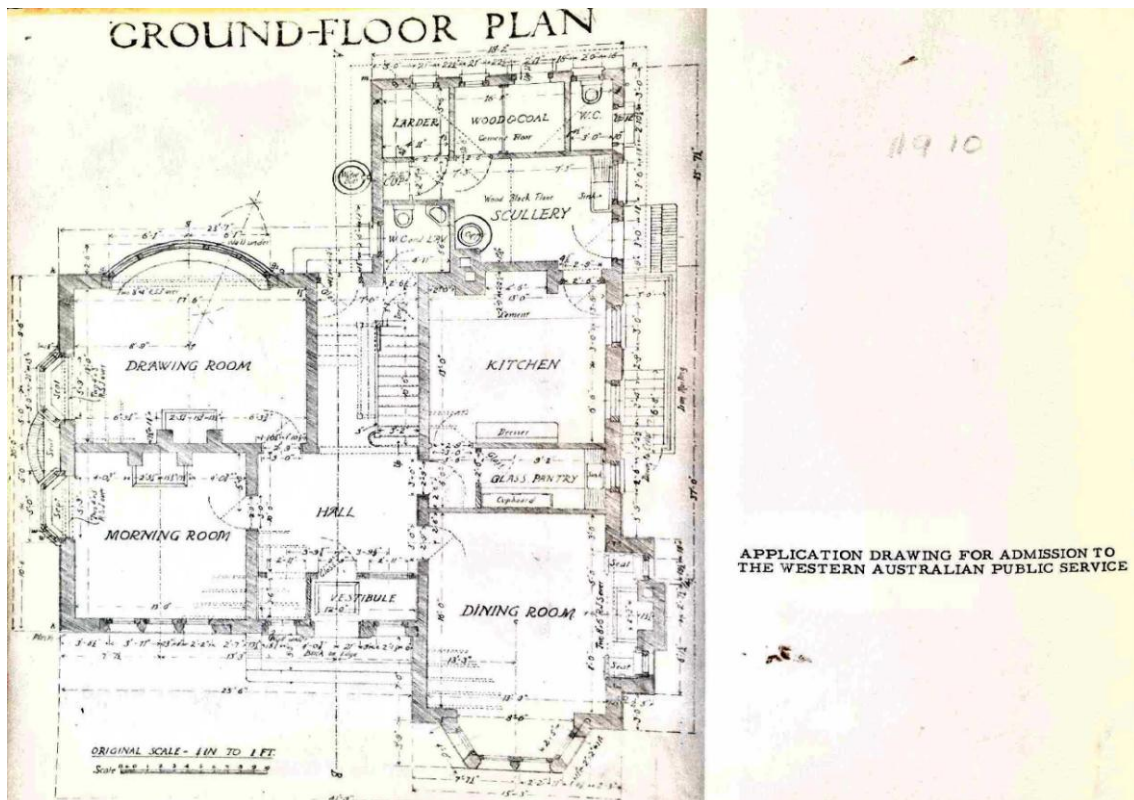




A.E. Clare (AIA WA)

Albert Ernest (Paddy) Clare (1894-1975) was born 5 December 1894 at Melbourne Road (now Milligan Street) in Perth. His parents were laborer Edward Major and Alice Selina (nee Valentine) Clare. Albert Clare attended Perth Boys School. He joined the Public Service as a messenger in the Lands Department, and commenced with the Public Works Department (PWD) as a junior draftsman in July 1912, under Chief Architect Hillson Beasley.



Drawing titled "Application Drawing for admission to the Western Australian Public Service" c.1910, in album presented to Clare by PWD staff at his retirement in 1960 (Bill Clare)

Albert enlisted for First World War service within the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) in late 1915, with his next-of-kin listed as his father at 14 Newcastle Street, Perth. Clare embarked on HMAT Borda A30 at Fremantle in January 1916, proceeding via Egypt to the Western Front. Wounded in action during mid-1916, Clare returned to his 51st Battalion of the AIF, and perhaps somewhat fortunately given the awful losses, was captured by the Germans in the savage September 1916 confrontation at Mouquet Farm on the Somme.

