THR Identification Number: 11734  this new Datasheet consolidates and replaces two existing entries: THR#2468  Public Buildings adjacent to Franklin Square, and THR#2516  Franklin Square Office Complex.

Name:    Treasury Complex and Public Buildings

Municipality:  Hobart City Council

Status:  Permanently Registered  (this consolidates and replaces the two separate existing Entries)

Location:  17 and 21 Murray Street, Hobart

PID:  17 Murray Street:  5670900; and 21 Murray Street:  5668886

CPR No:  see attached boundary plan

Title:  17 Murray Street:  119268/1 and 21 Murray Street:  not yet available

GDA East:  see attached boundary plan

GDA North:  see attached boundary plan

Setting:

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings (‘the complex’) is located within the city centre of Hobart, on land bounded by Macquarie Street to the north-west, Murray Street to the south-west, Davey Street to the south-east, and the Franklin Square public park (THR#2333) to the north-east. Paved footpaths – which include mature trees along the Murray and Macquarie Street sides – separate the complex from the adjacent streets. In 2019, the two large Tilia x europaea (Common Lime or ‘Lindens’) on the Murray Street side and five Aesculus hippocastanum (Horse Chestnuts) on Macquarie Street are planted in positions that photographs show occupied by trees since the late 1870s, but these present-day plantings are not historic heritage features in and of themselves and do not form part of this registration.

The southern corner of the place, known as 17 Murray Street, contains a single storey Moderne-style electrical substation (Building 9). Built to the Murray and Davey Street boundaries of a separate title, the substation’s north-east elevation abuts the complex’s Agriculture Building (Building 8).

Bordered by three main thoroughfares and a pair of important Hobart street intersections, the complex is sited on a natural high ridgeline that historically would have made it prominent from areas of the city such as the waterfront and Battery Point, although these viewlines have been somewhat fragmented by later buildings. It strongly contributes to the identity of the precinct of mid-19th century buildings that surround the portion of Macquarie Street between Murray Street and Dunn Place and which have continuously been used for ‘civic’ (i.e. public and governance) functions (Franklin Square Master Plan 2014, p.9).

Description:

Note: this datasheet’s APPENDIX 2 contains more-detailed descriptions of the individual buildings and features within the complex.

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings includes a group of eight adjoining and interconnected buildings, ranging in height from one to four storeys, as well as the HEC Substation (Building 9) on the corner of Murray and Davey streets. Five of the buildings also contain basements or sub-basements. Although principally built across a timespan of approximately 130 years (i.e. 1824 to 1957), the complementary styles and scales of the buildings within the complex give them a strong degree of unity. The buildings, their construction dates and original purposes in chronological order are:

- Building 1 – the 1824-26 Supreme Court;
- Building 2 – the 1835 Police and Convict Offices;
- Building 3 – the 1840-43 Public Offices;
• Building 4 – the 1858-60 Supreme Court;
• Building 5 – the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices;
• Building 6 – the 1894-95 Deeds Building;
• Building 7 – the 1914-16 Public Offices;
• Building 8 – the c.1915-57 Agriculture Building; and
• Building 9 – the 1940 HEC Substation.

The external walls of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings are largely constructed of Tasmanian sandstone ashlars. The available evidence indicates that the red sandstone of the three buildings facing Murray Street came from the Domain Quarry; the Executive Council Offices Building and Deeds Building used ‘dark brown’ stone from Risdon Quarry, with the ‘rich yellow’ accents on the Executive Council Offices sourced from Roseneath Quarry at Bridgewater; and the 1914-16 Public Offices’ sandstone came from Bryn Estyn Quarry at New Norfolk (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.64, 181, 226).

The ground surface of the place slopes from its highest point at the corner of Murray and Macquarie Streets to its lowest at the corner of Franklin Square and Davey Street. Accordingly, the ground floors of the buildings are at varying levels above the surrounding streets. Where buildings which were constructed at different times have been connected, there are external and internal ramps and stairs which reconcile their differing floor levels.

The complex’s principal public elevations – all in Classical styles specific to their eras, with accordingly-detailed parapets – face Murray and Macquarie Streets and Franklin Square, while stylistically more restrained elevations face inwards to a central courtyard. The adjoining elevations of the buildings along each of the streets and Franklin Square impart the feeling of a walled compound to the complex.

Many areas of the complex’s buildings contain an extensive array of intact individual elements – including but not limited to timber joinery, doors, windows, architectural hardware, architraves, skirtings, fireplaces, and light fittings – and the high-level integrity of these elements contributes strongly to the significance of the complex.

Views and sightlines
The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is visible from a range of nearby places, with the complex’s roofscape also visible from high vantage points in nearby buildings. There are important sightlines to the complex:
• along Macquarie Street, with oblique views from both directions, and views perpendicular to the street elevations of Buildings 1, 4 and 7;
• from Murray Street of views oblique and perpendicular to the street elevations of Buildings 1, 2 and 3;
• from Davey Street, looking north-west along the oblique view of the north-east (Franklin Square-facing) elevations of Buildings 4, 5 and 6;
• also from Davey Street, looking from the south and south-east over Buildings 8 and 9 to the upper portions of the south-east elevations of Buildings 2 and 5; and
• from Franklin Square, where views to Buildings 4, 5 and 6 are filtered by the canopies of the park’s deciduous trees, and so vary across the seasons of the year. Franklin Square’s low fences and hedges – and the close alignment of its fountain and main northeast-southwest pathway with Building 5’s stairs and entrance doorway – create a strong relationship and visual connection between the complex and this public park.

Building 1 – the 1824-26 Supreme Court
This two-storey building’s Murray Street (south-west) elevation features a central portico supported by a row of six Tuscan columns. Extending north-eastwards from the building’s Murray Street-facing portion is an adjoining rectilinear pavilion, the Macquarie Street elevation of which was built during the building’s 1860
The conversion into Hobart Town’s GPO (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.3 & 4; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.30-31). This lower storey of this Macquarie Street elevation contains five large semicircular-arched windows.

In areas other than the two storeys of rooms facing Murray Street, the original internal walls have been removed. The ground and first-floor interiors are in 2019, when this entry was developed, divided into office spaces by c.1970 glazed and panelled partition walls (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.11, 12,17-19). The two upper-storey office rooms with windows facing Murray Street retain fireplaces and some 1860-period joinery (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.14-16). Also on the upper storey, four slender cast iron floor-to-ceiling columns remain beneath the corners of the post office era’s former clerestorey (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.14, 17 & 19). Elsewhere, alterations have affected almost every surface and detail, and in these areas the interiors have low-level integrity.

Building 2 – the 1835 Police and Convict Offices

This building has a T-shaped plan and comprises two storeys above a five-room semi-basement. Central to its Murray Street elevation is a Tuscan-styled portico featuring two columns on pedestals with a solid stone balustrade between them. Two separate flights of steps link the portico’s floor to the Murray Street footpath. The frieze of the portico’s entablature bears the word ‘TREASURY’ in incised capital letters. Facing the adjacent laneway, the cement-rendered base of the south-east elevation contains a timber access door, a series of small ventilation slit openings and one shuttered window to the semi-basement rooms.

The exterior wall faces of the 1914-added strong room and toilet spaces at the building’s north-east end differ in appearance to the older stonework and are ashlar stones reused from the demolished 1856 ‘fire proof’ building when it was replaced by Building 7 (Corney 2017, Building 2 CMP, pp.3, 9, 14 & 19).

Much original and early interior fabric survives, such as: the highly-intact original timber staircase within the Murray Street stair hall; original timber chimneypieces, one of which contains a 19th-century safe; and other original joinery including window frames, architraves and skirtings (Corney 2017, Building 2 CMP, pp.10, 15-17; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.53 & 57). In 2019, when this entry was developed, both storeys of the building’s central portion are divided into office rooms by c.1970 glazed partition walls.

The rooms in the basement – some of which were cells in what formerly comprised a Watch House (Public History Partners 1991, p.12) – have walls of roughly-coursed sandstone rubble, and floors of rough sandstone flagging. The openings to two of the basement rooms contain double-boarded timber doors with large staple bolts. One of these two rooms is separated from an adjacent lobby by a brick wall lined with an assembly of metal bands, bolts and timber lining boards.

Building 3 – the 1840-43 Public Offices

The Public Offices building has three above-ground storeys, bookended by two-storey portions which abut the flanking Buildings 1 and 2. Consequently it has only two external elevations – one with a central breakfront to the south-west, facing the Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden, and the other to the complex’s central courtyard (north-east). Facing Murray Street at the ground floor is a stone portico of four fluted Doric columns. A cranked hallway clad and roofed with painted corrugated steel connects the top-storey’s north-west end to the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7).

The building’s interior retains a high level of integrity with regards to original layout, materials and joinery. Original to the 1840s construction is a timber-framed skylight in the ceiling where the first-floor’s corridor meets the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) (Corney 2017, Building 3 CMP, p.19). At the south-east end of the top-storey corridor is a similar skylight above a light-well to the first storey below, with a wrought iron picket balustrade at the light-well’s edge. Beneath the top-storey corridor’s carpet, the floor is surfaced with sandstone flags (Corney 2017, Building 3 CMP, p.27 & 31; Godden Mackay 1992, p.93).

The central portion of the courtyard (north-east) elevation continues into a below-grade ‘area’, where it contains doors and windows to the basement storey. Three bricked-up openings in the wall that forms the north-east face of this area conceal what Corney (2017, Building 3 CMP, p.8) identifies as original coal storage
spaces. Many layers of peeling wallpaper line the walls of the three north-most of the basement rooms. Among the basement spaces are four windowless store rooms, each accessed by a narrow low doorway containing a pintle-hinged iron door with a heavy bolt. These four rooms have walls of squared sandstone rubble, floors of sandstone flagging, and vaulted ceilings lined with stone.

Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden

Buildings 1, 2 and 3 contain three sides of a rectangular outdoor space with Murray Street along its southwest edge. The present-day layout of this forecourt and garden is the result of an extensive reconstruction in 2001. Available evidence indicates that this layout closely replicates its 1842-45 designs, with the fences and garden plantings a close match for those that were in place at about 1901 (Felton 2004, pp.56-57).

A sandstone-flagged pathway extends from Building 3’s portico to the Murray Street footpath, dividing the forecourt into two equally-sized rectangular areas, each of which contains manicured lawn with a central circular garden bed. The lawns are bordered by sandstone-flagged paths along the two edges alongside the buildings, and by beds of fine gravel along the Murray Street and central pathway edges. Hedges of Buxus sempervirens (English Box) are planted within the Murray Street-facing gravel beds. On either side of the central pathway, the Murray Street boundary is defined by fences comprising large square sandstone pillars with black-painted metal infill panels of curves and scrolls, supported on original sandstone ashlar retaining walls. The two of these pillars which abut each of the central pathway’s sides are also original, and are capped by large cast-iron standard lamps. The other sandstone pillars are 2001 reproductions of c.1901 elements. Low fences of identically-detailed and painted metal panels on continuous sandstone bases flank the sides of the central pathway, and separate it from the adjacent gravel bed and lawn areas. The painted metal infill panels and sandstone paving are period-appropriate elements which were installed in 2001.

Building 4 – the 1858-60 Supreme Court

Located at the complex’s northern corner, this building adjoins the Executive Council Offices (Building 5) to the south-east and the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7) to the south-west. Comprising three storeys above a semi-basement, its two external elevations face Macquarie Street (to the north-west) and Franklin Square (north-east). A mid-1890s stone staircase of two separate flights of steps links the Macquarie Street-facing entrance doors with the footpath below. The semi-basement rooms have window and door openi ngs on only the Franklin Square side. In all storeys, many of the perimeter rooms’ internal walls and finishes have been altered during the Postwar decades of the 20th century, and the integrity of most of these rooms is only fair (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, pp.4 & 24; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.107, 114).

At the centre of the ground-floor storey is the high-ceilinged former courtroom. It contains much of its original finely-detailed timber fixtures and joinery, including extensive dado panelling (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, pp.16 & 18), with a cantilevered timber canopy and a pair of glass-shade sconces on ornate ormolu brackets mounted on the wall above the upholstered back of the judges’ bench area.

Behind the stone balustraded parapets of the two façades, roofs of very low-pitched steel decking cover the Macquarie Street and Franklin Square-facing rooms. These roofs also abut brick parapets which cap the north-east and north-west walls of the courtroom below. The courtroom’s hip-form roof, with a glass-roofed gable lantern at its centre, is situated a full storey below these brick parapets.

