



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)

- 8.1 Organizing recreation
- 8.5.4 Associating to pursue common leisure interests

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 501 World Wars and other wars

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex is a fine example of two successive buildings designed in the Federation Free Classical Style architecture. The palms at the adjoining Memorial complement the main buildings and the Memorial making them distinctive elements in comparison to other development in the vicinity. (Criterion 1.1)

The elements that were built subsequent to the completion of *Leederville Town Hall* to achieve the completion of the present *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex* were basic and utilitarian in conception and execution. In general, they neither contribute to nor detract from the aesthetic qualities of *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex*, although their impact does not prevent the reading of the original concept. (Criterion 1.1)

The *Leederville War Memorial* comprises a rough hewn granite obelisk mounted on a base of massive proportions, with four bronze slabs mounted on the pedestal, one each side, commemorating World War I and subsequent 20th century wars. Each corner of the pedestal supports a crouching white marble lion, facing outwards from the centre. The memorial rose gardens established surrounding the War Memorial contribute to the aesthetic values of both *Leederville Town Hall* and *Leederville War Memorial*. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

Leederville Town Hall is a fine example of the Federation Free Classical style applied to two successive buildings. It is a competent and visually satisfying pair of buildings. (Criterion 1.2)

West Leederville has a high concentration of Federation Period architecture, most of it domestic, together with a small number of shops and churches. *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex* and the mature plantings in its setting, make up an important part of West Leederville's architecture. It is part of a municipal precinct and contributes to its local context in a positive manner in a visual sense. (Criterion 1.3)

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex is a civic landmark in West Leederville, as a pair of single storey buildings in the Federation Free Classical style, in a largely residential environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex is significant in the occupation and expansion of Leederville and the surrounding district, as a further phase in the establishment of municipal buildings and in particular, the rapid growth of the suburb in the pre World War One period which necessitated the building of a Town Hall. (Criterion 2.1)

The construction of the Lesser Hall as the Masonic Hall is significant as evidence of the growth and development of Leederville and the social institutions that developed in parallel. The accompanying development of the sporting and social facilities is also of historic interest, providing physical evidence of a shift in social attitudes towards the development of clubs and sporting facilities. (Criterion 2.1)

The bowling club, in existence at its original location to the rear of *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex* since 1906, and developed eight years before the construction of the Main Hall in 1914, reflects both the continuing interest in lawn bowls and the demand in the Leederville district for such a facility. The bowling club was the first sporting facility established on the site and was developed in association with the Excelsior Masonic Lodge, occupiers of the Masonic Hall. Over the years the bowling green has been extended to occupy the ground of the former tennis courts, picture gardens and the original croquet lawn. In 1980, Leederville Bowling Club incorporated with other local sporting clubs to become Leederville Sporting Club Inc. (Criterion 2.1)

Leederville Town Hall was built in the immediate pre World War One period, when the town of Leederville was expanding as a suburb of Perth, to meet the need for a large hall in the district, and for new municipal offices, for which purpose the former Masonic Hall was converted. (Criterion 2.2)

Leederville Town Hall was built by well-known local builder, W. H. Roberts and designed by A. E. Clarke, a prominent architect in Victoria who emigrated to Western Australia in the late 1890s, who practiced in Perth and Kalgoorlie, where he was responsible for the design of the School of Mines in 1903. The Caretaker of the place during most of the inter-war period and through World War Two was Mr Haines, and the Caretaker's Residence was built to accommodate him and his family in 1924. (Criterion 2.3)

The Fallen Soldier's Memorial was designed and executed in 1924 by Pietro Porcelli, Western Australia's first local sculptor, who arrived in Australia in 1898. His work includes 12 panels of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, and the statues of Alexander Forrest (Stirling Gardens, Sir John Forrest (Parliament House), C.Y. O'Connor (Fremantle Passenger Terminal),

and numerous war memorials throughout Western Australia, including designs similar to the Leederville Fallen Soldier's Memorial at Yarloop and Kalgoorlie, and at the Midland Railway Workshops. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Due to the hall's generous size, the quality of its acoustics for larger events and the dance floor, the place has been, and continues to be, valued by the wider community. The place is highly valued by the community of West Leederville and the surrounding district, as evidenced by its inclusion in the Municipal Inventory. (Criterion 4.1)

The Soldiers' Memorial at *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex* commemorates those from the district who served in the armed forces during World War I, and in subsequent 20th century wars and has social and spiritual value to the community of West Leederville and of the Town of Cambridge. (Criterion 4.1)

Since its establishment in 1906, the bowling club to the rear of *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex* has remained a popular recreational facility for the Leederville and wider community. The bowling club's continued popularity over the years is evidenced in the extension of the original greens and the replacing and upgrading of the bowling pavilions both in 1929 and in 1959, and by the club's use as the venue of a National Competition in 1929. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex has rarity value as one of a small number of town halls with sporting and other social facilities on the same site, where the basis functions continue to operate. The sporting facilities developed while the Masons owned the land have remained in continuous use since 1906 to the present. (Criterion 5.1)

The bowling greens to the rear of *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex*, established in 1906, are amongst the oldest in Western Australia, and are the only bowling greens still operating in their original site. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex is significant for its capacity to demonstrate, with the assistance of interpretation, the accommodation and use of a typical town hall, together with a range of associated social and sporting facilities and uses through time. (Criterion 6.1)

Leederville Town Hall is a pair of buildings that are fine representative examples of the Federation Free Classical style of architecture. These qualities apply particularly to the exterior of both buildings and to the interior of the Town Hall, its entry, ante rooms and hall space. (Criterion 6.2)

The works subsequent to the completion of the original building are utilitarian in design, and are representative of an expedient approach to the

satisfaction of accommodation requirements and changing standards. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The condition of the place is somewhat degraded, The streetscape consists mainly of concrete paving, plantings that are not related to the buildings and inappropriate street furniture. Though none of this fabric is in a poor condition, it detracts from the setting of the buildings. The surrounding sporting facilities and park areas are in fair condition. The gardens to the east are well maintained. Trees in the gardens of the former caretaker's quarters are overgrown and require pruning to reveal the buildings.

