

Heritage Item #

MI Reference: 50 HCWA No: 1875	Place Name: Government Building	Other Name/s: Department of Agriculture Building, Lands Office, Community Development Building
		Date of Review: September 2021



Address: 305 Fitzgerald Street East (cnr Gairdner Street), Northam	Lot No: 273 Property Key: Plan Diagram: Vol Folio: Assess No: A11146
Locality: Northam	GPS:
Current Use: Department of Communities	Original Use(s): Goldfields Water Supply, Regional Office
HERITAGE LISTINGS	
Listings:	
CONSTRUCTION	
Date of Construction: 1911	
Architect / Builder:	
Architectural Style: Federation Warehouse	
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE	
<p>Description:</p> <p>Government Building, located at 305 Fitzgerald Street East, is a single-storey face brick building with a corrugated short sheet steel hip and gable roof displaying characteristics of the Federation Warehouse style of architecture.</p> <p>The building is located on the corner of Fitzgerald Street East and Gairdner Street with a zero-setback. The building has an 'L' shaped form addressing the corner with roof gablets at each corner.</p> <p>The building has two face brick chimneys with rendered corbelling and steel roof cowls extending along the western ridge. There is a gable end to the corner along Fitzgerald Street East with face brick infill and timber brackets. The walls are face brick with rendered quoins to the corners and rendered arched window labels and string course. Below the main gable is a prominent bay with four casement windows, rendered cornice and sill. The north elevation has timber casement windows with arched</p>	

<p>highlights and rendered sills. The west elevation (Gairdner Street) has timber double hung windows with rendered sills. The former entry door addresses the corner with rendered decorative arched detail to the door head above.</p> <p>The building is entered from the eastern elevation with concrete stairs and a ramp leading to a landing with a canvas awning above. There is a parking lot to the rear of the building with some plantings to the east.</p>
Condition: Good
HISTORICAL
<p>Notes:</p> <p><i>The following information has largely been sourced from the heritage assessment of 23-325 & 16-334 Fitzgerald Street and 1-15 & 12-18 Peel Terrace, Northam, prepared by Greenward Consulting, June 2015.</i></p> <p>The offices for the Goldfields Water Supply Department were erected in 1911. The following extract is from the <i>Goomalling-Dowerin Mail</i> (March 14, 1911):</p> <p><i>Goldfields Water Supply Administration, Northam. It is hereby notified for public information that from this date, the Water Supply Office will be at the New Premises at the corner of Gardiner and Fitzgerald streets, Northam. S. C. TRETOWAN, Secretary Goldfields Water Supply. March 10, 1911.</i></p> <p>The <i>Kalgoorlie Western Argus</i> lists the place in December 1911 as “New Office, Northam £900”.</p> <p>In the Post Office Directories, it was referred to as ‘Goldfields Water Supply’ from 1912-1922 and the ‘Department of Public Works Water Supply’ from 1923. The Fitzgerald Street frontage was almost doubled in length at some stage during the mid-late twentieth century.</p> <p>This building has been occupied by a number of government departments over time. At one time the police sergeant had his office in the building, and it is thought that the Public Works Dept and the Dept of Agriculture have been two of the tenants over time.</p> <p>As of September 2021, the building is occupied by the Government of Western Australia Department of Communities.</p>
Theme: Community Services and Utilities
Associations:
Heritage Assessment or Conservation Plan: Heritage Assessment of 23-325 & 16-334 Fitzgerald Street and 1-15 & 12-18 Peel Terrace, Northam. Prepared by Greenward Consulting, June 2015.
Public Access: Yes (limited)
SIGNIFICANCE
Level of Integrity: High
Level of Authenticity: Medium
Statement of Significance:
<p>Government Building is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The place has historic and social significance for the associations with government agencies, employees and clients since the 1890. • The place has aesthetic significance as a restrained example of the Federation Warehouse style of architecture. • The place’s aesthetic significance contributes to the streetscape of the main street of Northam.
Level of Significance: Considerable
Heritage Category: 2

Additional Photographs



North & West Elevations
Source: Municipal Heritage Inventory,
2012



North Elevation - West Corner
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021



West Elevation
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021



South Elevation - Part
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021



Building entrance- East Elevation
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021



Department of Communities sign
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
September 2021