TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY
PLACE RECORD FORM

LGA Place No: B1   **Curtin University**

Photograph of the place

The Robertson Library Building, Curtin University.

LOCATION	
HCWA Reference Number	
Other Reference Number	
Name of Place	Curtin University
Other names	
Address	Hayman Street
Suburb/Town	Bentley
Local Government Authority	Town of Victoria Park
Map Reference	

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner details are kept on the rates data base at the Town of Victoria Park				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	No.
	1884/27142			

The Engineering and Surveying Building.

The Aboriginal Studies Building, a recent addition to the Curtin University campus,
softer in architectural style than the earlier buildings.

CONSTRUCTION DATE	1965-1967		
Source/Details	White, MA		
USE(S) OF PLACE			
Original	Technology Institute		
Present	University		
Other			
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:			
Walls	Concrete	Red Brick	
Roof	Tiles	Various	
Other			
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	Late Twentieth Century Brutalist		

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Western Australian Institute of Technology first accepted students in 1965 but the main campus was not opened until 1967. Enrolment for the first year was 2000 students. In 1969 three institutions merged with WAIT, namely the Western Australian School of Mines, Muresk Agricultural College and Schools of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. WAIT grew rapidly and by 1976 10,000 students were enrolled. WAIT became a 'substantial presence' in Western Australian Tertiary Education. Its Business School was the largest in Australia.

Controversy arose in the 1980s with the move to 'upgrade' WAIT to a university. The name Curtin, however, was well accepted, with John Curtin being a strong figure in Federal Politics. Representing WA, Curtin rose to Prime Minister, leading Australia through the war years between 1942-45.

Curtin University was formally opened in 1986. Since its inception the University has become noted for its research and development, ties with Technology Park and the education provided for overseas students. In fact, as WAIT, the institution became the first to accept full fee paying overseas students (1977/78), a move way ahead of National education procedures of the time.

In 1997, 24,000 students were enrolled in a large variety of courses which included art, design, social work, library science, social sciences, literature, teacher education, engineering, computing, architecture and pharmacy, among others.

DESCRIPTION

Curtin University, originally known as the West Australian Institute of Technology, began in the late 1960s on the site of an old pine plantation.

Original buildings such as the Architecture Building, the Robertson Library, the Physics Building and the somewhat later, Social Science Building, are all examples of the 'Late Twentieth Century Brutalist' period. They are all large rather overpowering buildings, the first three constructed externally and internally from grey off-form concrete with contrasting red face brick panels. The Social Science Building has pre-cast cream concrete panels with a rough ribbed profile.

Other early buildings such as the Guild Building, designed by Architect RJ (Gus) Ferguson, were by contrast, domestic in scale and materials, with jarrah timber windows and doors, red brick walls and terracotta tiled roofs. These buildings were, however, quite institutional and repetitive in an overall sense.

More recent buildings such as the beautifully detailed and articulated Aboriginal Studies Building bring a certain warmth and humanity, which may have been lacking in the past, to the campus.

CONDITION	Very Good
INTEGRITY	A number of additions, with many different architectural styles displayed. Most original buildings intact.

ASSOCIATIONS   ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATIONS	ASSOCIATION
Gus Furguson	Architect
John Curtin	Prime Minister of Australia

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Curtin University has strong aesthetic, historic and social heritage significance. The campus comprises a number of buildings, reflecting interesting and powerful architectural design. However, the aesthetic value of the University is compromised by the different scale and utilitarian nature of some of the buildings.

As a leader in tertiary education, it has links to major developments in education in the past three decades. Curtin University demonstrates strong social heritage significance as it supplies a sense of community for a growing number of students and staff.

HISTORIC THEME/*Subtheme*   CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE

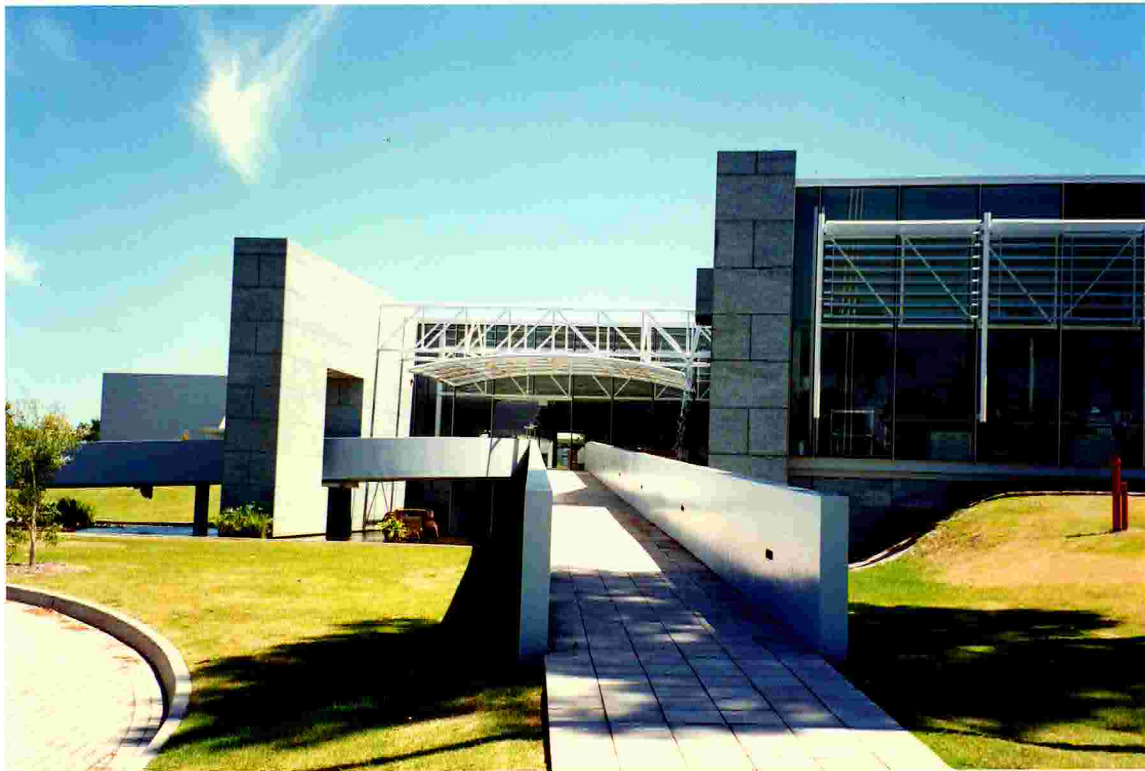| HISTORIC THEME/*Subtheme*	CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE
Community efforts/*Education*	Aesthetic
	Historic
	Social

