



## 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)

- 5.2 Organizing workers and work places
- 8.5 Forming associations

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Delaney Gallery* is a good example of a two storey masonry construction office building designed in the Federation Romanesque style, which makes a positive visual contribution to its context. (Criterion 1.1)

*Delaney Gallery* is part of a group of significant places that includes the Western Australian Museum and former Art Gallery of Western Australia designed in the Federation Romanesque style, the former Swan Barracks and to the south the former Police Courts, now part of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. All of these buildings are places of considerable aesthetic value and fall within the Perth Cultural Centre and *Delaney Gallery* which stands outside the Cultural Centre on the opposite side of Beaufort Street, nevertheless contributes to the precinctual qualities of the area. Other places of aesthetic value include the United Friendly Societies and two other Federation period buildings. *Delaney Gallery* makes a strong visual contribution to this significant context. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

*Delaney Gallery*, being the former Trades Hall Metropolitan District Council, has historic value in being the first Trades Hall to be built in Perth, and the first one to be built in Australia without Government assistance. It was

\* 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.

important as the headquarters of the state branch of the Australian Labor Party and the Trades and Labour Council from 1912 to 1985. (Criterion 2.2)

*Delaney Gallery*, was the first building in Australia for which the then Prime Minister, Right Hon. Andrew Fisher P.C. had laid a foundation stone. (Criterion 2.2)

*Delaney Gallery* is significant for its association with Alexander McCallum, the first Council Secretary of the Perth Trades Hall Association and the first of three Trustees, who was an important figure in the Labor movement in Western Australia and was instrumental in making the building of the Perth Trade Hall possible. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Delaney Gallery* is closely associated with the growth and development of the Labor movement of Western Australia and of trade unionism. (Criterion 4.1)

*Delaney Gallery* has been a venue for many important official events and functions for the Perth Trades Hall Association as well as for the broader community as a venue for dancing and boxing from 1912 and 1960s. (Criterion 4.1)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

As the Trades Hall, the place was the first Trades Hall to be built in Perth, and the first one to be built in Australia without Government assistance. (Criterion 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Delaney Gallery* is a good representative example of an office building designed in the Federation Romanesque style. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

Though there has been much change to the place, it retains many of its aesthetic qualities. The changes have involved a good deal of internal re-arrangement in a small number of areas. The place appear to receive regular minimal maintenance. The remaining original fabric is generally in good condition and the overall presentation of the place suggests that it is in fair to good condition.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Delaney Gallery* was designed as an office building for the state executive of the Australian Labor Party, for the offices of a number of unions, and as the entrance to the temporary and later permanent Unity Hall. These uses have ceased. The basic intent of the office accommodation remains intact, but the entrance functions are no longer apparent. The removal of the southern staircase further diminishes the legibility of the entrance building function. The present uses are compatible with the original intention and the building provides good quality office space. The present use has the capacity to sustain heritage values. The place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

Since uses related to labour movement have ceased, the place has undergone numerous changes with the removal of one of the key staircases, changes to some spaces, changes to finishes and the entrance area. Underlying the numerous changes there is a good deal of original fabric. The ground and first floor remain the most intact levels of the building. Overall the place retains a moderate degree of authenticity.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been compiled by Helen Burgess, Historian. The physical evidence has been compiled by Philip Griffiths, Architect.

Much of the supporting evidence has been taken from Ian Monk's history of the Perth Trades Hall, published in the *Papers in Labor History* journal, December 1999, which was primarily based on archival sources of the Australian Labor Party Metropolitan District Council.<sup>1</sup>

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

*Delaney Gallery* was designed as an office building for the state executive of the Australian Labor Party, for the offices of a number of unions, and as the entrance to the temporary and later permanent Unity Hall. The *Delaney Gallery*, at 74 Beaufort Street, Perth, being the former Trades Hall, built 1912, comprises 3 levels, 2 storeys above ground level and one lower ground level, and a building at the rear, formerly Unity Hall, built 1923, both being the first purpose-built headquarters for the then Metropolitan District Council of the Australian Labor Federation (MDC).

