

LOFTUS CENTRE, LEEDERVILLE



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Loftus Centre
Other names	Keith Frame Reserve
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	18034
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 12 Sep 2006

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	99 Loftus St
Locality	Leederville
Survey	LOT: 501 D/P: 65192
Vol/folio	LR3157/915
Reserve	RES: 39009

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<p>Some</p> <p>Lower degree of integrity / authenticity but contributes to the heritage of the locality.</p>
Management category	<p>Category 4</p> <p>Retain elements of the place where feasible. Photographically record prior to major development or demolition.</p>
Statement of significance	<p>The Loftus Centre together with the adjacent Town's administrative centre and the regional facilities of Leederville Oval and the Leederville campus of Central Metropolitan College of TAFE are a significant landmark in the town.</p> <p>It expands and consolidates the great social value of this street block which forms the heart of the Town.</p> <p>Loftus Centre was constructed as a regional recreational and community facilities complex, by the City of Perth, prior to its breakup and the formation of the Town of Vincent.</p> <p>The Loftus Centre has social value for the Town of Vincent community and the wider metropolitan area for the range of services it offers.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Social/Recreational: Community Hall/Centre Educational: Library
Current use	Social/Recreational: Community Hall/Centre Educational: Library
Other use	
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1989
Walls	Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Late 20th-Century Late Modern
Physical description	This extensive single storey complex houses a recreation centre, library and other associated community facilities. It is a framed structure with metal roof concealed behind parapet walls. It has facades of brick detailed in horizontal bands of contrasting colours. Loggias surround the entry court. The indoor sports venue is double storey in its scale. Located at the corner of Vincent and Charles Streets it is well located to serve the Town and highly accessible to the suburbs to the west and the north. Extensive car parks with plantings.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Loftus Recreation and Community Centre, which cost \$4 million to build, was officially opened by the City of Perth's Lord Mayor Chas Hopkins on 27 November 1979. It was constructed on a section of Keith Frame Park, which adjoins Leederville Oval and the Leederville Technical College. This park had been donated to the people of Leederville and contained a large children's play area, remnant bushland and an old cricket pitch where local children used to play. Originally the park extended further east to what are now the southbound lanes of the Loftus Street dual carriage-way. This was the line of the original two-way road. When the street was increased to a dual carriage-way to handle the increased volume of traffic using the thoroughfare, land was excised from the park.

The new centre provided meeting places, activity areas, an indoor sports centre, coffee shop and community and function facilities, and child care centre. A non-profit club was initially set up in the Community Centre and a newsletter produced. It also began running children's holiday programmes, a toy library programme for three and four-year olds, art classes and displays, seniors' classes on computing and other areas of interest, general entertainments, a play group and the Town of Vincent's 'Spring Into Life' programme and many others. Four distinctive benches were hand-painted by artist Bronwyn Gray and students from Perth Modern School for its entrance in 1999. Only two remain as the other two were later stolen.

The centre was leased circa 2000 to Leisure Australia and more recently the seniors' group, 'Tales of Times Past' has become one of the many groups that continue to meet there. The Loftus Recreation Centre provided facilities for a gymnasium, fitness classes and number of sports, with competitions in various grades (to suit all players) being held in the evening. These competitions included netball and mixed netball, volley ball and soccer. Classes were also available for aerobics and other areas of fitness, junior children's ballet, ballroom dancing and kung-foo. Later the centre provided after-school care and an Italian ladies' bingo group.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Leederville branch of the Perth City library was moved from its cramped quarters in Mount Hawthorn into a new section on the south side of the building in November 1988. At that time the area was part of the City of Perth and, as a branch library, many of the procedures were centralised through the Perth Library which was located in Council House in St George's Terrace, Perth. This public library was opened in 1957 and a separate junior library in 1960. With the opening of the new Leederville Library within the Loftus Centre, two new part-time staff were employed (one librarian and one clerk) and 7,000 extra items were added to the library stock. Online public terminals (OPACs) were also installed, enabling the public to make their own enquiries. This new library provided a library service for an extra 6,600 people with borrower numbers expanding over the next few years.

Following the division of the City of Perth in 1994 into four municipalities, the Loftus Recreation and Community Centres and the Leederville Library came under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Town of Vincent. The library was then renamed Vincent Library and in 2000 a Local Studies Librarian was employed and a local history collection was established. The newly-created Town of Vincent constructed its council offices in Leederville on the corner of Loftus and Vincent streets, adjacent to the Loftus Centre.

Between the late 1990s and 2008, increases in staff numbers and changing requirements lead to changes to the interior. These have involved some renovations and alterations to the interior layout in order to gain larger and more workable office spaces.

In 2007, a major redevelopment of the Loftus Centre commenced and in February 2008 the recently renamed Vincent Library and Local History Centre moved into a newly completed purpose-built extension on the northern side of the Loftus Community Centre. This area had previously been part of the car park for the whole Town of Vincent complex. The addition was designed by Peter Hunt of Peter Hunt Architects and built by Perkins Builders of Bunbury as a cost of \$14 million. The area where the library had previously been was then remodelled to form a state-of-the art gymnasium. An indoor soccer stadium was also constructed on the north-western side of the complex plus an underground car park and the Loftus Community and Recreation centres were upgraded at the same time.

Since that time the building and its services continued to be adapted to accommodate new standards and requirements.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts Culture and entertainments Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Governing: Government and Politics	
Associations	Peter Hunt	Architect
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