The exterior and most of the interiors of Leederville Town Hall appear to be in fair to good condition. There is mortar loss to a number of local areas of brickwork, especially in the 1955 section of the building and this requires immediate attention. There are areas of cracking in the brickwork in the ante rooms of both halls, together with evidence of the box gutter behind the parapet having leaked and caused damage to ceilings and walls. Some ground levels on the western side of the building are set above the damp proof course and this section of paving should be lowered.

Most areas are in fair condition with the problems being associated with local defects, such as the condition of the joinery in the chair store, the condition of the two kitchens and the general standards of the toilet facilities. The interiors are in fair to poor condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex has continued to be used for its intended purpose. The original intent of the major spaces remains legible. The present use retains the connection to community use. The present uses have the capacity to retain and conserve the remaining physical evidence of *Leederville Town Hall & Recreation Complex's* functions and its fabric. The ongoing conservation of the remaining significant fabric is capable of being undertaken and may be integrated with general improvement and maintenance programmes. The integrity of the place is moderate to high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

By and large, the changes to the original Town Hall and Lesser Hall buildings have been quite minor in terms of the exterior other than the 1955 additions to the rear of both halls. The authenticity of the Town Hall's original four spaces is very high, with most of the original finishes and material having been retained. The Lesser Hall has retained its original four spaces, but all ceilings, other than the porch ceiling, and windows to the eastern wall of the hall have been replaced. The fabric of the 1955 buildings is generally intact so that their authenticity is high. The immediate setting of Leederville Town Hall has been paved with bitumen and concrete and this is continuing a tradition that commenced soon after World War One so that the present treatments vary from low to moderate authenticity. The war memorial; in its grassed setting retains a high degree of authenticity. The degree of authenticity of the exterior is high and that of the interior, moderate to high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting Evidence is taken from Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian, for the Town of Cambridge, 'Leederville Town Hall Conservation Plan', December 2000.

Key sections used: 1.0 Documentary Evidence (p1-79), 3.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p117-125).

Additional information provided by Lynley Forgione, Heritage Council staff.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian. 'Leederville Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Cambridge, December 2000.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian. 'Leederville Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Cambridge, December 2000.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a Comparative Analysis, refer to Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian. 'Leederville Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Cambridge, December 2000.

Refer to 'Comparative Information for Leederville Town Hall: Bowling Clubs' prepared by Lynley Forgione, Heritage Council staff (below)

BOWLING CLUBS/GREENS

HCWA data base #	NAME AND LOCATION	ESTABLISHED
	Fremantle Bowling Club	1896
	Claremont Bowling Club	1903
2195	Leederville Bowling Club (with Town Hall Memorial & Gardens)	1906
3664	Coolgardie Bowling Club	1907
0298	Broome Bowling Club	1913/1980
2522	South Perth Bowling Club	1918
11658	Mosman Park Bowling Club	1926
14301	Bowling Club, Denmark	1929
	Bassendean Bowling Club	1936
4252	Mt Lawley Bowling Club	1936
	Hollywood/Subiaco Bowling Club	1938 (bldg 1952)
	Dalkeith/Nedlands Bowling Club	1948
15289	Nungarin Bowling Club	1949
8816	Brookton Bowling Club & Green	1954

8214	Corrigin Bowling Club	c1955
12833	Binningup Bowling Club	c1955
3473	Belmont Park Bowling Club House	1959
	Carlisle/Lathlain Bowling Club	1960
13662	Nedlands Bridge Club (fmr Bowling Club)	1960
10704	Bruce Rock Bowling Club	1960
6153	Carnamah Bowling Club	1961
6435	Coorow Bowling Club	1961
6928	Kulin Bowling Club	1962
6713	Narambeen Bowling Club	1965
10152	Morawa Golf & Bowling Club	1966
11748	Buntine Bowling Club	1968
11870	Denison Bowling Club	1962
12727	Newdegate Golf & Bowls Club	1966

Summary:

22 Bowling Clubs in Western Australia are entered onto the Heritage Council database. A further 6 were identified as located in older Perth suburbs.

These range in date of construction from between 1896 to the late 1960s, with 6 bowling clubs dating from before 1920.

Fremantle, Claremont, Leederville and Coolgardie Bowling Clubs continue to operate as bowling clubs in their original location.

Fremantle Bowling Club was established as part of a recreational reserve, with park and tennis club on the same reserve.

Claremont Bowling Club is located within a civic precinct.

Coolgardie Bowling Club is situated on a block with other recreational and civic facilities.

Leederville Bowling Club was established as part of the facilities of the former Freemasons hall, which was later converted to a civic function as a town hall.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian. 'Leederville Town Hall Conservation Plan', prepared for the Town of Cambridge, December 2000.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

The date of the establishment of the memorial rose gardens has not yet been identified.