The Metropolitan District Council (formerly the Coastal Trades and Labour Council) was a council of the Australian Labour Federation. MDC represented the interests of its union member organizations in Perth, and had delegates from each union on the council, and dealing with issues such as fundraising, Labour Day celebrations, provision of an appropriate headquarters (i.e. a Trades Hall), the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the headquarters, and the conduct of strikes.<sup>2</sup>

The objects of the Perth Trades Hall Association were '...to provide and keep a building with all necessary fixtures and fittings in which public and private discussions, lectures and addresses could be given 'by men interested in the various labour organizations in the State' and in which such organizations could hold their meetings. The Association could acquire, lease and sell real estate and could borrow or raise money on the security of the association's assets. Its affairs were governed by the rules and regulations of the ALF and a meeting of the Metropolitan District Council was also deemed to be a meeting of the Trades Hall Association.<sup>3</sup>

Following the foundation of Perth on 12 August 1829, the townsite of Perth was laid out between Mount Eliza and Heirisson Island, facing the Swan River on the south, and with a chain of swamps and lagoons to the north. Arrowsmith's plan (1833) shows the first layout of Perth, with the main streets following the lie of the land between the Swan River and the

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<sup>1</sup> Monk, Ian, 'Perth's Trades Hall, 1912 to 1983', in *Papers in Labor History*, No. 22, December 1999 [ISSN 1030-6218], Perth Branch, Australian Society for the Study of Labor History, pp. 6-18.

<sup>2</sup> Monk, *ibid* p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Monk, *ibid* p.7 source Metropolitan Council correspondence file 29: 'and Regulations of the Perth Trades Hall', paragraph 4

wetlands to the north. The plan includes the future William Street, Northbridge, and Perth Town Lot N.<sup>4</sup> Assistant Surveyor Hillman's (1838) plan of Perth shows King William Street, to the south of Wellington Street, was named after the English king, but gradually it became known simply as William Street. Subsequently, Hutt Street, to the north of Wellington Street, was named after Governor John Hutt (1839-46).<sup>5</sup> This northern section was later renamed as part of William Street.

By the 1870s, the city centre of Perth was consolidated on the grid laid out in the early survey, and about 800 houses had been built.<sup>6</sup> The construction and opening of the Eastern Railway from Fremantle to Perth and thence to Guildford (1881), resulted in a shift in focus from the river port to the areas in the vicinity of Perth Railway Station.<sup>7</sup> As a residential area, the area to the north of the city was considered less fashionable; however, its proximity to the city and the railway station encouraged investors and speculators to look to the future prospects for development. Through the 1880s and early 1890s, sub-division of the large lots increased and a mix of residential and commercial buildings were constructed in the areas nearest to the railway.<sup>8</sup>

From the early 1890s, the Western Australian Gold Boom resulted in a building boom in Perth, with considerable expansion of residential and commercial building in the areas to the north, east, and west of the city, with many more of the large Lots sub-divided in the period 1892-1900.

In December 1910, the MDC had secured the lease from the Presbyterian Church for the Shearer's Memorial Hall, and on 16 December 1910, the MDC met for the first time in the hall.<sup>9</sup> Previously the MDC had their headquarters in temporary buildings around the city since their establishment, including Green's Chambers in Hay Street and Brookman's Buildings.<sup>10</sup> Almost immediately after their first meeting, the MDC began negotiations with the Presbyterian Church to purchase Shearer's Memorial Hall for use as their headquarters, however the Church wished to sell off all the land (being Perth Town Lots W10 and Lot W11) and not just the hall.<sup>11</sup> Between 1897 and 1904 Shearer's Memorial Hall had been used as the by the then newly founded Scotch College prior to the relocation of the college to their Claremont site.

On 10 February 1911, the Perth Trades Hall Association (PTHA) was formally established, under the governance the Australian Labour Federation (ALF), and with the power to acquire, lease and sell real estate,

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<sup>4</sup> Pitt-Morrison, Margaret 'Builders and Buildings' in Stannage, C. T. (Ed.) *A New History of Western Australia* University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1981) pp. 514-515.

<sup>5</sup> Stannage, C. T. *The People of Perth* (Perth City Council, Perth, 1979) p. 39.

<sup>6</sup> Campbell, Robin McK. in Pitt Morrison, Margaret, and White, John (Eds.) *Western Towns and Buildings* (University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands, 1979) p. 104.

<sup>7</sup> Pitt-Morrison, Margaret op. cit., p. 532.

<sup>8</sup> Seddon, George and Ravine, David *A City and its Setting: Images of Perth* (Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 1986) p.149.

<sup>9</sup> *ibid*, p. 6.

