

BEATTY PARK LEISURE CENTRE & BEATTY PARK, NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Beatty Park Leisure Centre & Beatty Park
Other names	Beatty Park Aquatic Centre City of Perth Aquatic Centre
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	3553
State Heritage Register:	17 Dec 2004
Other Listing:	Other Legal Agreement Under negotiation 26 Feb 2004 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	220 Vincent
Locality	North Perth
Survey	LOT: 1618 D/P: 222995
Vol/folio	LR3044/188
Reserve	RES: 884

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The City of Perth Aquatic Centre component of the Beatty Park Leisure Centre is a good example of the Late Twentieth Century International style applied to a major sporting facility.</p> <p>The City of Perth Aquatic Centre portion of the place was built as the aquatic centre for the VIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games, and was the first purpose built aquatic centre in Western Australia designed and built for international competition and one of three major projects undertaken by the City of Perth for the Games, the first such international competition held in Perth.</p> <p>The place was designed by W. A. Mcl. Green, the influential Town Clerk for City of Perth from 1945 to 1966, Milton Boyce, City of Perth Architect, and Lionel H. Steenbohm, Director of Parks and Gardens, who were responsible for the design of a number of the British Empire and Commonwealth Games facilities that played an important role in the success of the games.</p> <p>Beatty Park was important as one of a number of reserves, parks and gardens developed by the City of Perth between 1896 and 1936.</p> <p>The place is highly valued by the community as one of the older recreational reserves in the metropolitan area, as a significant reminder of the VIth British Empire and Commonwealth Games, as a swimming centre for the public and schools, and as a well recognised landmark in the City of Vincent.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Social/Recreational: Other Sports Building
Current use	Social/Recreational: Other Sports Building
Other use	Park/Reserve

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1962; 1994; 2013; 2021
Walls	Metal: Steel Metal: Aluminium Concrete Glass
Roof	Corrugated Metal Sheeting
Architectural Style	Late 20th-Century International Late 20th- Century Structuralist
Physical description	<p>Comprises the three storey Aquatic Centre at the western end of the site and the Recreation Ground at the eastern end. The Aquatic Centre features glass-wall construction and extensive ceramic tile cladding. The U-shape design of the original building wraps around the main pool. It was extensively renovated in 1994 to provide facilities for recreational as well as sporting uses. The original building retains its original external character, which was characteristic of the Empire Games venues, with modular curtain wall facades with tinted windows and coloured spandrel panels.</p> <p>The Recreation Ground is an open grassed recreation area with perimeter plantings of mature trees, notably fig trees, which are a significant townscape element of the area. The main building is set diagonal across the corner. The setback areas comprise garden strips and hard surface driveways.</p>

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION	
<p>From the 1860s, problems with drainage and sanitation were of increasing concern in Perth as the town grew through the 1970s and 1880s. In March 1882, by-laws were passed controlling the disposal of night soil. On 4 December 1890 the area on the north side of Vincent Street, from Charles to Oxford Streets, where the Beatty Park is currently located, was gazetted as a Government reserve (Reserve 884) under the control of the Perth Board of Health. The area east of Loftus Street was used as a rubbish tip for some years in the 1890s, while the area along Oxford Street was parcelled off as sites for public buildings such as post office, municipal offices, primary school and police station. In 1905, the remainder of the land was vested in the City of Perth for the purpose of recreation.</p> <p>In 1906, Reserve 884 was classified as a Class 'A' for Recreational Purposes. It is probable that the earliest plantings at the site and its use as a recreational area date from this period. In 1920s, Reserve 884 was named Beatty Park in honour of Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty (later Earl), a World War One hero. In 1962, Perth hosted the British Empire and Commonwealth Games (known as Commonwealth Games from 1978) and the City of Perth Aquatic Centre, was built on the east side of Loftus Street as the venue for the swimming events. The newly-built centre incorporated every aspect of modern pool planning, including three pools, galleries for 5,500 spectators, a dramatic lighting system and a garden cafe. The chlorination plant was the most modern in Australia and an oil fuel heating unit kept the water temperature at 70 degrees Centigrade in all three pools.</p>	

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

H. A. Doust, City of Perth Town Clerk William Allan McInnes Green, and City Architect Milton Boyce were responsible for planning the centre. An engineer and architect, W. A. McInnes Green designed the centre after months of study and an extensive overseas tour. The blue-tiled pool was 55 yards long, 24 yards wide, with 8 lanes. The diving pool was 30 metres by 20 metres with a depth sloping to 16 feet. It was a standard size for water polo events, had an air system to create artificial ripples, making it easier for a diver to judge his distances from the surface, and a special observation room with a 5ft square, 3 inch thick underwater window. An innovation for divers was an on-the-spot competitor's room at the 3-metre board level, eliminating much of the long climb to the high-tower and walks to and from the dressing rooms. A glass wall enabled resting divers to see rivals in action. The third pool was for children.

After the Games, the City of Perth Aquatic Centre, as Perth's premier swimming venue, was a popular and well-frequented place for recreational swimming, as well as hosting uncounted numbers of school sports days, summer holiday swimming lessons and swimming club meets, and providing a training ground for competitive swimmers. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the Aquatic Centre was the venue for beauty pageants, such as Miss Western Australia, and musical performances.

In 1977, the Albert Spencer Pavilion was built in the park for the City of Perth. The Aquatic Centre was upgraded, with additional leisure facilities, to designs by architect Peter Hunt, for the City of Perth in 1993-1994, and was re-named Beatty Park Leisure Centre. Beatty Park Leisure Centre was extensively renovated in 1994 to provide more modern pool facilities. In 2008 the Beatty Park Leisure Centre Conservation Plan and Beatty Park Redevelopment Concept Plans were adopted by the Town of Vincent. A \$17 million redevelopment was completed in 2013, with a new two-level building constructed on the eastern side of the site, a new entrance, foyer, reception and offices, studios and gym. In 2021, a \$2.9 million upgrade was undertaken in the indoor pool area.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards show the construction of the City of Perth Aquatic Centre and its subsequent upgrades, including turning the outdoor pool areas into indoor pool areas in the early 1990s as mentioned above. The photographs also show the 2013 redevelopment and the addition of solar panelling in 2014. The exterior of the structure has changed little since its construction.

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Cultural and Entertainment Social Services: Health	
Associations	H. A. Doust William Allan McInnes Green Milton Boyce	H. A. Doust William Allan McInnes Green Milton Boyce
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. Beatty Park Website 2024 www.beattypark.com.au P3553 Beatty Park Leisure Centre & Beatty Park Assessment Documentation, DPLH, 2004.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Construction of Beatty Park, 1962. Courtesy SLWA image b3708090_3.



Construction of Beatty Park, 1962. Courtesy SLWA image b3708090_2.



Beatty Park, 1963. Courtesy SLWA image b5954920_1



Beatty Park, 1963. Courtesy SLWA image b5954920_1