent about each of the two hall entries and the rounded corner. Typical of the Inter-war Functionalist style, the street front parapeted facade is rendered in a light colour with distinct horizontal emphasis of recessed banding, sweeping curved corner, and stepped recessed bio box form above the ground floor level, contrasting with the vertical emphasis of the entries to the two halls, particularly the tower block element of the main entry. The horizontality is further emphasised by the continuous narrow concrete hood along the top of the window heads, in contrast to the vertical format window elements and the curved corners on the frontage. The use of metal-framed windows and stylised lettering also illustrates the Inter-war Functionalist style.

Beverley Town Hall comprises the original 1938 brick and render construction, a c.1980 ladies toilets and store room enclosure under much of the original east side verandah and c.1990s toilet facilities at the rear. The footprint of *Beverley Town Hall* forms a square when the picture gardens are included. Each of the two halls are rectangular in plan and a long rectangular street frontage element that connects and accesses the main hall, lesser hall and picture gardens completes the square. *Beverley Town Hall* comprises: the main entry on the east side of the frontage, the lesser hall entry central on the frontage, and the former picture gardens entry central on the curved corner at the west end of the frontage. The two hall entries open into identical foyers with associated ticket boxes, cloakrooms and toilets with a connecting 'social room'. The main hall has a stage at the rear with dressing rooms each side. The main hall opens into a covered connection to the lesser hall, along the west side, and a verandah and storage on the east side. The kitchen is located at the rear of the lesser hall and a bar area is located adjacent to the kitchen at the rear of the covered connection. The office area is accessed from the lesser hall foyer and the entry on the curved corner, but was inaccessible at the time of inspection. The bio boxes are accessible from within the afore-

mentioned offices and from the corridor behind the ticket box in the main hall foyer. The bio boxes were also inaccessible at the time of inspection.

Beverley Town Hall is a single-storey brick and render construction with corrugated iron roofs and a two storey bio box facility across the front, stepped back above the entries. The entire street frontage and the rounded corner has a rendered parapet and recessed horizontal bands incised along the otherwise smooth finish wall on a face brick 0.500 metre dado that features a header course at the render juncture with the render wall above. A continuous concrete hood and stylised lettering further demonstrate the Inter-war Functionalist influences. The words 'BEVERLEY TOWN HALL' are depicted in traditional serif lettering on the parapet between the entries, although the word 'HALL' on the spandrel infill of the main entry, and 'LESSER HALL' in the entry parapet, are in the Art Deco stylised lettering, as were the words 'PICTURE GARDENS' around the curved parapet and immediately above the door on the curved corner, that has since been removed. The main entry spandrel also features the State emblem. The main entry tower block rises to a two-storey height encompassing part of the bio box. The entry is dominant and features a sarcophagus shaped arch stepped several times in a recess into the entry that is further recessed. A central flagpole is fixed onto the tower block element above the entry in contrast with three raised horizontal bands. The lesser hall entry is similar in design to the main entry, but not as emphatic. Both entries have concrete ramps with pipe railing, extending along the front of the building. The 1938 foundation stone is in place on the west side of the main entry. The remainder of the building is face brick in a stretcher bond except the rear wall of the hall (stage) where vertical sheets of c.1980s long profile colourbond sheeting are in place, and the two store room enclosures under the east verandah are both clad with fibro-cement sheeting.

Flanking the main entry are two sets of the original metal framed casement windows on the east, and three sets of same on the west between the lesser hall entry which also has another two sets of two casements on the left. Each of the casement windows has four glazed panels in a vertical configuration and a four-pane awning fanlight across each set of two windows. The original windows also remain in place on both sides of the main hall and the lesser hall. They are all steel framed windows in sets of two in a vertical configuration with the lower sash fixed and the upper sash on a pivot. Each sash has four glazed panels. The rear of the office section (north wall) overlooking the former picture gardens has a series of timber framed double hung sash windows protected by a skillion corrugated iron clad awning along the entire length. There are c.1960s awnings on all the windows on the west elevation of the lesser hall and kitchen. The kitchen has aluminium framed sliding glass windows.