<sup>10</sup> *West Australian*, 20/4/1912, p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 6.

borrow or raise money on the security of the association's assets.<sup>12</sup> On 18 May 1911, the PTHA was officially incorporated and its members - all male - were appointed '...by virtue of their election' to the MDC, and, in future, any meetings of the MDC were now considered meetings of the PTHA.<sup>13</sup>

At the time of its incorporation, the PTHA already had plans underway for a headquarters befitting such an association, which would contain offices, a hall for entertainment and a library, and which would provide a venue for meetings, public and private discussions, lectures and addresses. The supervisor of the works was to be Mr. E. P. Henshaw.<sup>14</sup>

According to the documentary evidence sourced, there was ongoing debate and discussion which surrounded the erection of a Trades Hall in Perth, and, compounded with the fact that the PTHA were unsuccessful in securing a Government grant to pay for the cost of erecting a hall - as was the case in other States and for the Trades Hall in Fremantle - it seemed as though a headquarters would never be established in Perth.<sup>15</sup> The only assistance that had been received was a piece of land about 15 years previously in Subiaco, but being unsuitable for the location of a Trades Hall, it was exchanged for one in Hay Street, West Perth, worth at the time £1000.<sup>16</sup> However, this was also considered an unsuitable location. It was not until Alex McCallum was appointed Council Secretary that the erection of the hall became a reality. McCallum, who was also amongst the first three trustees to be elected, '...who were authorised to transact the business of the association', drove the project with his business acumen, energy and enthusiasm and much credit has been attributed to him for the construction of the hall.<sup>17</sup>

As a way around the problem of having to purchase all of the land from the Presbyterian Church in order to secure Shearer's Memorial Hall, the PTHA arranged for the recently formed People's Printing and Publishing Company (which produced the Labor Daily newspaper), to purchase a part of the land, with finance provided by the Amalgamated Timber Union Workers (Coastal District).<sup>18</sup> This was a 40 foot wide strip '...with frontage on Beaufort Street, on the northern side of Shearer's Hall'.<sup>19</sup> The trustees of the PTHA would then purchase the rest.

On 4 August 1911, portion of Perth Town Lot W10, being originally Lot 1, was transferred from the Presbyterian Church to Alexander McCallum, James Alfred Dolan and James Richard Ives as trustees of the Perth

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<sup>12</sup> *ibid*, p. 7.

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*, p. 7.

<sup>14</sup> *West Australian*, 9/8/1911, p. 6; & Monk, *ibid*, pp. 6-7.

<sup>15</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 6; *West Australian*, 9/8/1911, p. 6; *West Australian*, 20/4/1912, p. 11; & *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

<sup>16</sup> *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

<sup>17</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 7. The other inaugural trustees were James Richard Ives, blacksmith, and James Alfred Dolan, tailor.

<sup>18</sup> *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 495, Fol. 195, 14/8/1911. This title was eventually transferred to The People's Printing and Publishing Company on 5/5/1915.

<sup>19</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 6.

Trades Hall.<sup>20</sup> On 14 August 1911, Perth Town Lots W10 and W11 being originally Lot 2, was transferred to the Amalgamated Timber Union of Workers (Coastal District).<sup>21</sup> With the land now secured, work could begin on the construction of a Trades Hall.

On 8 August 1911, the foundation stone for the first section of the new Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] was laid by the then Prime Minister and leader of the Australian Labour Party, the Right Hon. Andrew Fisher PC.<sup>22</sup> The Prime Minister was presented with a silver trowel to mark the occasion, which was significant for many reasons, being; the first time that a Prime Minister of the Commonwealth had laid the foundation stone of a Trades Hall as well as the first foundation stone which Fisher had laid as the Prime Minister, and also that this was the first Trades Hall erected in Australia without Government assistance.<sup>23</sup>

The ceremony, which lasted only a half-an-hour due to the time commitments of the Prime Minister, was attended by a large gathering of politicians and high-ranking government bureaucrats:

On his arrival at the site of the new building, in the company of Senators Henderson, Lynch and De Largie, the secretary of the metropolitan council of the Australian Labour Federation (Mr A. McCallum) and others, the Prime Minister was greeted with lusty cheers by the crowd. Among the others who accepted invitations to be present at the gathering were the Attorney-General (Mr J. L. Nanson), the Minister for Lands and Agriculture (Mr J. Mitchell), the Leader of the State Parliamentary Labour Party (MR J. Scaddan), members of both Houses of Parliament, the president of the metropolitan district council of the Australia Labour Federation (Mr P. J. Mooney), the supervisor of the work of erecting the new Trades Hall building (Mr E. P. Henshaw), members of Labour organisations, and a large assemblage of unionists.<sup>24</sup>