Within the basement strong room beneath the courtroom, a central row of cast-iron columns supports the mid-points of five I-beams at the ceiling. These columns and beams are encased in concrete, most likely applied in the 1980s or early 1990s to provide enhanced fire protection. Curved sheets of painted corrugated iron span between the flanges of the beams, supporting the vaulted underside of the concrete above in what appears to be a very early example of a fire-resistant floor-and-ceiling system (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, p.10; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.115, 118).
Building 5 – the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices

This building comprises three storeys above a semi-basement. It abuts the south-east side of the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) and consequently has only three elevations. Its ground floor main entrance is at the mid-point of the Franklin Square (north-east) elevation’s slightly-projecting central portion. This elevation and that of the south-east elevation continue the lines of the adjacent 1858-60 Supreme Court, but with additional elements and much more elaborate detailing. The Executive Council Offices’ main entrance doorway is served by two separate flights of steps, which are flanked by sandstone piers and balustrades.

At the south-east end of the Franklin Square elevation is a two-storey portion of the building which originally contained a private staircase for the use of the incumbent Governor (Corney 2017, Building 5 CMP, p.4; Godden Mackay 1992, p.126). In the angle between the Executive Council Offices’ south-east elevation and the south-west side of the Governors’ former staircase is a two-storey 1935 addition of rendered brick, lightly grooved to simulate ashlar. Originally built to house a Law Library on the ground floor with a large room for typists above, this addition incorporates many Moderne-style features (Godden Mackay 1992, p.126).

The building’s ground and first-floor interiors display a high standard of workmanship – with much of the original fine joinery, finishes and detailing intact – including the central staircase, arches, chimneypieces, fireplaces, timber doorcases, and encaustic and fine-mosaic floor tiles in geometric patterns. Rooms overlooking Franklin Square are generally larger and more decorative than those facing the central courtyard.

At the mid-point of the first floor’s Franklin Square side is the Executive Council Chamber. This fine formal room’s coffered ceiling is higher than any other in the complex. An intricately detailed ten-sconce electric chandelier is suspended from the ceiling’s mid-point. The finishes and decorative scheme in both the basement and the second floor are comparatively simple.

Building 6 – the 1894-95 Deeds Building

This single-storey building’s principal (north-east) elevation faces Franklin Square and features detailing, door and window openings that resemble those of both the adjacent Executive Council Offices (Building 5) and the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4). A flight of stone steps, with sandstone piers and balustrades along its perimeter, ascends from the north-west to a quarter-landing outside the Franklin Square elevation’s central double doors, which are timber and panelled to match the appearance of the adjacent Executive Council Offices’ main entrance doors.

The Deeds Building contains two full-width rooms – at its northeast, an office into which the Franklin Square-facing double doors open; and at its southwest, a larger office which was formerly the strong room (Corney 2017, Building 6 CMP, pp.2 & 7). The central doorway in the wall between these rooms retains two pintle hinges on the strong room side. A doorway in the former strong-room’s south-west wall provides access to the adjoining c.1915-57 Agriculture Building (Building 8). The former strong room’s concrete ceiling features an exposed girder supported by a row of three slender cast iron columns. The two internal window openings in the former strong room’s north-east wall are widely splayed, and like the doorway between them in this wall have remnant iron pintle hinges. The walls on the north-west (laneway-facing) and south-east (Davey Street boundary) long elevations each contain two large windows. Above the heads of these windows are hinged timber panels, behind which are original steel roller-shutters installed for security and fire protection (Corney 2017, Building 6 CMP, pp.7 & 11).

Building 7 – the 1914-16 Public Offices

This building contains four above-ground storeys and a basement. It has two external three-storey elevations: a sandstone public façade of boldly modelled and embellished Classical elements facing Macquarie Street (north-west); and walls of painted brickwork which face the complex’s central courtyard (to the south-east). On its south-west and north-east sides, the Public Offices abuts the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) and 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) respectively. Apart from the top-most storey, the Public Offices’ other internal load-bearing walls are also of brick (Godden Mackay 1992, p.182).
The basement, ground, first and second-floor interiors contain intact original finishes, joinery and detailing including: pressed-metal and coffered ceilings; strongrooms with original steel doors; stairs with timber handrails and decorative cast-iron balusters; and Tuscan-style columns and pilasters in the lobbies (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, pp.9-20; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.189-198). The complex’s only lift also adjoins each storey’s lobby, with the main staircase wrapping around two sides of its timber and glass-panelled enclosure. On each of the side walls of the Macquarie Street entrance hall is a large WWI honour-roll stone tablet upon which names of members of the Tasmanian Public Service who enlisted for Service are inscribed.

The top-most storey of the 1914-16 Public Offices building is a timber-framed structure with walls clad in painted asbestos-cement sheeting. Its domestically-scaled rooms demonstrate their original uses as caretaker’s accommodation and as meeting and exhibition facilities for the Art Society of Tasmania (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, p.3; Godden Mackay 1992, p.182; Ransley 2006). Where not covered by this storey, the roof over the lower sandstone and brick substantive portion of the building is of very low-pitched steel decking. A two-room and hipped-roofed extension to the top-most storey’s Macquarie Street side was added in about the mid-1950s (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, pp.3 & 23; Godden Mackay 1992, p.208).

Building 8 – the c.1915-57 Agriculture Building

The Agriculture Building is of lower-level historic cultural heritage significance compared to the remainder of the complex. It comprises a central two-storey gabled portion flanked by one-storey portions at its north-east (where it adjoins the Deeds Building), south-west (abutting the 1940 HEC Substation, Building 9) and along its north-west elevation (abutting the complex’s central courtyard and laneways). The ground floor areas are connected via a short internal stair flight to the higher adjacent Deeds Building (Building 6).

Its external brick walls are of rendered brickwork painted in a light stone colour, marked out with horizontal grooves which match the spacing and depth of the grooves on the adjacent HEC Substation. A c.1985 entrance lobby with doors and window-walls of aluminium-framed glass faces the central courtyard.

Building 9 – the 1940 HEC Substation building

The single-storey HEC Substation building is on a separate title to the other buildings of the complex. Located at the intersection of Murray and Davey Streets, its walls to those streets meet at a rounded corner. Together with the Substation’s laneway (north-west) elevation, its painted external walls of rendered ‘Cindcrete’ concrete blockwork are marked out with horizontal V-grooves and capped by subtly set-back parapets (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.215-216). The parapets conceal a low-pitched skillion roof. The street-facing walls also feature tall narrow window openings, each comprising twin panels of glass blocks flanking a central vertical masonry mullion. Its north-east elevation abuts the Agriculture Building’s south-west end. The HEC Substation’s electrical equipment and other interior fittings have been modified many times during its decades of operation and have no heritage values.

Central courtyard

Through abutment and interconnection, six of the complex’s buildings combine to form three sides of a central concrete-paved courtyard space. The three and four-storey walls around these sides of the courtyard imbue it with a strong sense of enclosure, and from its south-east end paved narrow laneways extend perpendicularly in opposite directions providing access ways to Murray Street and the carpark area fronting Franklin Square. The courtyard-facing walls of the 1840-43 Public Offices (Building 3), 1884-88 Executive Council Offices (Building 5) and the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7) are well-detailed, with particularly fine and intact stonework and fenestration in both the 1840-43 Public Offices and the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices buildings.

Franklin Square interface

Since the creation of Franklin Square (THR#2333) in the 1860s there has been a strong relationship between it and the Square-facing elevations of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. For many years Franklin Square presented as a forecourt to the buildings of the complex (Franklin Square Master Plan 2014, p.9).
Sandstone balustrading flanks the northeast elevations of Buildings 4, 5 and 6 for most of the distance between Macquarie and Davey Streets, and a grand symmetrical pair of entry stairs gives access to the Executive Council Offices (Building 5). Where the stone balustrade is closest to the complex’s Macquarie Street boundary, there remains one ornate cast iron gatepost and a 1.6-metre wide gate – a vestige of the palisade fence constructed in 1890 which once bounded Franklin Square (Young 2016, p.73). An asphalt-paved open space between the sandstone balustrades and Franklin Square is used for car parking.

Archaeological potential

The land of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is known to have contained buildings and structures since the early 1810s. This place has the potential to contain as yet unidentified features and subsurface deposits that may contribute information relating to its occupation and use during the 19th and early 20th centuries, including the following no longer extant features:

- houses for Lieutenant Campbell and Lieutenant Gunning, shown within the area set aside for George’s Square on the c.1811 plan of Hobart’s proposed road system copied from surveyor James Meehan’s plan;
- other un-mapped houses or huts also known to have been located in this area before they were removed during the early 1810s as part of the preparations for creating the planned George’s Square;
- yards and gardens of the colony’s 1807-58 Government House;
- c.1836 to late 1850s outbuildings and walled courtyards, including shed and constables’ accommodation buildings in the area now forming the complex’s central courtyard. These are recorded as masonry structures in an 1840 survey drawing (TAHO AF394/1/171); in the c.1842 survey map of Hobart, formerly page 75 of surveyor James Sprent’s book (AF394/1/116); and an 1856 Lands and Surveys Department drawing in the ‘Hobart Maps’ series (AF394/1/37);
- twin-gabled single storey building adjoining the south-east corner of the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2) visible in c.1857 photographs of the Murray Street side of the complex, and also recorded on an 1850s Lands and Surveys Department map (AF394/1/36); and
- single storey ‘old store’ demolished to make way for the 1894-95 Deeds Building (Building 6).

Other areas – including spaces within extant buildings’ basements, sub-floor and roof cavity areas – may provide information about the development of the complex that is not available elsewhere. Early materials and floor and wall finishes within the buildings of the complex have high potential to provide information about the complex’s design and use.

Austral Tasmania’s 5 September 2019 Statement of Historical Archaeological Potential & Archaeological Zoning Plan AT0264 (‘SoHAP & AZP’) analyses and identifies the complex’s archaeological research potential and significance. The SoHAP & AZP’s study area is limited to the cadastral boundaries of the 17 and 21 Murray Street land parcels. Apart from this key difference between the SoHAP & AZP’s study area and the registration’s Boundary Plan, the SoHAP & AZP’s History, Assessment, Conclusions and Recommendations sections comprise a complementary reference to this Datasheet.

Building contents / movable heritage:

Many items that were purpose-designed or built for the functions of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings enhance the place’s heritage value including:

- fixtures and other elements of the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) fitout;
- the WWI honour-roll stone memorial tablets in the entrance hall of the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7);
- the freestanding Milners’ Patent Fire Resisting Strong Holdfast Safe in the entry hall of the 1840-43 Public Offices (Building 3);
- the safes built in to fireplace openings in the 1835 Police and Convict Offices (Building 2) and the 1840-43 Public Offices; and
- light fittings e.g. the pair of wall-mounted glass-shade sconces on brackets above the judges’ bench in the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4), and the electric chandelier in the Executive Council Chamber.
Objects of State-level significance within the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings that form part of this registration are listed within this datasheet’s APPENDIX 1, which in turn draws upon A F Colman’s Heritage Asset Register (October 2019).

Features of moderate, low-level or no historic cultural heritage significance

The registered area of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings contains features that are of moderate, low-level or no cultural heritage significance in their own right, although changes to these features may potentially impact the complex’s significant fabric.

Examples of features of moderate to low-level historic cultural heritage significance within the complex include the:

- windows within Building 1’s five ground-floor large arched openings facing Macquarie Street;
- 1916 top-most storey within the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7); and
- c.1915-57 Agriculture Building (Building 8).

Examples of features of no historic cultural heritage significance within the complex include the:

- mid-1950s two-room addition on the Macquarie Street side of Building 7’s top-most storey;
- c.1970s glazed and panelled partitions in Buildings 1 and 2;
- hinged access door, steel roller shutters and fixed louvre panels within the north-west (laneway) elevation of the HEC Substation (Building 9);
- non-1940s interior finishes, fittings, electrical switchgear, transformers, ancillary systems and equipment within the HEC Substation (Building 9);
- c.1985 glazed entrance and c.1992 small addition to the c.1915-57 Agriculture Building (Building 8);
- late 20th-century kitchenette, washroom and toilet fitouts in Buildings 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8; and
- late 20th-century office finishes (suspended ceilings, carpets), fittings and furniture across the complex.

History:

The following history summary draws substantially on Dr David Young’s The Franklin Square Public Buildings Hobart: A history (November 2016).

