



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)

- 7.1 Governing Australia as a province of the British Empire
- 7.3 Making City-States
- 7.5 Governing Australia's colonial possessions
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 602 Early settlers
- 605 Famous and infamous people
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 106 Workers (including Aboriginal, convict)
- 104 Land allocation and subdivision

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Government House and Grounds is exceptionally aesthetically pleasing for its eclectic and unique architectural style in its extensive garden setting. (Criterion 1.1)

Government House and Grounds is a landmark and makes a striking contribution to the streetscape of the State's capital city. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Government House and Grounds is of exceptional cultural heritage significance for its historical and ongoing role as part of the administrative centre for Western Australia, its essential contributions to the story of the State, and as the continuing official residence of the Governor. (Criterion 2.1)

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

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Government House is a unique example of a Victorian Gentleman's residence set in an exceptional garden with its origins in the colonial era of the State built expressly to be the official residence of the Governor, the Representative of the Constitutional Monarch. (Criterion 2.3)

Government House and Grounds is associated with the Engineers' Department who were responsible for both convict and colonial works, and represents the first important colonial building to be completed by the Public Works Department shortly after it was created in 1863. (Criterion 2.3)

Government House dates from before the time of the seventh Governor, John Hampton, who took office in 1862, and continues its function as the official residence of the Governor. (Criterion 2.3)

The site has been associated with the Head of State since its first development by Captain James Stirling who proclaimed the Colony in June 1829. The first Government House ('Old Government House') was subsequently demolished in the early 1880's. (Criterion 2.2, Criterion 2.3)

Government House and Grounds is significant for its associations with prominent visitors to the State as the Governor receives guests including visiting royalty, Heads of State, and other official dignitaries. (Criterion 2.3)

Government House and Grounds is important as a reflection of the historical development of the city centre and its place within the large government domain originally set aside in 1829. (Criterion 2.2, Criterion 2.3)

The completion of the new Government House Ballroom in 1899 reflects the prosperity of Western Australia at the height of the gold rush, the subsequent availability of labour and capital to undertake such a project, and the need to provide an appropriate setting for entertaining visiting dignitaries during the State's formative period. (Criterion 2.1, Criterion 2.2)

The brick walling (c.1850) along St Georges Terrace represents some of the oldest built fabric in the City of Perth. (Criterion 2.1)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Government House and Grounds, including its gardens, buildings and archaeological deposits/features has the potential to provide a rich source of information about early colonial life, particularly that relating to individuals who played a prominent role in the governance of the State, and more generally the social customs of the upper classes and their staff in the mid nineteenth-century. (Criterion 3.2)

Government House demonstrates building practice in the construction of a large stately house (1861 until 1864) using a combination of convict labour and other available skilled workers during the mid nineteenth-century in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.3)

Government House and Grounds is significant for the physical evidence within its curtilage for existing landscape forms that can be traced back to the original topography at the time of European settlement. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Government House and Grounds holds a high degree of social significance for the people of Western Australia for its important historical associations, high degree of aesthetic value, its ongoing use for community events, and its contribution to the community's sense of place. (Criterion 4.2)

Government House and Grounds has been a focus for the community since 1834. (Criterion 4.2)

The National Trust of Australia (WA) has classified *Government House*, the Ballroom and the Gardens, and these elements have also been entered on the Register of the National Estate recognising the significance of the place. (Criterion 4.1)

The establishment in 1989 of a *Government House Foundation* with the approval of the Government and under Vice Regal patronage represents a commitment to ensure an ongoing and secure future for *Government House and Grounds*. (Criterion 4.1)

Government House Ballroom (c.1899) holds a high degree of social value for the Western Australian community for its historical and current use as a venue for public events. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Government House and Grounds is rare as the only extant Governor's residence in the State, for its status as the largest and most impressive stately home, and for its unique architectural design. (Criterion 5.1, Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Government House and Grounds represents the form and fabric the centre of administration took during the early colonial period in Western Australia and the philosophy behind the provision of such places for prominent government officials during this formative period. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The place overall is in good condition due to ongoing occupation and maintenance.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The place retains a high degree of integrity due to its continued occupation as the residence of the Governor rendering its original intention and function intact and ongoing, which is reflected in the physical fabric. This function is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The place retains a high degree of integrity. Although some modifications have been made to the fabric and form of the place through time much of the fabric is in its original state.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