On Saturday 20 April 1912, the first section of the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] - being the front portion - was officially opened. The ceremony was conducted by the then Labour Premier, J. Scadden, who had also been McCallum's predecessor.<sup>25</sup> Scadden was presented with a gold key to commemorate the occasion. Other officials to attend the ceremony included: Mrs. Scadden; Mr. B. J. Stubbs (President, ALF Council; the Mayor of Perth and Mrs. T. G. A. Molloy; Mr. M. F. Troy (speaker); Mr. T Walker (Attorney General); Mr. W. D. Johnson (Minister for Works); Mr. P. Collier (Minister for Mines and Railways); and Senators De Largie and Needham. A letter from the Prime Minister was also read out at the ceremony, congratulating the PTHA on their efforts.<sup>26</sup>

The completed section of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*], including land, cost £6300.<sup>27</sup> The hall was constructed of face brick, and had three levels, one at

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20 *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 494, Fol. 180.

21 *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 495, Fol. 195, 14/8/1911.

22 Plaque on building.

23 *West Australian*, 9/8/1911, p. 6.

24 *ibid*, p. 6.

25 *West Australian*, 20/4/1912, p. 11.

26 *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

27 *West Australian*, 20/4/1912, p. 11; & *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

lower ground (basement), and contained mostly offices for various union bodies and necessary amenities such as toilets and meeting rooms.<sup>28</sup> There were already plans underway for the construction of the large hall to accommodate up to 2000 people, and additional meeting rooms at the back of the hall, which was estimated to bring the total cost of the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] up to approximately £13000 when completed. Although not designed yet, it was to be similar to the Queen's Hall, with Henshaw again selected to supervise the construction and the labour provided by the current day-labour system.<sup>29</sup> The plans indicate directions from the front section of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] to the ballroom balcony from the first floor offices, and to the theatre from the ground floor offices.<sup>30</sup>

However, until such time as the new hall was erected, and for the occasion of the opening ceremony of the completed portion of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*], the PHTA continued to utilise the former Shearer's Memorial Hall, which was now positioned at the rear of the new hall and where the additions were to be made, at which time Shearer's Memorial Hall would be completely demolished.<sup>31</sup>

By March 1914, the plans for the extensions to the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] were completed:

With 6000 pounds available, the building was to be extended 116 feet to the rear and would include the largest meeting hall in the city. Among its special features was a gallery unsupported by pillars of posts.<sup>32</sup>

Unfortunately the onset of the First World War put these plans on hold.

On 28 July 1922, portion of Perth Town Lot W10 and being Lot 1, originally transferred to McCallum, Doland and Ives in 1911, was vested in the Perth Trades Hall Incorporated.<sup>33</sup>

In 1922, the foundation stone was laid for the new hall - the second portion of the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*].<sup>34</sup> On 30 May 1923, the hall section, named Unity Hall, was officially opened:

It was 153 feet long and 51 feet wide. The height to the ceiling was an impressive 35 feet. Entry from Beaufort Street took the visitor through the main hall where 14 union banners were displayed...the main entry led to a 'fine vestibule whence two flights of stairs give access to the balcony'. It could seat 400 people and was cantilevered so that the 900 people seated on the ground

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<sup>28</sup> 'Trades Hall Plans', Battye Library Map Collection, 47/16/4.2, n.d; & Photograph 6722B 'Trades Hall, Perth, c1940', Battye Library Pictorial Collection. Although this photograph is dated c1940, it would appear that this date is incorrect as there is construction work occurring at the rear, which would be the 1923 extension. Also the building is not rendered and, although it does not show the area immediately south of the hall where the 1934 building was located, it is possible that the Trades Hall was rendered to blend with the 1934 building.

<sup>29</sup> *West Australian*, 20/4/1912, p. 11; & *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

<sup>30</sup> 'Trades Hall Plans', Battye Library Map Collection, 47/16/4.2, n.d.

<sup>31</sup> *West Australian*, 22/4/1912, p. 8.

<sup>32</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 8.

<sup>33</sup> *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 494, Fol. 180.

<sup>34</sup> Plaque on building.



floor had uninterrupted views of the stage where 'the proscenium is plain but of great artistic taste'.<sup>35</sup>

As well as its role as providing space for the more official functions and events for the Trade Hall [*Delaney Gallery*], Unity Hall was also to become an important venue for dances and boxing.<sup>36</sup> Following its conversion to offices, Unity Hall was altered extensively, with the insertion of floors, walls, and modern office ceilings, lighting, partitions and the like. The building retains its original four perimeter walls, gambrel pattern roof, a number of timber windows, and the fire escape stairs to the southern side of the building. Its foundation stone has been retained also.