Hobart’s early settlement

Hobart Town was established at Sullivans Cove in 1804 in the territory of the Mouheneenner clan group of the South East nation (Boyce 2014, pp.30-32; Ryan 2012, pp.39-40) – a year after the first European settlement in Van Diemen’s Land at nearby Risdon Cove. The town initially developed in a haphazard fashion with irregular streets and temporary buildings. From the narrow sandy beach that bordered Sullivans Cove, a steep bank rose to the ridge which later formed the line of Macquarie Street. The area on which the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings now stands was then covered ‘with an impervious growth of the thickest brushwood, surmounted with some of the largest gum trees that this island can produce’ (Public History Partners 1991, p.7)

1811 to the early 1820s – George’s Square and surrounds

In 1811 Governor Lachlan Macquarie made the first of his two visits of inspection to the settlement. Among the general orders that Macquarie issued for the governance of the colony during this visit was one which imposed a grid layout on Hobart Town. The town’s centrepiece was to be George’s Square, named in honour of the reigning monarch King George III, and the north-east, north-west and south-west sides of the trapezoid-shaped Square were to incorporate the new Elizabeth, Macquarie and Murray Streets respectively. Its south-east side was to be roughly parallel with the edge of Sullivan’s Cove and set out in a line linking the Cove-facing side of the existing Government House with the intersection of Murray and Pitt (in the present day, Davey) Streets. Describing George’s Square’s purpose, Macquarie stated:

On the square it is intended at some future period to erect a Church and Court House or Town Hall and a Main Guard. (Public History Partners 1991, p.7)
In the years following Macquarie’s 1811 visit things did not proceed exactly in accordance with his plan. On the site that he had intended for the Court House to the south of what is now Murray Street, the Hobart Town Gaol was instead operational by 1817 (White 2005, p.289). A scaffold for executions by hanging, visible above the top of the gaol’s Murray Street perimeter wall, was erected there in 1825 (Young 2016, p.36).

Within the planned area of George’s Square were at least two small existing buildings, labelled on surveyor James Meehan’s map of Hobart Town’s road system as ‘Lieut. Campbell’ and ‘Lieut. Gunning’. Other unmapped buildings were also located in the area, and in June 1813 compensation was paid to three people for removal of houses or huts from the intended George’s Square (Austral 2019, p.15). No development of the Square itself occurred apart from yards and gardens surrounding Government House – a building which from late 1807 had already occupied the planned Square’s northern end (Somerville 1945, pp.110-114), approximately where in the present-day Elizabeth Street borders the north-east side of Franklin Square (THR#2333). On the site that Macquarie had chosen for a church, St David’s – the precursor to Hobart’s present-day St David’s Cathedral (THR#2517) – was completed c.1820 and later consecrated on 9 February 1823 (Boyce 2012, pp.16,22; ‘St David’s Cathedral Hobart’ website).

The next of Macquarie’s projected buildings to be realised was one to house Van Diemen’s Land’s first Supreme Court – although this courthouse was actually constructed to the east of the intersection of Murray and Macquarie Streets, within the area Macquarie had intended for George’s Square itself.

1823 to 1826 – the first Supreme Court (Building 1)

In late 1823 Lieutenant-Governor William Sorell ordered the construction of a building for the colony’s Supreme Court. Up until this point Van Diemen’s Land had no resident judge, and although civil cases dealing with amounts up to £50 were heard locally in the Lieutenant-Governor’s Court, colonists were often unwilling to spend money prosecuting larger cases in Sydney (Petrow 2005, p.211). The available evidence indicates that the colony’s superintendent of stonemasons, William Hartley Wilson, designed the Supreme Court (the complex’s present-day Building 1) and supervised its initial construction by convict stonemasons. In May 1824 a ceremony to proclaim the Royal Charter for the Supreme Court took place inside the ‘temporarily fitted up’ building (Young 2016, p.33). Recent immigrant David Lambe then supervised the completion of the courthouse following his June 1824 appointment as colonial architect by Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur.

The building’s north-east elevation featured squat circular corner towers, and the upper-storey windows of these towers and other external walls had four-centred arches, giving the courthouse a slightly Gothic appearance. A fence separated the building and its curtilage from Government House’s gardens further to the north-east. Although the Supreme Court’s first sitting at the purpose-built courthouse was on 12 September 1825, convict carpenters and plasterers continued ‘roofing and finishing’ works there up until December 1826 (Young 2016, p.34). The construction and use of the courthouse were closely followed by the 3 December 1825 proclamation of Van Diemen’s Land – up until this time still administratively a territory of New South Wales – as a separate colony with its own judicial establishment and Legislative Council. The Supreme Court dealt with both civil and criminal matters in this building until 1860.

The proximity of the Hobart Town Gaol, sited directly across Murray Street and opposite the front door of the courthouse until the mid-1850s, has supported a persistent belief that the two buildings were linked by an underground tunnel through which convicted felons could travel with no possibility of escape. However, no physical or documentary evidence has been found to support the existence of such a tunnel (Macfie 2008, pp.48,51; ABC News ‘Curious Hobart’ website).

Mid- to late-1830s – the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2)

The regime within which Lieutenant-Governor Arthur disciplined the convict population of Van Diemen’s Land needed a well-accommodated police force to complement the colony’s Supreme Court. In the latter part of 1835, a new building for the Police and Convict Offices (the present-day Building 2) was completed at the intersection of Davey and Murray Streets. Of similar size to the 1824-26 courthouse, this building included cells and a watch house. It was designed by John Lee Archer, who had arrived in the colony from Ireland in August 1827 to take up the position of Civil Engineer and Colonial Architect. Soon afterwards Archer also supervised alterations and additions to the Supreme Court building, including a two-storey extension to its eastern corner and removal of the boundary fence between the courthouse and the garden of Government House to the north. This in turn allowed the construction of constables’ barracks, sheds and
a privy building in a newly created walled courtyard area to the north-east and south-east of the Police and Convict Offices. These works commenced in the first half of 1836, and appear to have been completed by 1837. Some years later and prior to 1848 an Archer-designed stone portico was added to the Murray Street façade of the 1824-26 Supreme Court building, and in 1855 the external stairs to the stone portico of the Police and Convict Offices’ were modified to their present-day form.

The Police and Convict Offices became the administrative centre of the colony’s assigned convict labour system. In 1844 additional office space was allocated within it for the increasing numbers of staff required to administer the convict probation system, which had replaced the assignment system from 1840 (Young 2016, p.57). Together with the Supreme Court (Building 1), the Hobart Town Gaol on the opposite side of Murray Street, and St David’s Church on Macquarie Street, the Police and Convict Offices building would have made a strong impression in the convict town. This precinct now contained Hobart Town’s places of convict administration, arrest, justice, and punishment, all overseen by the expanding Government House and the colony’s first Anglican church – an emphatic summation of Van Diemen’s Land’s governance.

Late 1830s to mid-1840s – the first ‘Public Offices’ (Building 3)
John Lee Archer’s 1835 drawings for the courthouse additions and alterations had also shown a schematic outline of ‘proposed future additions’ which if built would link the Supreme Court and Police and Convict Offices buildings. Shortly after its inception in 1839, the colony’s newly-created Department of Public Works further developed Archer’s plan. Although signed by the Department’s head Alexander Cheyne, the available evidence indicates the Public Works design drawings were by former convict James Blackburn, a talented architect who had since 1833 worked in the Department of Roads and Bridges with Cheyne.

The resulting Public Offices (Building 3) constructed c.1840-43 provided new accommodation for a number of Government functions which had up to that point been based in rented premises scattered across Hobart Town. Records indicate that a lack of convict joiners at the time led to the successful tenderers instead using ticket-of-leave holders to complete the interiors (Young 2016, p.50). A total of six separate Government departments moved into the Public Offices building in 1843. The branches of the Colonial Treasurer’s Department (‘Treasury Branch’ and ‘Internal Revenue Branch’) were two of the six – the other four departments were those of the Colonial Auditor, the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Storekeeper (whose offices were located on the building’s first floor), and the Public Works Department (on the second floor). At this time, the colony’s Court of Requests – empowered to deal with civil cases, mainly the recovery of debts up to £10 – occupied the upper floor of the Supreme Court building.

In 1842 the architect William Porden Kay was appointed director of public works in Van Diemen’s Land. One of the first designs to appear over his signature was one dated 1842 for the forecourt of the new Public Offices building between the Supreme Court (Building 1) and the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2). In 1845 the Public Works Department produced and then implemented a more detailed plan for this forecourt. The completed forecourt can be clearly seen in an 1848 daguerreotype – one of the earliest streetscape photographs taken in Australia – looking obliquely across Murray Street at the three buildings.

Mid-1840s to mid-1850s – the Macquarie Street ‘fireproof building’, and the Murray Street ‘Watch-House’
During the ten years between 1846 to 1856, the only major development at the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings was the construction from November 1852 of a new ‘fireproof building’ wing facing Macquarie Street, abutting the north-eastern elevation of the 1824-26 court house. Completed in July 1856, there was an entrance from the street at each end of this wing, with a balustrade fence between flights of steps linking the footpath and these entrances. Offices of the Lands Titles Department occupied this building, and records indicate that it was initially used for the storage of land titles (Young 2016, p.74).

Three photographs each dated c.1857 (‘Murray Street Hobart’ Archives Office of Tasmania item number NS87/1/3, ‘Hobart Town from tower of St. David’s Cathedral, 1857’ TAHO Record ID SD_ILS:684270 and item 45 in Charles Abbott’s ‘Album of views’ TAHO Record ID SD_ILS:134625) show a single-storey twin-gabled building abutting the south-east elevation of the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2). This hitherto unidentified building is sited on the area occupied by the present-day laneway, adjacent HEC Substation (Building 9) and the upper lanes of Davey Street – and its Murray Street-facing wall is aligned with that of the abutting Police and Convict Offices. An 1850s Lands and Surveys Department map (AF394/1/36) depicts an existing ‘Watch-House’ building in this location, showing an approximately 48 by 7 metre portion of its
footprint within the then-planned road reserve for Davey Street. At the time of preparing this Registration in 2019 no other records of this building have been found, and further research may uncover information regarding the building’s purpose and the dates of its construction and demolition.

Mid-1850s to mid-1860s – neighbouring land

The Hobart Town Gaol on the opposite side of Murray Street was vacated and dismantled in the mid-1850s (White 2005, p.289). With the new Government House at Pavilion Point habitable and Tasmania’s new Governor Sir Henry Fox Young residing there from 1857, work began on clearing away the redundant Government House to the immediate north-east of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. Demolition took from 1858 to c1860, although its ballroom was retained for community events until c.1864.

Much of the old Government House’s former grounds were used for street development, Hobart Town’s Town Hall, and the creation of a new public park to commemorate the colony’s former Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Franklin. The new park was landscaped, with large gum trees removed to allow ornamental plantings, and renamed Franklin Square (THR#2333) with a central statue of Franklin installed in early 1865.

Another important city-building project which significantly affected the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings in the 1860s was not carried out on its buildings, but alongside them. This was the north-eastward extension of Davey Street, which until 1862 had terminated at Murray Street. This extension would have required the demolition of the 1836-37 shed and privy buildings associated with the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2), and may have had other impacts in this area of the complex.

These construction projects were part of a broader development programme, extending over several years, which transformed Hobart Town as self-government began. In 1855 the colony received permission to change its name from Van Diemen’s Land to Tasmania, and its newly elected bicameral parliament sat for the first time in 1856.

Late 1850s to 1860 – the second Supreme Court (Building 4)

The remaining part of the former grounds of old Government House, to Franklin Square’s immediate south-west, was retained for the expansion of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. 1858 saw construction commence on a design by William Porden Kay for a Supreme Court building that would supersede the 1824-26 courthouse (Building 1). The contractor who won the tendering process was Frederick Thomas, a former convict (Young 2016, p.64).

Abutting the north-east elevation of the 1852-56 fireproof building wing in Macquarie Street, Kay’s Supreme Court building comprised two storeys above a semi-basement. With facades to Macquarie Street and to the developing Franklin Square, the building included a double-height court room, flanked by public and jury rooms, and office spaces for the court Registrar. The semi-basement included strong rooms, and also accommodation for a resident caretaker. The courthouse’s original entry stairs on Macquarie Street linked a wide landing outside the main vestibule to the footpath via a linked pair of L-shaped flights.

In 1860 further north in Hobart Town at the junction of Brisbane and Campbell Streets a part of the Holy Trinity Church, at the time of writing in 2019 known as the Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts Complex (THR#2208), was converted to house the criminal court operations of the Supreme Court. Kay’s new building in Macquarie Street was used solely for the Supreme Court’s civil cases, commencing hearings on 2 February 1860 (Young 2016, p.68).

A c.1862 Public Works Department plan of the ‘Public Offices’ – the present-day Treasury Complex and Public Buildings – shows outbuildings and structures arranged along the Franklin Square side, to the immediate south-east of the new Supreme Court building. Two iron fenced ‘Grass Plot’ areas flanked an entrance-way which led from Franklin Square to a yard, surrounded by the buildings and structures which included two sheds, stables for the Governor’s and judges’ horses, and sets of privies (TAHO PWD266/1/614).

