

EAST PERTH RAILWAY STATION, PERTH



| PLACE INFORMATION | |
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| Place name | East Perth Railway Station |
| Other names | Public Transport Centre, The Westrail Centre |
| Place type | Individual building or group |

| HERITAGE LISTING | |
|--------------------------|--|
| inHerit ID: | 8769 |
| State Heritage Register: | |
| Other Listing: | Classified by the National Trust Classified 12 Oct 1998 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 |

| SITE LOCATION | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Street address | 116 West Pde |
| Locality | Perth |
| Survey | LOT: 0 D/P: 2052 |
| Vol/folio | 2173/800 |
| Reserve | — |

| SIGNIFICANCE | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Level of significance | Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity. |
| Management category | Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place. |
| Statement of significance | <p>The Public Transport Centre is a singular example of the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style, designed by a notable architectural practice of the day and set new design standards for railway facilities and interior architecture.</p> <p>It is a landmark in the area, made more visible with the development of the Graham Farmer freeway.</p> <p>For a quarter of the century it has been the headquarters for railways in the state and the point of arrival and departure for interstate and intrastate rail services.</p> <p>The place has social value for the many members of the community who have attended the railway station for travel, work or attending those arriving or departing.</p> |

| PLACE USE | |
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| Original use | Transport/Communication: Railway Station Transport/Communication: Office/Administration |
| Current use | Transport/Communication: Railway Station Transport/Communication: Office/Administration |
| Other use | |

| CONSTRUCTION DETAILS | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Construction date | 1976 |
| Walls | Brick |
| Roof | Corrugated metal sheeting |
| Architectural Style | Late 20th-Century Brutalist |
| Physical description | The centre comprises a large footprint five storey office block, covered passenger terminal and train sidings. The office tower is constructed in dark brown face brickwork, off form concrete and glass. It is unusual for the passive solar designed angled vertical piers over the windows. The enclosed concourse is a multi level open space, articulated by columns, which accommodates waiting areas, historical display and interpretation, reception and security facilities. The platforms for interstate and intrastate trains are covered for the whole of their length. A footbridge links the interstate and intrastate platforms and the Public Transport Centre with the adjoining East Perth suburban railway station. |
| Condition | Good |
| Integrity | High |
| Authenticity | High |

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Prior to the construction of the Public Transport Centre in 1976, the subject site is listed as WA Government Railways (local sheds) in the Wise's Post Office Directories in 1949. In that year, the site accommodated a power house, steel tanks, engine sheds and railway lines as shown on a Sewerage Plan. The Public Transport Centre was built as the interstate passenger terminal and administration headquarters for Westrail. Its construction followed the completion of the standard gauge rail between Kalgoorlie and Fremantle in the 1960s to facilitate passenger and freight transport across the country. The Indian Pacific makes two journeys, each way each week, between Sydney and Perth via Adelaide. It is one of the greatest ways to journey across the continent, the trip covers 4352 km and some of Australia's most severe landscapes.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The building was designed by architectural firm Forbes & Fitzhardinge. In 1977, they were awarded the RAIAWA award of specific merit for interior architecture for the Public Transport Centre. The building set a new standard for railway station design, creating in its public spaces a high quality environment, providing for the needs and amenity of travellers. The history of rail travel is also on display at the Centre. A steam locomotive is situated in the forecourt and a red timber passenger carriage is displayed inside the building. A footbridge crosses the standard gauge line to access the adjoining East Perth suburban station. The building's name has been changed to the Public Transport Centre from the Westrail Centre.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards show the gradual increase of structures at the subject site. Starting with the demolition of the original sheds before 1970, and the construction of the Public Transport Centre in 1976. In the early 1990s a new building on the northern side of site was constructed and in 2022 a large five-storey building was erected between the northernmost building and the Public Transport Centre. It was completed in 2023 and is home to the Public Transport Operations Control Centre. Similarly on the southern side of the site roofs were added to the platforms over the years, and some buildings were constructed on the southernmost corners of the station in the early 2000s. These were added in around 2006 with what looks like undercover parking and both structures have remained the same since. The Public Transport Centre has remained the same since construction also.

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| Historic theme | Infrastructure: Transport and Communications | |
| Associations | Forbes & Fitzhardinge Westrail Public Transport Authority Journey Beyond's Indian Pacific Transwa's Prospector and Merridan Link | Architects Occupants Occupants Services Services |
| Sources | Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The West Australian, 5 December 1936, p. 4 | |

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