The completed Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] was now equipped to handle all the various needs required by such an establishment, being office space and staff support for an affordable cost for its occupants and, in particular, its role in arbitration and dispute resolution. Staff at the hall included the secretary, who took responsibility for the care and operations of the building, typists and caretakers.<sup>37</sup>

By 1930, the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] was filled to capacity with occupants, and more space was required for extensions. The problem was solved when '...the whole of the Churchyard estate, with property in Beaufort, Roe and Stirling Streets, came onto the property market and was offered at auction'. Four lots on Beaufort Street next door to the south of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] were purchased for £5000, three of which were occupied by small cottages, and the fourth a two-storeyed shop and dwelling.<sup>38</sup>

A photograph dated 1934, shows the new extensions to the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] just after its completion in December.<sup>39</sup> The plans of this new rendered brick three-storey addition shows rental premises - initially mostly shops but later converted into union offices - on the ground floor and first floor, with those on the ground floor being of slightly larger dimension. At ground floor level was a cantilevered verandah. On the third level were two self contained flats for the caretakers, flanking the northern and southern ends and joined by a colonnaded verandah. Ladies and Gents toilets were at the northern and southern ends off the landing ramp at the rear of the building at ground floor level, and a carpark was indicated at the rear.<sup>40</sup> It is possible that the 1912 section of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] that was originally face brickwork was rendered at this time to blend with the 1934 addition.<sup>41</sup> A 1953 sewerage plan including the area of *Delaney*

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35 Monk, *ibid*, p. 9.

36 Monk, *ibid*, p. 15.

37 Monk, *ibid*, p. 9.

38 Monk, *ibid*, p. 12.

39 Photograph 4405B/2 'Trades Hall, after completion, 1934', Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

40 'Trades Hall Plans', Battye Library Map Collection, 47/16/4.1, n.d.; & Photograph 4405B/2 'Trades Hall, after completion, 1934', Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

41 Photograph 6722B 'Trades Hall, Perth, c1940', Battye Library Pictorial Collection. Although this photograph is dated c1940, it would appear that this date is incorrect as

*Gallery* shows all the buildings that now made up Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] which were completed by 1934, and also shows a small building (possibly a shed) south at the back of the 1934 building and an asbestos garage at the north-east end of the car park.<sup>42</sup>

Coming off the back of the Great Economic Depression, this substantial extension of 1934 to the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] was ‘...acclaimed as a welcome improvement to Beaufort Street and of great assistance to the much needed revival of the building industry’.<sup>43</sup> Unfortunately, however, unfortunately with the imminent onset of a Second World War, money was to become tight again, and over the next few years, the Trades Hall buildings [incl. *Delaney Gallery*] ‘received minimal maintenance’.<sup>44</sup>

In 1963, as a result of the declining relationship occurring between the industrial and political wings of the Australian Labour Party, the independent Trades and Labour Council (TLC) was formed, and held its inaugural meeting in the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] on 22 January 1963. The TLC was committed to looking after industrial matters and became affiliated with the Australian union movement, while the ALP focused on political issues.<sup>45</sup>

In 1966, significant internal alterations and adaptations were carried out to Unity Hall to the design of architect Marshall Clifton, to accommodate the changing and growing needs of the ALP and the demand for more office space:

...an entirely new concrete floor was built at the gallery level. The first floor was converted to several different sized rooms, while the new second floor was retained as a large meeting hall, with a new stage at the eastern end.<sup>46</sup>

In early 1973, the 1934 building was completely demolished to make way for the new multi-storey office building to be named Curtin House.<sup>47</sup>

By this time Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] was in need of extensive upgrading and modifications in order to meet the requirements of the TLC. In 1979 funding options for a proposed development of Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] with a new multi-storey office block were explored. The ALP proposed to sell Curtin House to raise the required funds.<sup>48</sup> This new multi-storey building was to be built on the north side of Trades Hall

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there is construction work occurring at the rear, which would be the 1923 extension. Also the building is not rendered and, although it does not show the area immediately south of the hall where the 1934 building was located, it is possible that the Trades Hall was rendered to blend with the 1934 building.

<sup>42</sup> Plan: ‘Metropolitan Sewerage, City of Perth’, SROWA, Cons. 4156, Item 59 (July 1948, revised April 1953). This plan also shows the land immediately north of *Delaney Gallery* as vacant.

<sup>43</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 12.

<sup>44</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 13.

<sup>45</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 15.

<sup>46</sup> Monk, *ibid*, pp. 15-16.