1860s to 1870s – the Post Office, and other changes to occupancy and context

Around 1860 there were a number of changes to the occupancy of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. In 1859 the Police and Gaols Department moved out of the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2) to new purpose-built premises at the intersection of Bathurst and Campbell Streets. In 1862 the Colonial Treasurer’s Department moved from the central Public Offices (Building 3) to the former Police and Convict Offices. The
department’s relationship with the latter building was formalised in c.1865 when the word ‘TREASURY’ was incised into its portico’s entablature.

William Porden Kay’s final project before he retired in 1858 was preparing the design for converting the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) to accommodate Hobart Town’s general post office. This involved dismantling and rebuilding the external walls and roof, and a new wall incorporating a ground-floor colonnade and grand entrance steps along the former courthouse’s Macquarie Street side. Other exterior work done at this time included lengthening the Murray Street portico and altering the arched heads of the upper-storey windows to horizontal lintels. The new post office opened on 24 April 1862. Also that year the adjacent 1852-56 fireproof building was adapted to fit it out for use by the Recorder of Titles following the passage of the Real Property Act, a land tenure system advocated for by the South Australian politician Robert Richard Torrens. Tasmania’s Real Property Act radically altered the system by which property in the colony was bought, sold and owned (Nichols 2012, p.398).

Early to late 1880s — the Executive Council Offices (Building 5)

In late 1884 construction began on a new building of three-storeys with semi-basement, facing Franklin Square and adjoining the southeast elevation of the second Supreme Court. This ‘Executive Building’ (as it was commonly called at the time) was designed by William Waters Eldridge, the Tasmanian Government Architect from 1879 to 1892, and was completed in October 1888. Constructed some 30 years after the beginning of self-government in the colony, of all of the buildings within the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings the Executive Council Offices was most closely related to political government of the State rather than its administration system. The Executive Council, first established in 1825, had changed in composition following self-government in 1856 and now comprised the State’s cabinet ministers presided over by the Governor (Petrow 2005, p.211; Wettenhall 2005, p.292).

The building’s ground and middle storeys initially contained offices for Tasmania’s Attorney-General, both the Chief Justice and the Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Registrar, clerks and other officials of the Law Department, and rooms for the Executive Council, Governor and the Governor’s Aide-de-Camp. The top storey housed the Board of Education, and the semi-basement a row of strong-rooms and new accommodation for a resident caretaker. A recessed two-storey portion at the building’s south-east contained the Governor’s private entrance and staircase, providing visual balance with the two-storeyed Supreme Court (Building 4) to the north-west. The new Executive Building was originally connected across the complex’s internal courtyard to the 1843 Public Offices by a two-storey covered way (Godden Mackay 1992, p.124), which was later demolished.

Among administrative and judicial officials who were associated with the complex, Andrew Inglis Clark (1848–1907) stands out as particularly noteworthy. Twice Attorney-General in the late nineteenth century, and then for the nine years up until 1907 a judge of the Supreme Court, Clark worked in the Executive Council Offices and adjacent 1860 courthouse buildings across a period of more than two decades. In 1896 at his fourth attempt he succeeded in amending the Electoral Act to grant universal male suffrage and also trial a new vote-counting system in Hobart and Launceston. Clark’s system of proportional representation has been used throughout Tasmania for State elections since 1909, and is still known as the ‘Hare–Clark’ system in acknowledgement of his work on its organising principles (ABC News ‘Tasmanian Election 2014’ website). Involved in the foundation of the University of Tasmania in 1890, Clark was later its Vice Chancellor from June 1901 to July 1903. He was also a singularly important contributor to the drafting of the Australian Constitution (Reynolds 1969).

1890s to c.1900 — Deeds Building (Building 6) and events leading up to Federation

A new phase of building, which began in 1893, was prompted by the Government’s need to keep abreast with rapidly evolving technology used in the safe storage of land titles. To the south-east of the Executive Council Offices (Building 5), an ‘old store’ was demolished to make way for a new building to contain the Registry of Deeds alongside Davey Street (Godden Mackay 1992, p.172). Of fire-resistant construction with stone-flagged floors, this new Deeds Building (Building 6) was designed by William Waters Eldridge. Its elevations combine stylistic elements of both the Executive Council Offices and 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4). Construction of the Deeds Building began in 1894 and the available evidence indicates that that it was completed and in use by mid-1895. At about the same time and also beside Davey Street, an
outbuilding containing a row of men’s urinals and toilets was built close to the south-west face of the Deeds Building.

The construction of the Deeds Building freed up the 1852-56 ‘fireproof building’ which until this time had been used to store land titles documents, and in turn allowed that building’s lower storey to be better integrated with the post office, allowing more efficient organisation within the available space. Following this in the mid-1890s, Hobart’s telegraph office and telephone exchange were moved into the fireproof building’s upper storey. At the same time, the Macquarie Street steps leading into the Supreme Court (Building 4) were altered to their present-day configuration (Young 2016, pp.73, 76).

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings was the venue for events leading up to and associated with Federation in 1901. Meetings of Colonial Premiers took place here in 1895 and 1897, enabling the final phase of the processes leading to Federation to begin. The proclamation of the new Commonwealth of Australia and the swearing in of Chief Justice Sir John Stokell Dodds as Administrator of the Government of Tasmania, which was integral to the transformation of the Colony of Tasmania into the State of Tasmania, took place on the Macquarie Street steps of the Supreme Court (Building 4) at noon on 1 January 1901 (Pearson et al 1999, pp.88, 89; The Mercury 2 January 1901, p.3).

Early 20th century to mid-1910s – the second Public Offices (Building 7) and associated works

In 1905, the post office vacated the former 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) to move to Hobart’s newly-constructed General Post Office (THR#165) at the northern corner of Macquarie and Elizabeth Streets. After the post office’s departure, the former courthouse’s interiors were extensively altered to accommodate the Taxes Office and the government-owned State Savings Bank (formerly the Tasmanian Post Office Savings Bank) until the latter was amalgamated with the newly-established Commonwealth Bank in 1913 (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.18,32).

By the end of December 1914 the Tasmanian Government Tourist and Information Bureau moved into the space in the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) that had formerly been occupied by the State Savings Bank. The Tourist Bureau aimed to promote Tasmania as a destination, and its work heralded the beginning of significant government involvement in tourism promotion (Walker 2005, p.365). Changes made to the building to accommodate the Tourist Bureau included infilling the arches of its Macquarie Street arcade with large new windows and incorporating the area of that former arcade into the ground floor.

The 1914-16 construction of a third-storey addition to William Porden Kay’s 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) – designed by Douglas George Salier, principal architect of private architectural practice Salier & Edwards – was a faithful continuation of Kay’s original design. This involved removing the building’s existing cornice and parapets and then re-setting them at the higher level. The Supreme Court re-opened on 22 August 1916.

At this time Salier also designed a new building, the four-storey-plus-basement Public Offices (Building 7). Sited between the 1824-26 and the 1858-60 Supreme Court buildings, it was intended to serve as the complex’s major public entrance from Macquarie Street. The 1914-16 Public Offices’ design required that the 1852-56 two-storey fireproof building be completely demolished, and that building’s sandstone ashlars were reused in two new storeys of toilets and strong rooms added in 1914 to the north-east end of the 1835 former Police and Convict Offices (Building 2). Commencing in 1914, construction of the new Public Offices also necessitated hidden work such as underpinning of the north-east wall of the 1824-26 Court House prior to the excavation and construction of the new building’s basement. In August 1915 when the Public Offices building was nearing completion Salier was asked to add an additional storey to accommodate a meeting room and exhibition space for the Art Society of Tasmania and a separate caretaker’s flat, and these were constructed shortly afterwards. The 1914-16 Public Offices building’s office spaces were initially occupied by the Agricultural Bank of Tasmania, the Supreme Court’s library, the Public Service Board and the Education Department (Godden Mackay 1992, p.182).

The Agriculture Building (Building 8) and adjacent HEC Substation (Building 9)

Following the 1914 establishment of the Tasmanian Hydro-Electric Department (known from 1929 as the Hydro-Electric Commission, ‘HEC’ or simply ‘The Hydro’), an electrical substation was built in 1916 at the northern corner of Murray and Davey Streets. In 1940, because of increased electrical demand in Hobart this was replaced by a larger freestanding substation (Building 9) of concrete and ‘Cindcrete’ blockwork
(Godden Mackay 1992, p.215). Press releases at the time described its ‘synthetic sandstone’ exterior finish, intended to harmonise with its context, including the Government Offices (THR#2286 ‘Department of Health and Community Services Offices’) building on the diagonally-opposite corner of the intersection (Mercury, 6 January 1940, p.4). The 1940 substation’s Moderne-styled design, like that of other HEC buildings constructed around this time, was an expression of the progressive nature of hydro-electric power generation. The available evidence indicates that this building was designed by architect Arthur Voss during the time he was working in the HEC’s Design and Drawing Office while Bert Dechaineux was that office’s Architect-in-Charge (Blythe 1996, p.104). Voss appears to have had a position at the HEC since at least 1936, and he went on to work there as ‘Acting Architect and House Engineer’ from 1942, ‘Supervising Architect’ from 1949, and then in the retitled role of ‘Chief Architect’ from 1969 to 1977 (Felton 2008, pp.437,490). In addition to setting up the HEC’s architectural section in the early 1940s, during his working life Arthur Voss was also a lecturer in architecture and a member of the Advisory Committee on Architecture at Hobart Technical College, a councillor and a Fellow of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, a chairman of the Board of Architectural Education of the Institute’s Tasmanian Chapter, and a member of the State Advisory Committee on Architecture (Mercury, 1 Feb 1947, p.3). As is the case for other distribution substation buildings within urban areas in Tasmania, during its operational life this HEC Substation building has housed high and low-voltage switchgear, transformers and ancillary systems (pers comm, Gina Goodman).

In c.1915 a two-storey brick building constructed for the Department of Agriculture replaced the toilet outbuilding to the south-west of the 1894 Deeds Building (Building 6) on Davey Street. This new two-storey building appears on the Metropolitan Drainage Board’s 1916 plans of Hobart, but details regarding its designer are currently not known. What has come to be called the ‘Agriculture Building’ (Building 8) was progressively extended in length and width to fill the space between the substation and the Deeds Building. Construction work to it that was completed in 1957 to provide expanded facilities for the Deeds Office staff included the application of sandstone-coloured render with horizontal V-grooves to match those on the abutting HEC Substation (Corney 2017, Building 8 CMP, pp.2, 3).

Other additions and alterations prior to WWII

Following a 1925 Inspector of Public Buildings report on the Executive Council Offices (Building 5) which noted that the stairs inside the Governor’s private entrance were very seldom used, the internal staircase was removed and two new offices created in the space it formerly occupied (Public History Partners 1991, p.61; Godden Mackay 1992, p.126).

Between 1927 and 1935 two separate external two-storey cement-rendered additions were made to the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings – in 1927 (the lower storey) and 1931 (upper storey), a small addition on the courtyard side of the 1840-43 Public Offices (Building 3); and in 1935 an addition to the southernmost corner of the Executive Council Offices (Building 5) to accommodate the Law Library. The available evidence indicates that the addition for the Law Library was designed by architect Sydney Wallace Thomas Blythe (1905–1985) – architect, town planner, and Tasmania’s finest exponent of the Moderne architectural style – who was the chief designer within the Tasmanian Department of Public Works from 1934 until 1949 (McNeill, ADB online; Corney 2017, Franklin Square Offices CMP, p.6).

Post-War decades of the twentieth century into the twenty first

During the second half of the 20th century there were many changes to the occupancy and uses of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. These changes were accompanied by several campaigns of internal alterations, none of which substantially or significantly altered the public elevations of any of the buildings. In about the mid-1950s a two-room addition was built on the Macquarie Street side of the 1914-16 Public Offices’ top storey (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, pp.3 & 23; Godden Mackay 1992, p.208).

The second half of the 20th century saw the buildings in the complex incrementally taken over by the Treasury Department. In 1970 the Audit Department moved out of the former Police and Convict Offices
(Building 2), and in 1975 the Tourist Bureau moved from the upper storey of the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) to a new building in a separate location. Following the opening in 1980 of Tasmania’s current Supreme Court complex at Salamanca Place, the civil court operations based in the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) at the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings transferred to the Salamanca Place buildings. Following this move, the court facilities centred in Building 4 were converted to operate as a Magistrates Court, which in turn became redundant following the opening in 1997 of the Hobart Magistrates Courts building at the corner of Liverpool and Campbell Streets.

By 1990 the Department of Treasury and Finance occupied the rooms on all floors of the buildings that face Murray Street. In 1995, Treasury moved into the second floors of both the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) and 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7), and in 2000 was allocated the remaining floors and the basements in both of these buildings. When in 2004 the Department of Treasury and Finance expanded into the Deeds Building (Building 6) and part of the ground floor of the Executive Council Offices (Building 5), almost all of the complex was accommodating the department’s staff – with the exception of half of the ground floor and all of the first floor of the Executive Council Offices (Building 5), which were being used as ministerial offices and meeting rooms. In 2019 when this entry was developed the department’s presence within the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings remains essentially the same, although the ministers’ offices had all moved to the recently completed Parliament Square complex.

