



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 0296
2. **NAME** *Broome Court House* (1889; 1907; 1910; 1921; 1958; 1965; 1979; 1981-2; 1984)  
**FORMER NAME** Cable Station, Public Works Department
3. **LOCATION** Cnr Frederick & Hammersley Streets, Broome
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
 Broome Lot 99, being Crown Reserve 26855 and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Record Volume 3121 Folio 181.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Broome
6. **OWNER** Minister for Justice.
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	19/05/1992
	Permanent	28/08/2001
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	13/08/1973
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:	Adopted	30/06/1996
• Register of the National Estate:	Permanent	21/03/1992
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Broome Court House*, a nineteenth century, imported, prefabricated, iron framed heavy gauge corrugated iron clad, teak lined building in a recently developed tropical garden setting, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:  

From its construction in 1889 until 1913, the building was the Cable Station of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company Limited which provided support for the subterranean cable linking Roebuck Bay with Java, thus providing an important communications link between Australia and the outside world;

the building is an extremely elegant example of a building designed for a tropical climate. Its proportions are emphasized by its elevation above the ground on concrete piers, its simple hipped steeply pitched

roof with ventilation lantern along the central ridge and its wide verandahs supported on iron columns. The detail of the building features original balustrades and steps of finely detailed cast iron decoration, and teak joinery from Singapore which, due to its resistance to termite infestation, has survived intact;

the building is an example of an imported, iron framed, teak lined, prefabricated building, unique in the context of the north of Western Australia, but similar to imported buildings constructed in other British colonies in the mid and late nineteenth century;

the place is an example of the employment of Indian servants and the establishment of a colonial lifestyle in Australia in the period prior to the implementation of the Federal Government's 1901 *Immigration Restriction Act*;

from 1922 to the present (2001) the building has been used as the Broome Courthouse and, as such, has played an important role in the system of law and order in the north of Western Australia;

the place was the first substantial building constructed in the town of Broome and, as such, influenced the future development of building styles in the area which also drew on the influences of colonial architecture and developments within the local building industry as well as responding to the climate and environment of the region;

the building is a landmark in the town of Broome and an important tourist destination; and

the grounds around the building, landscaped in the 1980's, have become socially significant as a meeting place for the local community;

Elements of the site that are of little cultural heritage significance include: court house extension (1979), toilets on the western end of the building, (The floor slab is a remnant of the original kitchen however and is of considerable significance), solicitors office on south of building, pathways (1985), driveway (1965) and parking area and bough sheds (1985).

Whilst not assessed as part of this documentation, the magistrate's house constructed in 1963 is of some cultural heritage significance in its own right as a typical PWD tropical house of the period.