<sup>47</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 16, see also Photograph 4326B/24/35, ‘Trades Hall Beaufort St, 26/22/72; & Photograph 432B/33/23, ‘Trades Hall, Beaufort St, 7/4/73, Battye Library Pictorial Collection.

<sup>48</sup> Monk, *ibid*, p. 16.

[*Delaney Gallery*], on land which the PTHA had acquired in 1946 and had been leasing to a car dealer since that time.<sup>49</sup>

In August 1980, the Town Planning Board approved the subdivision of portion of Lot W10 and W11 being Lot 1.<sup>50</sup> In September 1980, Lot 1 was changed to Lot 21 and was still held in fee simple by the Perth Trades Hall Inc.<sup>51</sup>

On 13 March 1981, the foundation stone for the new building, named the 'Labour Centre' was officially laid by W. G. Hayden.<sup>52</sup> The original Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] and Unity Hall were to be incorporated into this new building and therefore also referred to as the Labour Centre. A description of it at this time appeared on Strata Plan 8921:

A BRICK AND METAL ROOFED, THREE STOREY COMPLEX COMPRISING EIGHTEEN UNITS, KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CENTRE" SITUATED UPON PORTIONS OF PERTH LOTS W10 AND W11 AND BEING LOT 21 THE SUBJECT OF DIAGRAM 59807.<sup>53</sup>

In 1981, the TLC purchased two floors of the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*] under the strata title agreement, and the ALP retained the basement. However, the TLC was never satisfied with the hall because of '...the high proportion of unusable floor space, much of which was devoted to wide passageways and stairs or determined by the size of the rooms'.<sup>54</sup>

By 1982, the ALP had finally sold Curtin House to the State Superannuation Board, and then purchased the Court Hotel, the new Labour Centre was completed and alterations and modifications were made to the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*]:

...including double glazing the Beaufort Street windows and closing the wide, arched entries which had led, somewhat grandly, up flights of stair to Unity Hall.<sup>55</sup>

In 1985, despite the modifications made to the Trades Hall [*Delaney Gallery*], the TLC sold its strata title, containing two floors, to Delaney Art Gallery (of Claremont) and moved to newer, more appropriate premises in Brewer Street. Soon after, the ALP sold the basement section also to Delaney but kept the Unity Hall and also the Labour Centre which, in 1999, was renamed the Beaufort Centre.<sup>56</sup>

During its time as *Delaney Gallery* the upper floors were used as gallery space for art and the basement used as office space. Since 1997 and up to the present the whole of the building has been used for office accommodation or has in part remained vacant. The ground floor has been used for offices and training rooms, while the basement and first floor have had little use.

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49 Monk, *ibid*, p. 16.

50 *Strata Plan* 8921, Diagram 59807 & 2302, 26/8/1980.

51 *Certificate of Title*, Vol. 1575, Fol. 732, 16/9/1980.

52 Plaque on building.

53 *Strata Plan* 8921.

54 Monk, *ibid*, p. 17.

55 Monk, *ibid*, p. 17.

56 Monk, *ibid*, p. 17.

In 2002, the ground floor is occupied for training and training administration and the other floors are vacant.

### 13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

*Delaney Gallery* is a building comprising two storeys and a basement in masonry construction, with decorative stucco ornamentation and a render finish over brickwork designed in the Federation Romanesque style, constructed in 1912 for the Metropolitan District Council of the Australian Labor Federation (MDC), and supervised by E. P. Henshaw. The subsequent abutting buildings, including Unity Hall (1923), Curtin House (1973), the Labor Centre, later Beaufort Centre (1981) of four storeys constructed in concrete blocks are not part of this assessment.

*Delaney Gallery* is located on the east side of Beaufort Street, at its southern end. The Western Australian Museum and former Art Gallery of Western Australia is located on the opposite side of the street and these buildings are designed in the Federation Romanesque style also. Further to the north lies the former Swan Barracks and to the south the former Police Courts, now part of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. All of these buildings are places of considerable aesthetic value and fall with the Perth Cultural Centre. All are registered places. The United Friendly Societies is located to the immediate north of the *Delaney Gallery* and Labour Centre (1981), together with a two other Federation period buildings. Curtin House (1973) lies to the immediate south and is located on the site of the southern extension of Trades Hall. *Delaney Gallery* makes a strong visual contribution to the context.

Beaufort Street is a one way street at its southern end, with two carriageways taking traffic north, and parallel parking. Though there are street trees on the west side of the street, there are no trees on the east side of the street where the *Delaney Gallery* is located. The footpaths are constructed in standard City of Perth concrete paving slabs, and the lighting comprises standard Main Roads out reach steel construction poles.