Comparative Analysis:

Government Departmental and Institutional Buildings

The buildings of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings formed the centre of civil administration in Van Diemen’s Land and later Tasmania, with a focus on the functions of justice, finance and land administration. They are fine representative examples of buildings constructed to house government departments and institutions in Australia in the 19th and early 20th centuries (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.8,225-227). Mostly designed by colonial or government architects, buildings such as these were intended to convey the power and authority of the state and enable the centralised administration and development of core government functions. Long associated with secular power, the preferred architectural style for these types of buildings was Classical and from the Victorian period onwards more particularly Renaissance Revival. Characteristic elements – including porticos, porches, grand colonnades and processional steps – became closely associated with the promotion of the concepts of Government authority, solidity, strength and permanence (Willis 2012, pp.288, 289).

Comparative examples of 19th-century Government administrative buildings, albeit of more modest design, exist in Hobart, Launceston and regional centres such as Strahan. The Government Building (THR#4550) in Launceston, completed in 1861, housed various agencies including the Survey, Sheriff’s and Registrar’s Offices, and the Post Office and Electric Telegraph (Godden Mackay 1998, p.12).

The Customs House and Post Office (THR#5648) at Strahan was constructed in 1899-1900 and originally contained the Post and Telegraph Office, the Customs House, the Marine Board, the Town Board and the Bonding Warehouse (Kays 2013, pp.30-32). The two-storey building still houses the local post office, and also the local Field Centre for the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service.

Most of the buildings within Tasmania’s Treasury Complex and Public Buildings were not purpose-built for the functions of the Treasurer’s Department but were instead gradually occupied by that department as it grew, reflecting the increasing size and complexity of the State’s economy. This differs from the situation in other capital cities in colonial Australia where complexes to accommodate government Treasury and Finance departments were built as multiple-stage projects that commenced during the 19th century and continued into the early 20th century. Principal examples were located in Sydney (1849-1919), Melbourne (1858-1876), Adelaide (1839-1907), Perth (1874-1904) and Brisbane (1886-1928). For the most part, these complexes
were originally designed by colonial and government architects. In each of those five cities, these buildings have since been repurposed in a variety of ways.

**Supreme Court buildings**

The Supreme Courtroom and associated rooms are rare examples within Tasmania. Purpose-built or reconfigured courthouses or courtrooms were located in Hobart, Launceston and a variety of regional centres. Many of those in regional centres were relatively modest and built primarily to house sessions of the Magistrates Court, although they could also be used for sessions of the Supreme Court when necessary. Often they were built adjacent to a town’s watch-house or police station. In the development of towns and cities, the courthouse provided a representation of law and order and an enduring presence of colonial governance (King 2012, p.177). Currently in Tasmania the Supreme Court is housed in purpose-built buildings at Salamanca Place, but also sits at the Launceston Supreme Court and Struan House (THR#3943) buildings and at the Burnie Supreme & Magisterial Courts (‘Supreme Court of Tasmania’ website: Buildings, Contacts and History pages).

A direct contemporary of the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) within the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings was the Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts Complex (THR#2208) in Hobart. Its original chapel was completed in 1831 to a John Lee Archer design featuring three wings with stepped floors radiating from a space containing the pulpit and communion table, with a tower added in 1834. In 1859-60 two of these wings were converted to courtrooms, with the remaining wing remaining as a prison chapel with some other spaces, including cells. The criminal jurisdiction of the Supreme Court operated in this complex from 1860 until it was transferred to the State’s new Supreme Court buildings, which opened in 1975 (the ‘Stage One’ criminal courts) and 1980 (‘Stage Two’ civil courts) at Salamanca Place. Magistrates of Tasmania’s lower courts continued to sit in the Penitentiary Chapel and Criminal Courts Complex until 1983 (Ratcliff 2015, pp.1533,1534; Hobart Supreme Court CMP Vol.1 2012, pp.2:29,2:30,2:46).

**Fire-resistant Construction**

The ceiling of the large basement strongroom within the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) is of curved sheets of painted corrugated iron, which support concrete vaults and form what appears to be a very early example of a fire-resistant ceiling system (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, p.10; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.115, 118). As Miles Lewis (in ‘Structural Corrugation’, pp.8.05.1 & 2) notes, the use of arched corrugated iron in such systems was uncommon in Australia before the 1870s, with its earliest identified use – spanning between inverted T-joists, and supporting ‘a limey concrete screeded over to a finished floor surface’ – forming parts of the flooring at the 1858-62 Old Treasury Building (within VHR H1526) at 20 Spring Street, Melbourne.

The purpose-built 1894-95 Deeds Building (Building 6) is unique in Tasmania, although similar buildings incorporating fire-resistant construction technologies were constructed in other State capitals. On Queen Street in Melbourne for example, the 1874-89 Land Titles Office (VHR H1529) and adjacent 1900-04 Records Office (VHR H1528) are located near law courts buildings in the city centre, illustrating the inter-relationship of these entities and demonstrating the importance of record-keeping in carrying out the functions of government.

**HEC Substation**

The 1940 HEC Substation (Building 9) is a fine example of this particular class of structure. Originally constructed as components of Tasmania’s electricity distribution network during the 20th century’s middle decades, substations such as these were purpose-designed and built for specific locations, often incorporating style characteristics that kept pace with current architectural trends. Other mid-20th century examples of small electrical substation buildings commissioned by the HEC within inner Hobart are located at 28 Barrack Street, 12 Evans Street, 187 Elizabeth Street, 277 Macquarie Street, and 2 Edward Street in Glebe.
REFERENCES


Boyce, Peter (2012), God and The City: A History of St David’s Cathedral Hobart, St David’s Cathedral Foundation Ltd: Hobart.


Felton, Heather (2004), From Commissariat to Treasury: The Story of the Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance 1804 to 2004, Department of Treasury and Finance: Hobart.

Felton, Heather (2008), Ticklebelly tales and other stories from the people of the Hydro, Hydro Tasmania: Hobart.

Franklin Square Master Plan – Final (May 2014), Hobart City Council.


Goodman, Gina: Land Use Planner, Strategic Asset Management, TasNetworks. Personal communication, January 2019.

Heritage Asset Register for The Treasury Building, Hobart, A F Colman, (October 2019).

The Heritage of Tasmania: The Illustrated Register of the National Estate (1983), The Macmillan Company of Australia in association with the Australian Heritage Commission.


Hudspeth, Audrey (1987), Sullivans Cove historical research: Audrey Hudspeth and Lindy Scripps, Sullivans Cove Development Authority in conjunction with the Corporation of the City of Hobart.

‘inHerit’ website of the Western Australia State Heritage Office, viewed in November 2018:

- Central Government Offices page, via http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/b7a8e0b2-316e-4a96-8d63-c0523c236bc2 and that page’s ‘Assessment Documentation’ tab via http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/eb0c5579-e922-ab18-9b6a-1f58c94189ac


Macfie, Peter (2008), The world beneath the city: underground Hobart, Hobart City Council.


Public History Partners (Lindy Scripps and Audrey Hudspeth) (November 1991), The Franklin Square Offices Archival Investigation: a Report for the Department of Construction.


Sharland, Michael (1952), Stones of a Century, Oldham, Beddome & Meredith: Hobart.
‘St David’s Cathedral Hobart’ website: An overview of the history of St David’s Cathedral page, viewed 30 July 2018, via http://saintdavids.org.au/past-present/history/

‘Supreme Court of Tasmania’ website: Buildings page, viewed 1 August 2018, via https://www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au/about_us/history/buildings


Victorian Heritage Database (‘VHD’) website, viewed December 2018:


[66-page report within Graeme Corney’s 23 Feb 2017 Franklin Square Offices, Hobart: Conservation Management Plan]

ASSESSED HISTORIC CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Significance:
The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings has been at the centre of Tasmania’s judicial, political and administrative life from 1824 until the present day. During the colonial era the buildings facilitated the centralised administration of core government functions within the convict society of Van Diemen’s Land, and conveyed an impression of state power and authority.

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is of historic cultural heritage significance for its unique combination of historical and architectural attributes within the context of Tasmania. The complex is a particularly fine and highly intact example of a group of 19th and early 20th century government buildings in the State-wide context. The buildings within the complex, unified by strong Classical style characteristics, showcase key variations of this architectural style across the decades within which they were constructed.

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings together with portions of adjacent public footpath areas has potential to yield place-specific information of high archaeological value which would contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania’s history. The 1835 Police and Convict Offices, with the outbuildings and walled yards which formerly flanked it, were the central workplace of the increasing numbers of staff employed in the detailed administration of the convict bureaucracy up until the end of the probation system in 1856. The complex and surrounding areas also have the potential to contain subsurface archaeological features and deposits that could provide information on the early colonial-era small huts and houses – and portion of the garden and grounds of the colony’s 1807–58 Government House – which formerly occupied this area.
The ceiling of the large strong room in the 1858-60 Supreme Court’s basement is one of the earliest identified examples of its fire-resistant construction technique anywhere in Australia, and is distinctive as a technical achievement in Tasmania for its time.

From the first decades of its existence, the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings has been the place of work of Supreme Court judges and government Treasurers. Since the later decades of the 19th century the complex has been strongly associated with the work and achievements of Tasmania’s Governors, Premiers and notable State cabinet ministers. The complex is strongly associated with some of Tasmania’s most talented and accomplished Colonial and Government Architects, and the buildings provide evidence of the important role played by the Public Works Department in the provision of public infrastructure in Tasmania.

While not subject to a formal assessment of social significance, there are indications that the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is significant to the Tasmanian community as an enduring landmark within central Hobart. Prominent views of it can be perceived within Hobart from several vantage-points along public roads and in Franklin Square. The complex possesses distinctive compositional qualities, with its attractive scale, massing, materials and detail all recognised as important to Tasmania and to many Tasmanians.

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) **“The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania’s history”**

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is of exceptional historic cultural heritage significance as it has been at the centre of Tasmania’s judicial, political and administrative life from 1824 until the present day. During the colonial era the buildings facilitated the centralised administration of core government functions within the convict society of Van Diemen’s Land and conveyed an impression of state power and authority. They demonstrate the evolution of governance in Tasmania through its connections with the roles played by the Supreme Court, Deeds Storage, the Land Titles System, the Post Office, and with the work of Governors and cabinet ministers – particularly Treasurers and Attorney Generals – both separately to, and as part of, the Executive Council.

The Complex is associated with many historically-important administrative, legal and political processes and functions in Tasmania’s history. It demonstrates civil infrastructure and key Government administration responses from the proclamation in 1825 of Van Diemen’s Land as a colony separate from New South Wales, through the commencement of responsible self-government in 1856, and Tasmania’s transition in 1901 to a State in the Federation of Australia. In all of these phases a Supreme Court and an Executive Council were crucial requirements.

The 1835 Police and Convict Offices (Building 2) of the complex accommodated the early colony’s administration of its convict labour system. Although much modified, the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) is one of the oldest remaining buildings associated with the colony’s administrative functions.

b) **“The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania’s history”**

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is of historic cultural heritage significance for its unique combination of historical and architectural attributes within the context of Tasmania. The complex’s particularly uncommon attributes include the layout and furnishings of the rare and notable courtroom within the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4); the 1894-95 Deeds Building (Building 6)’s stand-alone configuration and purpose-built strong room for the storage of irreplaceable records and paperwork; and the meeting room and offices for Tasmania’s Executive Council in the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices (Building 5)’s principal storey.

c) **“The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania’s history”**
The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings has the potential to include built evidence, subsurface archaeological features and deposits that could provide place-specific information of high archaeological value which would contribute to a greater understanding of Tasmania’s history. This includes information on the early 19th century occupation and uses of this place, including early colonial-era small huts and houses, a portion of the garden and grounds of the colony’s 1807–58 Government House, as well as past phases of construction and use of the complex’s post-1824 buildings. Ceiling and floor spaces, cell and vault spaces in the buildings’ basements, and subsurface evidence such as may be present in the Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden are of particular interest. Subsurface remains in the central courtyard and laneways have potential to yield information relating to the 1835 Police and Convict Offices – and the outbuildings and walled yards which formerly flanked it – which was the workplace of staff employed in the administration of the convict bureaucracy up until the end of the probation system in 1856.

d) “The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania’s history”

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is a particularly fine and highly intact example of a group of 19th and early 20th century government buildings in the State-wide context. The buildings within the complex are unified by Classical style characteristics, showcasing key variations of these across the decades within which they were constructed. In addition to the contribution made by the complex and its highly-intact individual buildings to the surrounding city, the integrated stylistic approaches of the buildings’ designs also inform their interior spaces, especially those of the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices (Building 5) and the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7).

