



HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 2166
2. **NAME** *The Perth Mint* (1899)
3. **LOCATION** 310 Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Perth Lots D11 and D12, being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1810 Folio 174.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth
6. **OWNER** Western Australian Mint
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 06/03/1992  
Permanent Entry 15/12/2000
  - National Trust Classification: Classified 16/11/1989
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: -----
  - Register of the National Estate: Registered 27/10/1998
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*The Perth Mint*, an operating mint within central Perth including the masonry Main Building and Coining Department (factory buildings), Gatehouse Lodge, forecourt and perimeter fence carried out in a variety of styles, including Federation Romanesque and a more utilitarian style, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is a cogent and lucid symbol of Perth and Western Australia's development during the colony/State's first gold boom, and has remained closely related to the ebbs and flows of the Australian gold industry for the last hundred years;

the place has exceptional rarity value as it is the most intact and longest lasting of the three nineteenth century Royal Mints established in Australia and the only one to continue in its original use;

the place contains substantial evidence of the physical apparatus of an Imperial British branch of the Royal Mint from the period of self-

government and Federation until 1970 and its subsequent adaptation in the 1980s and 1990s for use directly by Gold Corporation, a statutory authority of the Western Australian Government;

the place has remained in use as a mint from its establishment in 1899 to the present day and is now the oldest mint established as a branch of the British Royal Mint still operating in its original premises;

the place demonstrates industrial processes and design including 19<sup>th</sup> century refining and assaying techniques, and current processes of coining;

the place was designed by George Temple Poole, Chief Architect of the Public Works Department was his last design in that role;

the place demonstrates various associations to the establishment and use of the Mint, including the effect of the values and skills of individuals and organisations on shaping the place. Principally these include the former Premier Sir John Forrest, George Shenton (former President of the Legislative Council and vendor of the Mint's land to the Crown), John Henry Grainger (Poole's successor), Horace Seymour (former Deputy Master of the Royal Mint), John Francis Campbell (first Deputy Master and Controller of the Perth Branch of the Royal Mint), Frank Ernest Allum (second Deputy Master), and Messrs Atkins and Law (who were responsible for the first building works);

the place is also associated with other individuals and organisations, including Francis Mousley (first Assayer of the Mint), Hugh Annan Corbet (third Deputy Master), Raoul Kahan (who, when seconded from The Perth Mint, went on to make the Rand Refinery the world's biggest), later Deputy Masters and Directors, the 1980s Western Australian Development Commission, and those who have worked and lived in the place or have been associated with the place through prospecting and other ways; and,

the 1896-99 administration (and formerly residential) building is a handsome and robust public building in planning and in detail whose impressiveness is reinforced by its setback behind an open forecourt, similarly styled gatehouse lodge and metal railing. These aspects together with visually interesting collection of chimneys, roofs and towers of the factory endow the western part of the place with a complex townscape important within the city of Perth.

The interior fitout known as the 1987 Adaptation of the Main Building that remains in the eastern wing and upper levels of the Main Building, while displaying strong unity of design in the Late Twentieth-Century Post-Modern style, intrudes upon the aesthetic significance of the Main Building.

GoldCorp House is of little significance in itself but does not intrude visually upon the more significant spaces and fabrics of the Mint.

Four very large palm trees, planted in front of the Mint's Gatehouse Lodge on Hay Street in May 1999 have no precedent at the place. They have obscured the structures of the Mint and lessened the impact of the podium like forecourt.