The Federation period building is built up to the front street boundary, while the Beaufort Centre additions to the north and Curtin House to the south are set back from the front boundary, maintaining the visual prominence of *Delaney Gallery*.

*Delaney Gallery*, a building comprising two storeys and a basement in masonry construction with a stucco decorative treatments and a later render finish over the original face brickwork, designed in the Federation Romanesque style. The building front facade is divided into seven bays with three identical window bays symmetrically flanking the entrance bay in an AAABAAA rhythm. The entrance is given additional emphasis by its larger size, impressive entrance arch contained within a thrust bay and parapet top pediment. The building is not richly decorated, with stucco motifs in a sober rendering of its type and obeys the strict rules of the style in terms of symmetry and order.

The basement extends to just above ground level to allow natural daylight through highlight windows. The windows are set into a low rusticated rock faced base course. The lower level has three sets of arched windows with semicircular arches set above moulded impostes, with keystones at the top of the arch that engage with a continuous string course. Timber window frames are set within the arches in a rhythm of three bays and the sashes have been replaced with aluminium framed double glazed windows. Rear windows are single pane double hung sashes. The upper floor windows receive a lighter treatment, with a simple stringcourse and label mould around each window. At this level the windows are divided into pairs with lattice pattern hopper light over them. These window sashes have been replaced with double glazed windows also. A continuous entablature terminates the top of the wall with a capped parapet wall that links across the whole facade, broken by the entrance bay pediment.

The entrance bay has a short flight stairs now covered in poor quality slate, and is flanked by two engaged pilaster bases with inset panels, one with the street number 71 inscribed in it. A commemorative stone laid by the then Prime Minister Rt. Hon Andrew Fisher P.C. is incorporated into the base on the right hand side. The flanking pilasters extend to the entablature over the door and have plain Tuscan pilaster heads. The two point arched entry is contained by the pilasters and entablature, and the arch makes use of a voussoir motif to give it visual emphasis. The words *Delaney Gallery* appear on the entablature in bas-relief and are a recent addition. A two-point arch is located over the entablature and this is broken in to three elements, with a decorative keystone extending from the arch of the pediment. While the pediment itself is quite plain, it contains a cartouche and leaf motif.

The details of the front facade have been repeated around parts of the north and south elevations to the building and these are decorative devices to break down the plain nature of the walls. All of the openings in the north and south elevations are blind. The original flank walls were stepped face brickwork so that the present parapet top line and all of the present finishes are part of the 1981 work.

The original building extended back to meet the former Shearer's Hall and then the later Unity Hall. These links have been removed to create an open space between the *Delaney Gallery* and the former Unity Hall. The latter remains as a shell and has been converted to offices and is part of the Beaufort Centre. The rear elevation of the *Delaney Gallery* has a small number of original window openings and these are all single pane double hung sashes. The remaining openings at the basement level are aluminium-framed window and door set combinations to provide access from the eastern courtyard to the building. The whole of this elevation has been rendered, obscuring the former connections to the Shearer's Hall and later Unity Hall.

*Delaney Gallery* is planned on three levels and although much of the planning remains as indicated in the documentary evidence, there has been a considerable amount of reorganization of the means of circulation. There

were once two staircases between ground and first floor, but the southern staircase has been removed.

The ground floor comprises a centrally located entry with axial corridors leading east towards what would have been the lobby to the hall beyond, and north and south to provide access to offices to its east and west. Though the documentary evidence indicates staircases to the northern and southern end of this corridor or hall, only the staircase to the northern end survives as previously noted. The basic room planning remains the same as is indicated in the documentary evidence, with the removal of one partition at the southwest corner to make two rooms into one large space and the penetration of the north-western wall to link two formerly separate rooms. Floor finishes are generally carpet finish over timber, except in the entrance where a very poor quality slate has been applied to the floor in recent times. There are richly profiled skirtings throughout, plain plastered walls and plain plasterboard ceilings associated with the 1981 re-fit throughout, except in the entrance lobby and hall. The entrance lobby, which has a pressed metal ceiling, and part of the hall which has cornices that are not original, but may date from the Inter-War period. The windows on the west face of the building are timber framed with aluminium double glazed inserts. There are blocked fireplaces in two rooms as indicated on the plans. The remaining stair is a well designed timber stair with a wreathed handrail, substantial newels and turned balusters. A short flight of steps leads up to the lobby of the Unity Hall level, but the opening to the hall has been blocked off and the links to it removed. The original doors in this section are four panelled, with decorative timber casements. The staircase to the basement that is indicated in the documentary evidence and set against the northern wall has been removed and the stairwell is currently an office. A wall removed between the two southern rooms has been replaced with an acoustic wall and folding door.