The courtroom within the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) is a particularly intact Tasmanian example of its class of place and demonstrates its historically important function. The 1894-95 Deeds Building (Building 6) also demonstrates a range of characteristics that are typical of a late-Victorian fire-resistant repository, a class of place represented in the Records and Land Titles Office buildings of Australia’s other former colonial capital cities.

The exteriors of the 1940 HEC Substation (Building 9) at the corner of Murray and Davey Streets are a particularly fine and intact example of the small buildings constructed by the HEC in urban areas of Tasmania to house electricity distribution equipment, which in the case of this particular building remain largely unchanged since the substation was commissioned.

e) “The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement”

The large strong room in the basement of the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) within the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings provides evidence of fire-resistant construction which was uncommon and unusual for its time. The available evidence indicates that this is one of the earliest identified examples of this construction technique anywhere in Australia, contemporary with an equivalent 1858–62 installation at the Old Treasury Building in Spring Street, Melbourne.

f) “The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons”

Acknowledged for its importance to the community as a prominent built feature within Tasmania, the landmark qualities attributed by many Tasmanians to the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings are more fully recognised under Criterion H.

g) “The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania’s history”
The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is of historic cultural heritage significance to Tasmania as a place where government and judicial functions were based and strongly influenced its history. From the first decades of its existence, buildings in the complex have been the place of work of Supreme Court judges and government officials. Since the later decades of the 19th century the complex has been strongly associated with the work and achievements of Tasmania’s Governors, Premiers and more notable State cabinet ministers. Andrew Inglis Clark, Attorney-General for two separate terms and then for nine years a Supreme Court judge, worked for more than two decades during the late-19th and early-20th centuries in the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices and adjacent 1858-60 Supreme Court buildings, and is a particularly noteworthy individual within this group of people.

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is strongly associated with some of Tasmania’s most talented and accomplished Colonial and Government Architects, in particular John Lee Archer, William Porden Kay, William Waters Eldridge and Sydney Wallace Thomas Blythe. The buildings provide evidence of the important role played by the Public Works Department in the provision of public infrastructure in Tasmania. During Kay’s terms (commencing 1842 up until 1858) as the Director of Public Works, that department was based within the complex’s 1840-43 Public Offices (Building 3).

h) “The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics”

The Treasury Complex and Public Buildings possesses distinctive compositional qualities, with its attractive scale, massing, materials and detail recognised as important to Tasmania and to many Tasmanians. The inclusion of carefully-composed photographs of the complex’s buildings in post-WWII monographs such as Stones of a Century (1952), Priceless Heritage: historic buildings of Tasmania (1964), Early Buildings of Southern Tasmania (1970) and The Heritage of Tasmania (1983) through to Yesterday’s Hobart Today (2013) demonstrate the long-standing community regard for the complex’s aesthetic characteristics.

Within the State-wide context, the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings is a notable enduring example of a place that is distinctive within its setting. The complex is significant as a landmark within central Hobart, and there are prominent views of it from several vantage-points along major public roads and in Franklin Square.

PLEASE NOTE:
This datasheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. It is not intended to be a comprehensive historical record or inventory of the heritage values of the place.

Assessed by: RA 5 December 2019
Cleared by: AW 6 December 2019
CURRENT IMAGES

Building 1 – 1824-26 Supreme Court

Building 2 – 1835 Police and Convict Offices ©DPIPWE

Building 3 – 1840-43 Public Offices

Building 4 – 1858-60 Supreme Court

Building 5 – 1884-88 Executive Council Offices ©DPIPWE

Building 6 – 1894-95 Deeds Building ©DPIPWE
Building 7 – 1914-16 Public Offices
©DPIPWE

Looking north-west across Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden
©DPIPWE

Building 8 – c.1915-57 Agriculture Building, with Deeds Building (Building 6) at R and the abutting end of the 1940 HEC Substation (Building 9) at L
©DPIPWE

Murray Street entrance forecourt wall at its abutment with Building 2
©DPIPWE

Building 2 – ground floor Murray Street stair hall
©DPIPWE

Building 2 ground-floor decorative cast iron columns and brackets
©DPIPWE
Building 3 – skylight and lightwell
©DPIPWE

Building 3 basement store room

Building 4 – courtroom interior
©DPIPWE

Building 4 basement’s large Strong Room
©DPIPWE

Building 4 – ground floor

Building 4 – courtroom interior

Building 4 – ground floor
©DPIPWE
Building 7 – ground floor entrance hall with one of the two WWI honour roll memorial panels. The other panel (not visible from this viewpoint) is on the wall opposite this one.

Building 7 – second floor lift and stair lobby ©DPIPWE

Looking north-west into the complex’s central courtyard from L to R: Buildings 2, 3, 7 and 5 ©DPIPWE

The rendered and painted HEC Substation (Building 9) at the corner of Murray (to L) and Davey (R) Streets ©DPIPWE

The north-east elevations of Building 5 (at L) and Building 4 (R) from the central area of Franklin Square ©DPIPWE
HISTORIC IMAGES

Part of a plan of Hobart’s proposed road system copied from surveyor James Meehan’s 1811 map of Hobart Town. The drawing superimposes the streets proposed by Lachlan Macquarie upon the town’s existing buildings and features. At the north-west corner of the proposed George’s Square is the then-extant Government House, commenced in 1807. Pre-existing houses labelled ‘Lieut. Campbell’ and ‘Lieut. Gunning’ are also depicted within the area of the proposed Square.

George Frankland c.1827 watercolour ‘Hobart Town, Van Diemen’s Land’, which in the centre depicts (from L to R) the recently-built 1824-26 Supreme Court building, St David’s church, and Government House. [TAHO: Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Record ID: SD_ILS:86552]
The daguerreotype 'Murray Street 1848' by photographer J W Newland – looking towards the east, with the perimeter wall of the Hobart Town Gaol visible at R. [Archives Office of Tasmania – Item Number NS1457/1/46/19]

1857 'Murray Street, Hobart' – 1824-26 courthouse in left foreground with its shingle-clad and single-hip form roof, and the four-centred arch heads to its upper-storey windows. Also visible is a twin-gabled building (circled) which abuts the south-east side of the Police and Convict Offices building. [Archives Office of Tasmania: Item Number NS87/1/3]
undated (but between c.1873 and 1875) – complex viewed from the south-east.

The south-east elevations of the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2), 1852-56 fireproof building (now demolished) and the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) are visible above the timber paling fences on Davey Street.

The finished surface of Davey Street appears similar to that of its upper two lanes in 2019.

undated (but between 1875 and early 1880s) – complex viewed from the west, across the cleared site of the former St David’s [Archives Office of Tasmania: Item Number PH5/1/5]
early 1880s – from L to R: Supreme Court (Building 4); 1852-56 fireproof building (now demolished); and the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1), serving as the GPO. [State Library: Images – Allport, Record ID: SD_ILS:682371]

undated (but likely c.1890) view looking north from Murray Street, with cab stand in centre of street [QVM:1983:P:1479]
Architect’s drawing of the Deeds Building (Building 6) [Archives Office of Tasmania: PWD266/1/638]
North is to the bottom right corner of the drawing. Note the dashed outline at the Yard end of the Strong Room.

Enlarged part of the Deeds Building drawing.
The dashed outline within the highlighted area may be the ‘old store’ in the photograph on the following page.
between mid-1880s and early-1890s: view north-eastwards along Davey Street, with a low single-storey building (possibly the ‘old store’) visible on the site of the 1894-95 Deeds Building [Archives Office of Tasmania NS869/1/437]

c.1900 Group portrait of the Judiciary seated at the Supreme Court (Building 4) bench. Andrew Inglis Clark is at top left, with John Stokell Dodds to his immediate right. [State Library: Images – Crowther, Record ID: SD_ILS:613169]
1901 – from L to R: Deeds Building (Building 6), Executive Council Offices (Building 5) and Supreme Court (Building 4).

[The Weekly Courier, 16 Nov 1901, p.1018]

1915: the 1852-56 fireproof building has been demolished, leaving a gap in which the Public Offices (Building 7) is yet to be built. Construction of the top storey of Building 4 (L edge) has not yet begun. [Tasmanian Mail, 21 January 1915 – insert, p.4]
c.1920s: ‘Government Tourist Bureau’ and ‘Art Society of Tasmania’ signs are prominent.

The 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7) on Macquarie Street is now completed, and the top storey has been added to the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4).

[Bellarine Historical Society collection of glass lantern slides, PIC/14478/4 LOC Cold Store PIC BEL]

c.1957 [Archives Office of Tasmania AB713/1/5602]
## APPENDIX 1
HERITAGE OBJECTS OF STATE-LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE
WITHIN THE TREASURY COMPLEX AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Incorporates Asset ID nos and information from A F Colman’s *Heritage Asset Register* (October 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset ID</th>
<th>Item and Description</th>
<th>Building and Room</th>
<th>Photo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>10-sconce Anodised Brass and Copper electric chandelier. Fixture. (English.)</td>
<td>5: 1884-88 Executive Council Offices (Room no 5.22)</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Miller’s patent strong hold-fast safe.</td>
<td>3: 1840-43 Public Offices (Room no 3.1)</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Miller’s patent strong hold-fast safe. Fireplace infill.</td>
<td>3: 1840-43 Public Offices (Room no 3.3)</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Photo" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Thomas Perry &amp; Son patent safe. Fireplace infill.</td>
<td>2: 1835 Police and Convict Offices (Room no 2.12)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Australian Red Cedar curved judges clerk’s bench. Secondary timber European White Pine recycled crate material. Fixture in Court Room. Upholstered seat, originally diamond pleated. Panelled back, iron fittings. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
<td>4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Australian Red Cedar panelled bench seat – part of Press Seating. Fixture in Court Room. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
<td>4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137a b</td>
<td>Press Bench. Tasmanian Blackwood Writing Slope c.1925. Fixture, part of Court Room. Australian Cedar panelling. Many signatures.</td>
<td>4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Pair matching ormolu gas-light brackets, single sconce and glass shades. Fixture. (English.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138a</td>
<td>Tasmanian Blackwood dock including book rest (c.1970) Fixture in Court Room. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t.b.c.</td>
<td>Cantilevered wall-mounted timber canopy above judges’ bench. Fixture in Court Room.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Tasmanian Blackwood and Tasmanian Oak panelled front and writing slope. Vinyl insert. Fixture in Court Room. Part of judge’s dais. Left of judge. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t.b.c.</td>
<td>Timber partitions (one hinged) with adjacent upholstered wall-panelling, behind judges’ bench. Fixture in Court Room.</td>
<td>4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 140 | Tasmanian Blackwood judge’s writing slope. Secondary timber Huon Pine. Fixture in Court Room. Part of / extension to judge’s dais. Inscription under top of Judge’s section: White Star Line, M Naughton Esq. Shaw Saville Line, Mawson. | 4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8) |

| 140a | Upholstered Wall Bench Seat and back. Secondary timber Red Pine – from old crate timber. Red velvet stabbed and buttoned. Seat originally diamond pleated. Fixture in Court Room. (Hobart manufacture.) | 4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8) |

<p>| 141 | Australian Cedar balustrade grille. Not fixed, but part of Prosecution and Defence Table. Classified as fixture. (Hobart manufacture.) | 4: 1858-60 Supreme Court (Room no 4.8) |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Australian Cedar prosecution and defence table. Green leatherette insert. Part of Court Room; classed as fixture. Retention of original condition, surfaces and further use to be determined. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Australian Cedar semi-circular Jury Members Bench. Panelled modesty front writing slope with provision for ink wells. Seven divided seats with arm rests. Vinyl seat and part backs. Diamond pleated top in leatherette c.1920. Retention of original condition, surfaces and further use to be determined. (Hobart manufacture.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t.b.c.</td>
<td>Honour Roll stone memorial tablet commemorating members of the Tasmanian Public Service who enlisted for Service in WWI (first tablet of the set of two).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t.b.c.</td>
<td>Honour Roll stone memorial tablet commemorating members of the Tasmanian Public Service who enlisted for Service in WWI (second tablet of the set of two).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 2
DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS AND FEATURES
WITHIN THE TREASURY COMPLEX AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Building 1 – the 1824-26 Supreme Court
This two-storey building's Murray Street (south-west) elevation features a central colonnaded portico comprising six Tuscan columns. Its windows generally have stone architraves with simple drafted margins, and most are timber-framed with double-hung sashes glazed in single panes. A wall-mounted bronze plaque near the Macquarie Street corner commemorates the first service of worship conducted by a Presbyterian minister in Australia, held on 5 January 1823 at this location.