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category: **Category C**
Retain and conserve if possible: endeavour to conserve the significance of the place through the provisions of the Town of Victoria Park Planning Scheme. A more detailed Heritage Assessment/Impact Statement may be required before approval given for any major redevelopment or demolition. Photographically record the place prior to any major redevelopment or demolition.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY   DOCUMENT TYPE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY	DOCUMENT TYPE
White, MA. WAIT to Curtin: *A History of the Western Australian Institute of Technology.* 1996, Perth, Paradigm Print.	Book

TOWN OF VICTORIA PARK

MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY
PLACE RECORD FORM

LGA Place No: B2   **Technology Park**

Photograph of the place

LOCATION	
HCWA Reference Number	
Other Reference Number	
Name of Place	Technology Park
Other names	
Address	Brodie Hall Drive
Suburb/Town	Bentley
Local Government Authority	Town of Victoria Park
Map Reference	

OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION				
Owner details are kept on the rates data base at the Town of Victoria Park				
Reserve No.	Lot/Location No.	Plan/Diagram	Vol/Folio	No.

Other views of the CRA Building at Technology Park.

CONSTRUCTION DATE	Commenced 1985		
Source/Details	Peter Why		
USE(S) OF PLACE			
Original	Research and Development		
Present	Research and Development		
Other			
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS:	Various		
Walls			
Roof			
Other			
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE			

HISTORICAL NOTES

In 1985 a Government initiative to stimulate industrial design and business in high technology equipment was established close to Curtin University. Technology Park, the 'Silicon Valley of WA', was the first of its type planned in Australia. Technology Park today, (1997) has 70 organisations and 1400 people employed and generates a large export income. A significant amount of capital and people are involved in research and development and it keeps close ties with WA tertiary institutions.

The CRA Advanced Technical Development facility, <u>one</u> of the buildings in Technology Park, has been recognised for its outstanding Architectural design. As well as an Architecture Design Award in 1990, the building received a special mention in the 1991 International Research and Development Laboratory Awards, was awarded the Triennial Architecture Medal in 1993 and the Architecture Medal (RAIA WA Chapter) for 1994.

DESCRIPTION

This is a precinct of individual modern buildings, the most significant of which is the award winning CRA buildings.

This building, designed by Architects Forbes and Fitzharding in the mid 1980s, won a State RAIA Design Award in its category, followed by a Bronze Medal three years later. The Bronze Medal is awarded to the best of the yearly award winners.

It is a modern, slick, corporate building which reflects the high profile of a company such as CRA and addresses the design issues of circulation, climate control and function in a direct and uncompromising, yet skilfully designed way. This is tempered by its manicured landscape setting with rolling lawns and dramatic ramped entry over water. On awarding the Triennial Architecture Medal in 1993 the Jury stated:

> *was impressed by the high degree of resolution of all aspects of the judging criteria, the consistency and discipline of the formal language in keeping with the technological nature of the facility, the functional articulation of the complex and finally the exploration of a steel aesthetic in the context of Perth's strong masonry tradition.*

CONDITION	Excellent
INTEGRITY	Not compromised by different buildings as all were constructed to enhance scale and setting.

ASSOCIATIONS

ASSOCIATIONS	ASSOCIATION TYPE
Forbes and Fitzzhardinge Woodland	Architects of CRA building

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Technology Park has aesthetic, historic and social heritage significance. Though the buildings are an amalgamation of different architectural styles, they blend well to enhance the scale and setting of the Park.

Strong design has led to recognition for architectural innovation. Historically this is the first of this type of development in Western Australia. Social heritage value is reflected in Technology Park's strong association with Curtin University which encourages a good flow of communication in Research and Development between the two places.

HISTORIC THEME/*Subtheme*   CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC THEME/*Subtheme*	CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE
Occupation/*Industrial development*	Aesthetic
	Historic
	Social

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category: **Category C**
Retain and conserve if possible: endeavour to conserve the significance of the place through the provisions of the Town of Victoria Park Planning Scheme. A more detailed Heritage Assessment/Impact Statement may be required before approval given for any major redevelopment or demolition. Photographically record the place prior to any major redevelopment or demolition.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY   DOCUMENT TYPE

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY	DOCUMENT TYPE
Peter Why of Technology Park 9470 6881 Conducted March 1997 by Cathy Day, *Heritage* TODAY	Oral History
Forbes & Fitzharding Woodland - p.2 Report on CRA Advanced Technical Facility	Report