The first floor has a similar plan to the ground floor, but is divided up into a larger number of spaces. Most of the planning indicated on the documentary evidence remains intact, but spaces have been re-divided to provide some additional facilities. There are five offices arranged across the west or front of the building, and the planning of these spaces does not relate well to the fenestration. To achieve five offices, the partitions to the northern and southern offices were laid out in a dogleg pattern to avoid clashes with windows. Part of the large office in the south-east corner of the building has been divided off to produce male and female toilets. The corridor that linked this building with Unity Hall balcony has been blocked off at both ends to provide a small kitchen and an air handling room and the connecting link between the two buildings removed. Two offices that previously occupied the north-east corner of the building have been combined to form a single space with a bar facility located in the north-west corner of the room, which has been formed by taking some space from the adjoining room. The finishes at this level are the same as those on the ground floor level, except that the doors are six panel format. The toilets have mosaic-tiled floors, glazed tile and splashbacks and modern toilet fittings.

The basement is accessible via the main stair that continues down to this level. This level was the accommodation for the state executive of the Australian Labour Party. It was essentially one large space that occupied almost half the floor plan at the front of the building, with amenities surrounding the space on three sides. The basic arrangement remains in place with the large state executive room remaining the major space. The perimeter spaces are contained within their original walls, but have all been re-arranged within this zone. Toilets are all located along the south wall with the remaining spaces converted into offices. Generally floors are carpeted concrete, though a large section of herringbone pattern parquet remains in the former state executive room. Walls are plastered and all ceilings appear to be replacement plasterboard. Two sets of stairs indicated on the original plans have been removed and the link between the state executive room and Unity Hall has been removed and replaced by an open paved space.

The building has been subject to numerous changes including the removal of Shearer's Hall, construction of Unity Hall, and the removal of links with Unity Hall. Associated with the construction of Unity Hall, the exterior was rendered. Later in 1982, the window sashes replaced with double glazing sashes, the north and south parapet walls increased in height at an unknown date, decorative plasterwork was added to the flank walls in a pattern that apes the front elevation, and the entrance doors and floor finishes changed. Internally there have been a large number of changes associated with the removal of the link to Unity Hall. Severance of the link reduced the requirement for the number of staircases and gave rise to an opportunity to increase the floor space in the *Delaney Gallery*. Two staircases were removed, the basement re-arranged, the ground floor accommodation area increased, first floor toilets, kitchen and plant room introduced. Ceilings were simplified and it is not known whether the original ceilings remain in place above the present ones. Air conditioning was introduced and lighting systems modernized and the building cabled for computer systems. There are still lighting systems in place from the time when the place was a gallery, but most spaces remain unoccupied, while the ground floor is fitted out for computer training. All of this material is removable.

Though much altered through time, the underlying fabric of *Delaney Gallery* remains in good condition, with little evidence of any deterioration beyond some damp penetration through a section of roofing at the rear of the building.

### **Unity Hall**

Following its conversion to offices, Unity Hall was altered extensively, with the insertion of floors, walls, and modern office ceilings, lighting, partitions and the like. The building retains its original four perimeter walls, gambrel pattern roof, a number of timber windows, and the fire escape stairs to the southern side of the building. The main walls and volume of the building can be viewed from Stirling Street and the right of way that gives access to the rear of the building.

Its foundation stone has been retained at ground floor level, and is attached to the northern wall, now an internal corridor. The original cut and struck jointed face brickwork has been painted over throughout and the Beaufort Centre has been constructed right of the Unity Hall's northern wall.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

Three other Trades Hall buildings are listed on the Heritage Council's database. Trades Hall (1325) at 30 Porter Street Kalgoorlie is on the Register of Heritage Places. This is a comparatively small building and is designed in a style that draws on gothic decorative devices. A further Trades Hall (7285) is listed from the Municipal Inventory in Kalgoorlie at Egan Street and the final one is the former Trades Hall (864) at 6 Collie Street, Fremantle. *Delaney Gallery* was and remains the largest and most ambitious of the Trades Hall buildings in Western Australia.

### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

Monk, Ian, 'Perth's Trades Hall, 1912 to 1983', in *Papers in Labour History*, No. 22, December 1999 [ISSN 1030-6218], Perth Branch, Australian Society for the Study of Labour History

### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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