Extending north-eastwards from the building’s Murray Street-facing portion is an adjoining two storey rectilinear pavilion which was enlarged during the building’s 1860 conversion into Hobart Town’s General Post Office (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.3 & 4; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.30-31). The ground floor of this pavilion’s Macquarie Street elevation contains five large semicircular-arched windows. Below the sills of these windows, the external wall surface is coated with render that has been tinted a sandstone colour. The storey above has a finely-panelled pilaster at its Murray Street end, and a stone chimney is located at the back of the adjoining parapet above. The roof is clad in painted corrugated steel sheeting and comprises two abutting hips, with the larger hip to the north-east capped by a central shallower-pitched hip-and-skillion over the extent of a former four-sided clerestorey.

In areas other than the two storeys of rooms facing Murray Street, all of the original internal walls have been removed. The ground and first-floor interiors are in 2019, when this entry was developed, divided into office spaces by c.1970 glazed and panelled partitions (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.11, 12,17-19). The external rectangular-shaped windows of several of the offices, particularly those on the upper storey, are the original openings including splayed reveals and contain sashes and glazing dating to 1860 (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.5, 6, 10, 11, 15-18). The two upper-storey office rooms with windows facing Murray Street retain fireplaces and some 1860-period joinery (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp.14-16). Also on the upper storey, four slender cast iron floor-to-ceiling columns remain at the corners of the post office era’s former clerestorey (Corney 2017, Building 1 CMP, pp14, 17 & 19). Elsewhere, alterations have affected almost every surface and detail, and in these areas the interiors have low-level integrity.

Building 2 – the 1835 Police and Convict Offices
This building has a T-shaped plan and comprises two storeys above a five room semi-basement. Central to its three-bay Murray Street façade is a Tuscan-styled portico featuring two columns on pedestals with a solid stone balustrade between them. Two separate flights of concrete steps – seven on the northwest side, and nine on the southeast – link the portico’s floor to the Murray Street footpath. The frieze of the portico’s entablature bears the word ‘TREASURY’ in incised capital letters. This portion of the building contains a central stair hall, with single-room offices to either side on both storeys. There are ‘blind’ (i.e. a blank recess) upper- and lower-storey windows in the portions of both side walls nearest to Murray Street, and a blind doorway in the south-east elevation facing the laneway. The cement-rendered base of this south-east elevation contains a timber access door, a series of small ventilation slits and one shuttered window to the basement rooms.

The exterior wall faces of the 1914 strong room at the building’s northeast end differ in appearance to the older stonework and are the ashlar stones which were reused from the demolished 1856 ‘fire proof’ building that was replaced by Building 7 (Corney 2017, Building 2 CMP, pp.3, 9, 14 & 19). The Police and Convict Offices’ roof is a simple hipped form, covered in painted corrugated steel sheeting. A stone chimney capped
with four cylindrical pots is incorporated into the parapet near the re-entrant wall above the Murray Street-facing rooms’ northern corner.

Much original and early interior fabric survives. The highly-intact original timber staircase within the Murray Street stair hall has simple square balusters, a finely-wreathed handrail and panelled infill. The two upper-storey rooms either side of this room contain original timber chimneypieces – one with a surround and mantel finished with shellac, the other painted and containing a 19th-century safe – and other original joinery including a panelled door, window frames, architraves and skirtings (Corney 2017, Building 2 CMP, pp.10, 15-17; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.53 & 57). On the ground floor, decorative cast iron columns and brackets were installed in approximately 1860 to support remnant sections of since-demolished masonry walls on the second floor (Corney 2017, Building 2 CMP, pp.3 & 11). Both storeys of this portion of the building are in 2019, when this entry was developed, divided into office rooms by c.1970 glazed light partition walls.

The rooms in the basement – some of which were cells in what formerly comprised a Watch House (Public History Partners 1991, p.12) – have exposed walls of roughly-coursed sandstone rubble laid in lime mortar, and floors of rough sandstone flagging. Some of the low ceilings feature partly-surviving original lath and plaster. Where the ceilings are broken or missing, the timber joists of the floors above are visible and between them, supported on cleated boarding, is sawdust packing. The sawdust appears to be an original feature installed to reduce the transmission of sound between storeys (Godden Mackay 1992, p.47). The openings to two of the basement rooms contain double-boarded timber doors with large staple bolts. One of these two rooms is separated from an adjacent lobby by a brick wall lined with an assembly of metal bands, bolts and timber lining boards.

Building 3 – the 1840-43 Public Offices

The Public Offices’ central breakfront has three above-ground storeys, bookended by two-storey portions which abut the flanking Buildings 1 and 2. Consequently it has only two external elevations – one to the south-west, facing the Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden, and the other to the complex’s central courtyard (north-east). Facing Murray Street at the ground floor is a stone portico of four fluted Doric columns. Central in the Murray Street-facing parapet is a carved cartouche of the Royal coat of arms supported by a Tudor rose and a Scotch thistle. Separate hipped roofs of painted corrugated steel cover the building’s three and two-storey portions. A cranked hallway clad and roofed with painted corrugated steel connects the top-storey’s north-west end to the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7).

The building’s interior retains a high level of integrity with regards to original layout, materials and joinery. Its three office storeys’ plan layout is of small rectangular office rooms either side of a central T-shaped corridor, with the stem of the T on the Murray Street side containing the stair hall. The timber stair links the three storeys and has heavy turned newel-posts and balusters, panelled strings, and boarded soffits. Original to the 1840s construction is a timber-framed skylight in the ceiling where the first-floor corridor meets the 1824-26 Supreme Court (Building 1) to the north-west (Corney 2017, Building 3 CMP, p.19). At the southeast end of the top-storey corridor is a similar skylight above a light-well to the first storey below, with a wrought iron picket balustrade at the light-well’s edge. Beneath the top-storey corridor’s carpet, the floor is surfaced with sandstone flags (Corney 2017, Building 3 CMP, p.27 & 31; Godden Mackay 1992, p.93).

Most windows are timber-framed double-hung sashes. Those facing Murray Street have one large pane for each sash, but many of the courtyard-side windows are of their original multi-paned arrangement. In 2019 when this entry was developed some of these multi-paned windows contain panes of original crown glass and cylinder glass (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.72,73,93). The two ground-floor Murray Street-facing offices closest to Macquarie Street contain cast iron columns, brackets and beams – similar to those in the Police and Convict Offices (Building 2) – which were installed in approximately 1860 when the original walls they replaced were removed (Corney 2017, Building 3 CMP, pp. 4 & 12).

At the south-east end of the courtyard (north-east) elevation is a cement-rendered two-storey addition of low-level historic cultural heritage significance within the complex. This addition’s painted external wall
surfaces are grooved to simulate ashlar stone blocks. The central portion of the courtyard elevation continues into a below-grade ‘area’, where it contains doors and windows to the basement storey. There are three bricked-up openings in the wall on the opposite face of the area, leading to what Corney (2017, Building 3 CMP, p.8) identifies as original coal store spaces. Many layers of peeling wallpaper line the walls of the three north-most of the basement rooms. Further inside is a corridor directly beneath the central corridor in the storeys above, and the wall on its Murray Street side contains four narrow low doorways leading to store rooms. Each of these doorways contains a pintle-hinged iron door with a heavy bolt. The corridor and these four rooms have squared sandstone rubble walls, floors finished with sandstone flagging, and vaulted ceilings lined with brick in the corridor and stone in the store rooms.

Murray Street entrance forecourt and garden
Buildings 1, 2 and 3 contain three sides of a rectangular 35 by 14 metre outdoor space with Murray Street along its south-west edge. The present-day layout of this forecourt and garden is the result of an extensive reconstruction in late 2001. The available evidence indicates that its layout closely replicates the forecourt’s 1842 and 1845 designs, with the fences and garden plantings a close match for those that were in place at about 1901 (Felton 2004, pp.56-57).

A seven-metre wide sandstone-flagged pathway extends from Building 3’s portico to the Murray Street footpath. This pathway divides the forecourt into two equally-sized rectangular areas, each of which contains a manicured lawn with a central circular garden bed. A single Cordyline australis (New Zealand cabbage tree) is planted within each of these beds. The lawns are bordered by sandstone-flagged paths along the two edges alongside the buildings, and by two-metre wide beds of fine gravel along the Murray Street and central pathway edges. Hedges of Buxus sempervirens (English Box) are planted within the Murray Street-facing gravel beds. On either side of the central pathway, the Murray Street boundary is defined by fences comprising large square sandstone pillars with black-painted metal infill panels of curves and scrolls, supported on original sandstone ashlar retaining walls. The two of these pillars which abut each of the central pathway’s sides are also original, and are capped by large cast-iron standard lamps. The other sandstone pillars are 2001 reproductions of c.1901 elements. Low fences of identically-detailed and painted metal panels on continuous sandstone bases flank the sides of the central pathway, and separate it from the adjacent gravel bed and lawn areas. The painted metal infill panels and sandstone paving are period-appropriate elements which were installed in 2001.

Building 4 – the 1858-60 Supreme Court
Located at the complex’s northern corner, this building adjoins the Executive Council Offices (Building 5) on its south-east and the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7) on its south-west. Comprising three storeys above a semi-basement, its Renaissance Revival elevations are of six bays on Macquarie Street (north-west) and seven bays facing Franklin Square (north-east). Outside its Macquarie Street entrance is a stone staircase of two flights descending in opposite directions to footpath-level. There are window and door openings to the semi-basement rooms on only the Franklin Square side, behind the sandstone balustrading. On all storeys, the internal walls and finishes of the perimeter rooms have been altered during the Postwar decades of the 20th century, and the integrity of most of these rooms is only fair (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, pp.4 & 24; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.107, 114). Painted steel beams and tension-rods are visible below the ceilings of some of the ground floor rooms. They are part of a 1970s system of lateral bracing, also installed above the first floor’s ceilings, to counteract movement of the external walls following the addition of the top storey to this building in 1914 (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, pp.4, 11 & 14; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.114, 119).

At the centre of the ground-floor storey is the highly-intact former courtroom. It contains much of its original finely-detailed and polished timber joinery, including extensive dado panelling (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, pp.16 & 18). A cantilevered timber canopy and a pair of glass-shade sconces on ornate ormolu brackets are mounted on the wall above the upswept central back of the judges’ bench. The curved range of jury seating is upholstered in leather. Doors covered in dark blue baize lead to the surrounding rooms and passages.
Behind the stone balustraded parapets of the two façades, skillion roofs of very low-pitched ribbed steel decking cover the Macquarie Street and Franklin Square-facing rooms. These skillions also abut brick parapets which cap the north-east and north-west walls of the courtroom below. Below these parapets at the bottom of a de-facto light-well, the courtroom roof is a hip-form clad in corrugated steel, with a glass-roofed gable lantern at its centre. At the building’s upper-storey level, corridors and small office rooms clad with weatherboards span between the light-well walls above both the north-west and the south-east ends of the courtroom roof.

Within the approximately 15 by 11-metre basement-level strong room beneath the courtroom, a central row of cast-iron columns supports the mid-points of five I-beams at the ceiling. These iron columns and beams are encased in concrete, which appears most likely to have been applied in the 1980s or early 1990s to provide enhanced fire protection. Curved sheets of painted corrugated iron span between the flanges of the beams, supporting concrete vaults and forming what appears to be a very early example of a fire-resistant ceiling system (Corney 2017, Building 4 CMP, p.10; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.115, 118).

Building 5 – the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices
This sandstone ashlar building comprises three storeys above a semi-basement. It abuts the south-east side of the 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4) and consequently has only three elevations. Its Franklin Square (north-east) elevation is a Renaissance Revival composition, with the building’s ground floor main entrance at the mid-point of its slightly-projecting central portion. This elevation’s string courses, sill lines and entablature continue the lines of the adjacent 1858-60 Supreme Court, but its additional elements and detailing combine to make it much more elaborate. Window heads on the first floor have triangular pediments to highlight this storey’s importance as the building’s ‘piano nobile’ (principal floor). The entrance doorway is served by two separate flights of concrete steps between sandstone balustrades, and the balustrades continue along the rim of this elevation’s basement ‘area’.

At the south-east end of the Franklin Square elevation is a two-storey portion of the building which originally contained a private staircase for use by the incumbent Governor (Corney 2017, Building 5 CMP, p.4; Godden Mackay 1992, p.126). Outside its ground-floor single window (formerly a doorway), an external staircase with sandstone balustrades descends to the asphalt-parking area between the complex and Franklin Square. In the angle between the Executive Council Offices’ south-east elevation and the south-west side of the Governors’ former staircase is an adjoining two-storey 1935 addition of cement-rendered brick. Its render is tinted to a sandstone colour, and is lightly grooved to simulate ashlar. Originally built to house the Law Library and a large room for typists, the addition features ground and first floor rendered string courses, stepped-back parapets, a channelled motif beneath the cornice, and reeded window spandrels – all of which give it a Moderne-style appearance (Godden Mackay 1992, p.126).