This document has been based on the Interim Register entry for *P2095 Government House*, Richards, O (1996) 'Conservation Plan Government House Grounds Perth Western Australia: Stage Three Management Plan'. Oline Richards, Como WA, and 'Duncan Stephen & Mercer for Building Management Authority (1990) Government House Perth Western Australia: Conservation Study and Management Plan'. Duncan Stephen and Mercer Architects, Cottesloe WA with amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Allom Lovell Hocking (1997) 'Government House Lodge Perth: Conservation Plan'. Allom Lovell Hocking, Perth, W.A.

Black, D & Pandal, P., (2004) 'House to house: the story of Western Australia's Government and Parliament Houses over 175 years'. Parliament of Western Australia, Perth, WA.

Duncan Stephen & Mercer for Building Management Authority (1990) 'Government House Perth Western Australia: Conservation Study and Management Plan'. Duncan Stephen and Mercer Architects, Cottesloe WA.

Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd and Adelphi, Adele (1998) 'Government House Lodge Perth Conservation Plan'. Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd, Subiaco.

Medcalf, Margaret (ed.) (1992) 'Government House, Perth, Western Australia'. Government House Foundation, Perth, W.A.

National Trust of Australia (W.A.) (1996) 'Investigating Government House: a teacher resource book and student workbook'. National Trust, West Perth, W.A.

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Richards, O (1996) 'Conservation Plan Government House Grounds Perth Western Australia: Stage Three Management Plan'. Oline Richards, Como WA.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Allom Lovell Hocking (1996) 'Government House Perth - South East Corner Refurbishment: Heritage Council of Western Australia Submission. Allom Lovell Hocking, Perth, W.A.

Allom Lovell Hocking (1997) Government House Lodge Perth: Conservation Plan'. Allom Lovell Hocking, Perth, W.A.

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Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland with Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd (1998) 'Government House Kitchen Refurbishment: Report on the Implications of Retention of the Original Chimney Breast'. Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland with Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd.

Duncan Stephen & Mercer for Building Management Authority (1990) 'Government House Perth Western Australia: Conservation Study and Management Plan'. Duncan Stephen and Mercer Architects, Cottesloe WA.

Gaye Nayton for Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment (1998) 'Investigation of Roof Timbers: Government House Kitchen, Government House, Perth'. Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment.

Gaye Nayton for Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment (1998) 'Investigation of Chimney: Government House Kitchen, Government House, Perth'. Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment.

Gaye Nayton for Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment (1998) 'Investigation of Flagstone Flooring: Government House Kitchen, Government House, Perth'. Cox Howlett & Bailey Woodland and the Governor's Establishment.

Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd and Adelphi, Adele (1998) 'Government House Lodge Perth Conservation Plan'. Hocking Planning and Architecture Pty Ltd, Subiaco.

KTA Partnership Architects (1991) 'Butler's residence at Government House St Georges Terrace'. KTA Partnership Architects, West Leederville.

KTA Partnership Architects (1991) 'Gate Lodge at Government House St Georges Terrace: report of the cultural heritage significance'. KTA Partnership Architects, West Leederville.

Maitland Consulting Structural Engineering (2010) 'Government House, Perth: report on north boundary wall'. Maitland Consulting Structural Engineering, Subiaco.

Medcalf, Margaret (ed.) (1992) 'Government House, Perth, Western Australia'. Government House Foundation, Perth, W.A.

Richards, O (1995) 'Government House Grounds Perth Western Australia: Conservation Plan'. Oline Richards, Como.

Richards, O (1996) 'Conservation Plan Government House Grounds Perth Western Australia: Stage Three Management Plan'. Oline Richards, Como WA.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Government House and Grounds is unique in Western Australia for its function, form, historical associations and archaeological potential and can therefore not be readily compared to any other place in the State.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

See above.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
