



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 1962
2. **NAME** *Art Gallery & Museum Buildings (1897-99; 1901-3; 1901-8)*
FORMER NAMES *Victoria Jubilee Institute; Victoria Public Library and Museum; Jubilee Building; Government Geologist's Building; Eastern Wing*
3. **LOCATION** Beaufort Street, Perth
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 Lot 2 on Diagram 26163, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1262 Folio 315.

 Lot 3 on Diagram 26163, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1262 Folio 314
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Perth
6. **OWNER** The Western Australian Museum Board (Lot 2)
 The Western Australian Art Gallery Board (Lot 3)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim	06/03/1992
	Permanent	28/08/2001
• National Trust Classification:	Classified	07/03/1978
• Town Planning Scheme:		-----
• Municipal Inventory:		-----
• Register of the National Estate:	Permanent	20/10/1980
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Art Gallery & Museum Buildings, comprising the Jubilee Building, an imposing three storey building constructed of brick, stone and terracotta tiling, competently rendered in the Federation Romanesque style, (1897); the Government Geologist's Building, a three storey brick, stone and terracotta-tiled building designed in the Federation Romanesque style, (1902) and the (former) Art Gallery, a two storey brick, stone and terracotta-tiled building in the Federation Romanesque style (1908); has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

with Hackett Hall and Old Perth Gaol, *Art Gallery & Museum Buildings* is a family of related structures which are rare examples of the genre in State and Nation, since other States chose different modes of classical revival to symbolise cultural values in the latter half of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century, rather than the Federation Romanesque style employed at the Western Australian Museum;

the site, in spite of architectural differences in detail, has sufficient harmony for the whole assembly under the Federation Romanesque overarching style to be of strong aesthetic value;

the major spaces of the principal interior areas are of considerable merit and items such as the Hellenic Gallery are of exceptional worth;

the Jubilee Building was the first combined Museum, Art Gallery and Library for Western Australia, and initially held diverse collections that are now spread throughout the Perth Cultural Centre and beyond, commencing with the geological collection and expanding into flora and fauna, both native and exotic. The inclusion of the Art Gallery on the site in 1908 represented an important advance in the resources available for reference, and was an indication of the growing sophistication of the institutions available to the public to enrich their cultural life and education;

some of the building components were originally conceived as part of the celebrations of events of importance to the State; the Jubilee Building to coincide with Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and the Art Gallery with a visit by the Duke of Cornwall and York to Western Australia in July 1901, following the federation of Australia;

the Jubilee Building and Art Gallery are of historical significance for their close associations with an enormous list of individuals who played an important part in the history and development of Western Australia;

the site is important to the community of Western Australia as a place of learning since 1897;

the Jubilee Building is a representative example of the museum genre of the late nineteenth century and falls within the notions of practice of the time;

the site, in concert with the Old Perth Jail and Hackett Hall and their open spaces, contribute significantly to the community's sense of place and, as a group, the significant visual impact of the buildings makes the place a Perth landmark; and,

the site is closely associated with many individuals who have played an important part in the history and development of the State, including Bernard Woodwar, Sir John Winthrop Hackett MLC, Dr James Skyes Battye, Ludwig Glauert, George Pitt Morison, Dr David L. Ride, George Temple Poole, John Grainger and Hillson Beasley.

The internal courtyard spatial arrangements have historic significance as a reflection of the evolution and adaptation of the site, though the present landscape treatments are of little importance and many individual items are intrusive. Similarly, the spatial relationship between buildings and street are significant, but their present treatments detract from the landmark qualities that are otherwise a significant feature of the Eastern Wing. The interiors of the Government Geologist's Office are so altered as to make the majority of

the interior space of little significance, as are the interior treatments that occurred in general after the initial campaigns. The new entrance between the Jubilee Building and Hackett Hall, completed in 1999, is subservient to the architecture of these two significant historical buildings, and has little cultural heritage significance on its own right.