Apart from plain string courses at first and second floor level, the sandstone ashlars of the central courtyard (south-west) elevation are undecorated. The basement areas around this elevation’s side bays are bordered by white-painted iron palisade fences.

The painted corrugated steel main roof has a hipped gambrel form, with perimeter box gutters inside its sandstone parapets. Four large sandstone chimneys, each with moulded tops and multiple terracotta pots, penetrate the roof’s north-east and south-west faces. The former Governor’s staircase, central courtyard elevation’s projecting bay and Law Library addition each have shallow skillions inside their parapets.

The interiors are of a high standard of workmanship, with fine joinery and much of the original finishes and detailing intact, including arches, chimneypieces, fireplaces, timber doorcases, and encaustic and fine-mosaic floor tiles in geometric patterns. Rooms overlooking Franklin Square are generally larger and more decorative than those facing the central courtyard. Each storey contains a longitudinal central corridor which intersects with the stair hall at the centre of the south-west (courtyard) side. Doorways at the north-west end of each of the above-ground storeys’ central corridors connect the Executive Council Offices building with the adjacent 1858-60 Supreme Court (Building 4). The walls of the ground and first-floor corridors are
divided by piers into bays, each side of which contains a central doorcase. Three of these doorgates are ‘blind’ imitation doorways installed to maintain the corridors’ symmetry and rhythm. The main stairs are ornately detailed, featuring basalt treads on iron girder strings, curved cast-iron balusters supporting moulded timber handrails, and cast iron newel posts capped with standard lamps.

At the mid-point of the first floor’s Franklin Square side is the Executive Council Chamber. This fine formal room’s coffered ceiling is higher than any other in the complex and the chamber has proportions approaching that of a double cube. Arched side recesses contain doors to the adjoining rooms. An intricately detailed ten-sconce anodised brass and copper electric chandelier is suspended from the ceiling’s mid-point.

The finishes and decorative scheme of the second floor are comparatively simple. Access to two offices on its Franklin Square (north-east) side is via a pair of six-riser stairs within the central corridor. The floors of these offices are raised above the rest of the top storey to accommodate the high ceiling of the Executive Council Chamber below. Due to the uniform sill and head heights of the windows in the Franklin Square elevation, the sills of these two offices’ windows are at floor level.

Within the basement, iron doors at the south end of the corridor’s south-west-facing wall provide access to three original strong rooms. These feature ceilings of curved corrugated iron, supporting concrete vaults, and have barred windows to the area along the courtyard edge outside (Corney 2017, Building 5 CMP, pp.20 & 21; Godden Mackay 1992, p.162).

**Building 6 – the 1894-95 Deeds Building**

This single-storey sandstone ashlar building’s principal (north-east) elevation faces Franklin Square, with its south-east elevation on the Davey Street boundary of the place and its north-west forming the side of the laneway that links Franklin Square with the complex’s central courtyard. Its hipped roof is clad with slates, and a single stone chimney with a finely-moulded top rises from the northern end of the roof’s north-west face. A flight of ten stone steps, with sandstone piers and balustrades along its perimeter, ascends from the north-west to a quarter-landing at the principal elevation’s central timber double doors, which are panelled to match those of the adjacent Executive Council Offices (Building 5). The Deeds Building’s window openings also resemble those of the Executive Council Offices, with stone architraves and consoled entablatures.

The Deeds Building contains only two rooms – at its northeast, a 7.5 x 2.5-metre office into which the front doors open; and at its southwest, a 7.5 x 12-metre office which was formerly the strong room (Corney 2017, Building 6 CMP, pp.2 & 7). The central doorway in the wall between these rooms retains two pintle hinges on its strong room side, but the former iron door which they supported is no longer present. Opposite this, a doorway in the wall on the former strong-room’s south-west side provides internal access to the adjoining Agriculture Building (Building 8).

The longitudinal centreline of the former strong room’s concrete ceiling features an exposed girder with riveted flanges, supported by a row of three slender cast iron columns with simple moulded capitals and bases. The openings of two windows to the office in the strong room’s north-east wall are widely splayed and like the doorway between them in this wall have remnant iron pintle hinges on the side of the former strong room. The long walls on the former strong room’s north-west (laneway) and south-east (Davey Street) sides each contain two large windows with hinged timber panels above them, behind which are original steel roller-shutters installed for security and fire protection (Corney 2017, Building 6 CMP, pp.7 & 11). The two windows on the strong room’s Davey Street side, and both of the office room’s Franklin Square (north-east) facing windows, contain aluminium-framed casement panes inside the original timber-framed double-hung sashes, installed in the late 20th century to muffle traffic noise from Davey Street.

**Building 7 – the 1914-16 Public Offices**

This building contains four above-ground storeys and a basement. It has two external elevations: its Macquarie Street (north-west) façade, and the rear walls facing the complex’s central courtyard. The Macquarie Street elevation is constructed of fine sandstone ashlar, and apart from the top-most storey all
other external and internal load-bearing walls are of brick (Godden Mackay 1992, p.182). On its south-west and north-east sides, the Public Offices abuts the complex’s 1824-26 and 1858-60 Supreme Court buildings respectively.

Its three-storey high and three bay wide Macquarie Street façade combines ordered Classical symmetry with distinctive and dynamic elements in a complicated, almost square composition. The façade’s boldly modelled and embellished Classical elements are characteristic of those used in major civic buildings in the early years of the 20th century (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.182, 184). The parapet and the cornice below it align with those on the 1858-60 Supreme Court building alongside. The Public Offices’ contrasting rear elevation is of painted English Bond brickwork and features arched three-light casement windows, six of which contain leaded glass and step in height to follow the stair flights inside.

The topmost storey is a timber-framed structure with walls clad in painted asbestos-cement sheeting, timber-framed double-hung windows and hipped roofs of corrugated steel. This storey’s domestically-scaled rooms demonstrate its original uses as caretaker’s accommodation and meeting and exhibition facilities for the Art Society of Tasmania (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, p.3; Godden Mackay 1992, p.182; Ransley 2006). Where not covered by this storey, the roof over the substantial lower sandstone and brick portion of the building is of near-flat ribbed steel decking. A two-room addition to the topmost storey’s Macquarie Street side was built over this roof decking in about the mid-1950s (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, pp.3 & 23; Godden Mackay 1992, p.208). The basement beneath the Macquarie Street edge of the building comprises three intact strong rooms with their original steel doors still in place (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, p.7).

The interiors display fine workmanship, with much intact original finishes, joinery and detailing including pressed-metal and coffered ceilings, stairs with timber handrails and decorative cast-iron balusters, and Tuscan-style columns and pilasters in the lobby on the ground, first and second-floor lobbies (Corney 2017, Building 7 CMP, pp.9-20; Godden Mackay 1992, pp.189-198). The complex’s only lift also adjoins each storey’s lobby, with the main staircase’s flights wrapping around two sides of its timber and glass-panelled enclosure. The Macquarie Street entrance hall features a large central glazed brass-framed pendant light, and on each of its side walls is a large WWI honour-roll stone tablet upon which the names of members of the Tasmanian Public Service who enlisted for Service are inscribed.

Building 8 – the c.1915-57 Agriculture Building

The Agriculture Building is of lower-level historic cultural heritage significance compared to the remainder of the complex. It comprises a central two-storey gabled portion with one-storey portions at its north-east (where it adjoins the Deeds Building), south-west (abutting the 1940 HEC Substation, Building 9) and along its north-west elevation (abutting the complex’s central courtyard and laneways).

Its external brick walls are of rendered brickwork painted in a light stone colour, marked out with horizontal grooves which match the spacing and depth of the grooves on the adjacent HEC Substation. The two-storey portion’s gable roof is clad with slates, and its eaves are timber-boarded. This roof’s pitch and eaves overhangs are similar to those of the adjacent Deeds Building. The one-storey portions have roofs of ribbed steel decking with close eaves.

A c.1985 entrance lobby with doors and window-walls of aluminium-framed glass faces the central courtyard. The ground floor areas are connected via a straight five-riser stair flight to the higher floor of the adjacent Deeds Building (Building 6).

Building 9 – the 1940 HEC Substation building

The single-storey HEC Substation building is sited at the intersection of Murray and Davey Streets, and its external walls to those streets meet at a rounded corner. Together with the Substation’s laneway (north-west) elevation, its painted external walls of rendered ‘Cindcrete’ concrete blockwork are marked out with horizontal V-grooves and capped by subtly set-back parapets (Godden Mackay 1992, pp.215-216). The parapets conceal a low-pitched skillion roof. The street-facing walls also feature tall narrow window
openings, each comprising twin panels of square glass blocks with a central vertical masonry mullion. Its north-east elevation abuts the Agriculture Building’s south-west end. Like other distribution substation buildings within urban areas in Tasmania, during its operational life this small building has housed high and low voltage switchgear, transformers and ancillary systems. This equipment and the building’s other interior fittings have been modified many times during the substation’s decades of operation (pers comm, Gina Goodman). The contents of the HEC Substation building are not included in this Registration.

Central courtyard

Through abutment and interconnection, six of the complex’s buildings combine to form three sides of a central concrete-paved courtyard space. This roughly rectangular open courtyard measures approximately 50 metres between Buildings 7 and 8, and 13 metres between Buildings 3 and 5. The three and four-storey walls around the courtyard imbue it with a strong sense of enclosure, and from its south-east end paved narrow laneways extend perpendicularly in opposite directions:

- towards the north-east, between Buildings 5 and 6, providing pedestrian access through a gate in a short section of iron palisade fence to the carparking area along the edge of Franklin Square; and
- towards the south-west, between Building 2 on one side and Buildings 8 and 9 on the other, providing vehicular access to Murray Street.

The courtyard-facing walls of the 1840-43 Public Offices (Building 3), 1884-88 Executive Council Offices (Building 5) and the 1914-16 Public Offices (Building 7) are well-detailed, with particularly fine and intact stonework and fenestration in both the 1840-43 Public Offices and the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices buildings.

Franklin Square interface

Since the creation of Franklin Square (THR#2333) in the 1860s there has been a strong relationship between it and the Square-facing elevations of the Treasury Complex and Public Buildings. For many years Franklin Square presented as a forecourt to the buildings of the complex (Franklin Square Master Plan 2014, p.9). At the time of writing in 2019, sandstone balustrading flanks the northeast elevations of Buildings 4, 5 and 6 for most of the distance between Macquarie and Davey Streets, and a grand symmetrical staircase gives access to the Executive Council Offices (Building 5). Where the stone balustrade is closest to the Macquarie Street boundary of the place, there remains one ornate cast iron gatepost and a 1.6-metre wide gate – a vestige of the palisade fence constructed in 1890 which once bounded Franklin Square (Young 2016, p.73). An asphalt-paved open space between the sandstone balustrades and Franklin Square is used for car parking.
2. The boundary of Lot 1 consists of the whole of PID 5668886 and footpaths fronting Murray and Macquarie Streets.
3. The boundary for Lot 1 is defined by a thick black line and described at right. The registration consists of standing features and sub-surface archaeological potential, as described in the datasheet for THR#11734.
4. Details of land parcels may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (the LIST).

Notes

Point and Boundary Description

A. North-east corner of FR 119268/1.
B. South-east corner of FR 119268/1.
C. Intersection of prolongation of A-B and concrete kerbing, representing the outer edge of the Murray Street footpath.
D. Intersection of south-western edge of driveway and concrete kerbing on Macquarie Street.
E. Intersection of prolongation of north-eastern boundary of PID 5668886 and concrete kerbing on Macquarie Street.
F. North-west corner of PID 5668886.
I. North-east corner of PID 5668886.
B-C is a prolongation of A-B.
C-D represents the outer edge of concrete kerbing.
D-E is a straight line.
E-F is a prolongation of the north-eastern boundary of PID 5668886.
All other boundaries represents cadastral boundaries.
Legend
Building 1 - the 1824-26 Supreme Court.
Building 2 - the 1835 Police Offices.
Building 3 - the 1840-43 Public Offices.
Building 4 - the 1858-60 Supreme Court.
Building 5 - the 1884-88 Executive Council Offices.
Building 6 - the 1894-95 Deeds Building.
Building 7 - the 1914-16 Public Offices.
Building 8 - the c.1915-57 Agriculture Building.
Building 9 - the 1940 HEC Substation.

Treasury Complex and Public Buildings
17 & 21 Murray Street, Hobart
PREPARED BY HERITAGE TASMANIA