

PERTH OVAL. PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION

Place name	Perth Oval
Other names	Loton Park Members Equity Stadium NIB Stadium Perth Rectangular Stadium
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING

inHerit ID:	2992
State Heritage Register:	2 Sept 1998
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995

SITE LOCATION

Street address	27 Bulwer St 310 Pier St
Locality	Perth
Survey	LOT: 100 D/P: 7039 LOT: 350 D/P: 302839
Vol/folio	965/70 2064/390
Reserve	—

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 north-west entry gates building (c.1932) is a good and uncommon example of the Inter-War Mediterranean architectural style.</p> <p>The main grandstand, administration and clubroom building (1956 with extensions 1966) is a meeting place for athletes and patrons.</p> <p>The place, with its variety of building styles, is characteristic of its class, that of home football ground for an Australian Rules Football League side;</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with organised sport in the district from 1910, and specifically the East Perth Football Club, one of the oldest clubs in Perth.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with former Lord Mayor of Perth William Loton who originally owned the land and designated that it should be used as a park and recreation ground.</p> <p>As the former home of the East Perth Football Club, the place contributes to the local community's sense of place.</p> <p>The place as a whole, and the north-west entry gates building in particular, characterises a way of life and activity, that of community enjoyment of Australian Rules Football.</p>

SIGNIFICANCE	
Statement of significance	As a whole, the place is highly valued by the community for the social and cultural associations of sporting and other outdoor entertainment

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

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1910 (oval); 1932 (gates); 1956 (grandstand); 1966 (grandstand additions)
Walls	Painted brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Interwar Mediterranean Post War International
Physical description	Perth Oval, now home to the HBF arena, has had major works done around the soccer fields regarding new facilities and the overall grandstand which was previously reconstructed in the Postwar International style in the mid 1950s. The main entry gates have been refurbished and maintained to the standard of the original Interwar Mediterranean style. Within the perimeter of the Perth Oval is the Loton Park Tennis Club pavilion and courts.
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION
Perth Oval was established on Swan Location 114, on a piece of reclaimed land that had originally been the site of Stone's Lake. It was originally an Aboriginal camp site and was used by the European settlers for market gardening after it was drained.

William Thorley Loton purchased the land from Edward Barron in 1884. It became known as Loton's paddock because it was where Loton grazed his carriage horses.

The 1897 PWD City of Perth & Suburbs sewerage plans indicated four sheds or small buildings in the north-west of the site, which may have been stables. Loton's home, 'Dilhorn' , was across the road at No. 2 Bulwer Street) and overlooked the area. a

On 31 October 1904, Loton sold the land to the City of Perth for £8,500 on the proviso that it was used as a public recreation area and named 'Loton Park' . In 1906 it was adopted by the East Perth Football Club as its home ground. Australian Rules football began to be played more widely in WA in the 1880s and gained momentum with the arrival of many men from Victoria during the gold rushes in the 1990s.

The East Perth Football Club began with the formation of the Union Football Club in 1902. Their home ground was Wellington Square until they moved to 'Loton Park' in 1910, that same year that it became officially known as Perth Oval.

From 1911 to 1922, the club operated an open air picture theatre in the summer months, in the area near the present entrance gates. This raised funds for the club as well as for charitable causes.

In 1913-14, four tennis courts, a bowling green and a croquet lawn were laid out, and in 1916, the Loton Park Tennis Club was established.

Impressive new entrance gates to the oval were constructed in 1932, possibly with the assistance of sustenance workers and an extra entry was added in 1969. These gates were designed by the staff of the City of Perth, the architect or builder is not known.

Perth Oval was used as a military depot for a short period in 1943 and was later the scene of victory celebrations for the end of World War II.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The original timber grandstand was removed to Bayswater in 1955 and a new grandstand was designed for the site 1956 by Forbes & Fitzhardinge. It was built in 1956 by W. Fairweather on the western side of the oval following the re-orientation of the ground from east-west to north-south. The new grandstand was opened by Lord Mayor Harry Howard on 9 June 1956, the jubilee year of the club's move to Perth Oval. Extensions to the grandstand were carried out in 1966. These were designed by Oldham, Boas Ednie-Brown and included changes to the club rooms and a bar extension.

Other groups that called the ground home over the years were a lawn bowls club, the West Perth Football Club and the North Perth District Cricket Club. The City of Perth also hired the ground out on an average of 10 times per year to various sporting bodies and others looking for this type of venue. During the time that the East Perth Football Club resided at Perth Oval, the legend developed that if Charlie's Tree bloomed the team would win the Premiership that year. This tree got its name from Charlie Chandler, a very keen supporter who noticed that the tree only bloomed in those years and in fact, it was proven right 12 out of 14 times between 1956 and 1972. In more recent times it did not prove to be so accurate.

The West Australian Football Commission leased the oval in 1982 as well as the Leederville and Lathlain ovals and in the late 1980s it was used by the West Coast Eagles for evening training. With the subdivision of the City of Perth into four separate local government authorities in 1994/5, it came under the jurisdiction of the newly-formed Town of Vincent.

A sub-lease was negotiated between the Town of Vincent, East Perth Football Club and the privately-owned Perth Glory Soccer Club in July 1996 to enable Perth Glory to train and hold their games there. The team played their first game in the National Soccer League in October 1996 at Perth Oval and in 2000 floodlights were installed, enabling evening games to be played. In 2003, after a sponsorship deal, it was named Members Equity Stadium.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

When East Perth Football Club's tenancy finished in 2004, they moved its headquarters to Leederville Oval, which they then shared with the Subiaco Football Club. Perth Oval was then revamped as a multi-purpose stadium with a new rectangular field, a new grandstand plus the refurbishment of the existing grandstand and other works including landscaping.

In 2001, the gates and ticket boxes underwent conservation and restoration work under the guidance of architects Considine & Griffiths.

In 2010, Perth Oval became the home ground for the Western Force.

In 2013, a new eastern and southern grandstand designed by architects Cox Howlett & Bailey Wooldand was completed at a cost of \$71 million. This brought the stadiums capacity to 20,500.

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Recreation - Sport	
Associations	William Loton Forbes & Fitzhardinge Oldham Boas and Ednie Brown East Perth Perth Glory Western Force	Original landowner Grandstand architect Grandstand additions architect
Sources	P2992 Perth Oval Assessment Documentation, DOLH, 1998. Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGERY



Rear view of the Perth Oval Grandstand c1950s Courtesy City of Vincent.



Front view of the Perth Oval Grandstand c1950s Courtesy City of Vincent.