The roofs over each of the halls are gabled. The remaining roofs are mostly concealed behind the parapets, but appear to be skillions. The roofs are clad with painted corrugated iron. The c.1980 roof over the connection between the main and lesser halls is clad with long profile colorbond sheeting on a low pitch.

The main entry and lesser hall doors are c.1980s anodised aluminium framed glazed double doors, similar to those on the interior of the foyers, leading into each of the halls. The corner entry has the original timber framed and panelled doors with glazed panels. The interior doors are predominantly a single flush panel within a timber frame, although the lesser hall exit doors are vertical tongue and groove timbers within a frame.

On the interior, the floors are tongue and groove timber boards in the halls and stage and dressing room areas, a concrete finish in the foyers and front rooms, concrete with vinyl tiles in the kitchen and ladies toilets, brick paving in the covered access way between the halls and concrete along the east verandah of the main hall. In the main hall, the 0.100 metre boards are highly polished and taped for badminton courts. The access to the bio box above the main entry is a timber closed-tread staircase. The stage access is open-tread timber stairs.

The original walls in the foyers are dado brick wall to a height of 2.0 metres with ashlar render above. The remaining walls in the other 'front' rooms are similarly ashlar rendered. There is evidence of rising damp in the vicinity of the bio box staircase in the front corridor. The main hall has a 2.0 metre face brick dado wall around the perimeter of the hall, except for the stage. The dado wall is detailed throughout with a floor level soldier course (skirting) and then three courses of stretcher brick alternating with two courses of slender bricks also in a stretcher course. There is an open fireplace in the front 'social' room that is detailed in the face brick pattern with soldier coursing around the fireplace opening and herringbone face brick within the firebox. The concrete mantel has a moulded incised edge treatment. The walls above the dado in the main hall are ashlar render. The lesser hall walls are rendered to 1.5 metres from floor level where a grooved dado line delineates the change to spatter render above. There is a picture rail at 2.0 metres from the floor, and a painted timber chair rail has been installed around the perimeter of the walls. There are two sliding hatch openings on the rear wall adjoining the kitchen. The original splayed timber skirtings remain insitu. Air vents are in place central within each bay along the walls of both halls, symmetrical beneath the windows. The stage proscenium is moulded plaster in simple lines with a vertical element curved away from the stage. The kitchen walls are hard plaster with ceramic splash tiles.

The ceilings in the foyers, social room and lesser hall are exposed battened plasterboard. Both foyers feature the original central circular fluorescent tube light fittings. The main hall ceiling is an outstanding example of art deco design, more often seen in cinemas of the late 1930s period. It is decorative in the stepped form rising to a single strip of triangular trough lighting along the length of the hall. The stepped form is detailed in moulded plaster at each step up from the outside perimeter of the hall. The kitchen has a simple flat gyprock ceiling. There is a suspended acoustic ceiling in the bar area.

The original ticket boxes remain intact in each of the foyer entries, and there are Rolls of Honour on each side of the entry door on the back wall of the main hall. The kitchen has a modest contemporary fitout and the adjacent bar has a bricked bar and prefabricated cool room. The toilet facilities at the rear are recent fitouts of little heritage significance.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Beverley Town Hall bears comparison to other municipal halls built in the inter-war period. Applecross District Hall (1934) and Memorial Hall, Mosman Park (1939) are entered on the State Register; Armadale District Hall (1936); Mullewa Town Hall and Shire Offices (1936); Morawa Town Hall and Lesser Hall (1937); Narembeen Public Hall and Guildford Town Hall (1937), are classified by the National Trust while Guildford Town Hall is also entered on the Register of the National Estate. Two other hall and council offices from the period are Mukinbudin Memorial Hall (1935) and Nungarin Shire Office (1936), which are both entered on their respective municipal heritage inventories. Narembeen Public Hall is also constructed in Inter-War

Functionalist style and features a similar curved two-storey corner housing the bio box.²²

13.4 REFERENCES

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research in the *Beverley Times* or Road Board records could ascertain what changes, if any, have been made to the office section of the building.