Imprisoned at Dülmen and then Munster in Germany, family stories recall that Clare was able to undertake further architectural studies in his confinement - with the aid of books provided by the Red Cross. Following the end of the war in Europe, Clare was repatriated to Hull, England during December 1918. He returned to Australia 5 March 1919, and would have been warmly welcomed back into the PWD. In July 1919 Albert Clare and Colin Ednie-Brown, two important members of the West Australian Institute of Architects (WAIA) in the future, registered as students.

Clare married Sylvia Foster in 1920, and the couple had two sons. William Albert Major Clare was born at Maylands in 1921 and Leonard Albert Ernest Clare at Fifth Avenue Inglewood in 1923. Both Bill and Len attended Guildford Grammar School, and Len went onto Cambridge University.

Continuing his work with the PWD, Clare registered as an architect (no.61) in Western Australia during July 1922, and in 1923 was admitted as an associate of the recently renamed Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia (RIAWA). For a major part of the Twentieth Century, the PWD was a major State Government Agency in WA, charged with providing and maintaining public infrastructure such as dams, water supplies, schools, hospitals, harbours and other public buildings. The Department is no longer operational, having its responsibilities reassigned to other State Government departments and corporate entities since 1985.

Clare served as Principal Architect of the PWD from 1930 to 1960. He was the Department's longest serving Principal Architect and from 1953 became the first one to have full responsibility for the Architectural Division without being under the direction of the Engineer in Chief or the Director of Works and Buildings. Even in the austere conditions of the post Great Depression 1930s, the PWD

was busy developing facilities to support the growing State's requirements, albeit the advent of the Second World War in 1939 again restricted activities.

In 1939 plans were proposed for the construction of a new physical treatment block at Claremont Mental Hospital. Work was carried out by the PWD under the direction of Paddy Clare. The building, known originally as the "Treatment Block" (later Gascoyne House), comprised two wings of wards at right angles with associated bathroom, lavatory, treatment and recreation areas with a central administration area constructed to bisect the two wings on the diagonal. The building was constructed at an estimated cost of £26,500. In 1940 a new treatment block, "Swan House" was constructed at Heathcote, accommodating 26 patients. This mental health facility was designed under Clare's direction and constructed at a cost of £15,000.

With a phenomenal record of service to the profession in the State, Clare was President of the RIAWA during 1942-43, then inaugural President of the WA Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA - WA) 1943-44. He was an Institute council member for 25 years, and a member of the Architects Board of Western Australia for 33 years. With the support of the RIAWA, 1939 witnessed the promulgation of the Builders Registration Act and the creation of the Builders' Registration Board during the following year. Paddy Clare held the position of Chairman of the Board from its inception in 1940 until 1971.

Clare was involved with the assessment of a number of major architectural competitions during the 1960s, including the City of Perth's Council House. He was the only local of four assessors; including Harry Seidler, Professor Brian Lewis and L.M. Perrot Jun. Clare may have had a minor conflict of interest as an assessor in the competition for the Government Offices complex, won by a team of architects from the PWD, Gordon Finn, Eduard Van Mens and Peter Maidment. The assessors in this instance were Clare, Mervyn Parry and Melbourne architect, W.O. McCutcheon.

PWD and RAIA stalwart Vin Davies (1928-2010) was a member of the first architecture class at Perth Technical College when the course was introduced in 1946. He graduated in 1950 and joined the PWD as a cadet architect, later becoming Senior Architect, Design. Davies provides great testimony to the

character of Clare, and also to his influence on the structure and output of the PWD in halcyon years:

Paddy Clare was the first Principal Architect under whom I served. He was a remarkable man. He thoroughly understood and appreciated the vibrant architectural heritage which was now his to continue. His sense of responsibility as a senior public servant and his loyalty to the Department and his staff stamped him as a leader to be respected. And respected he was, both inside and outside the Public Service; both within the architectural profession and elsewhere.

Clare believed in Architecture. He was an active member of the Royal Institute of Architects of Western Australia, being its last President. During his term of office in 1942 he and colleague Harold Boas succeeded in persuading the somewhat parochial minded Institute to arrange for nomination to become the Western Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. For 1943-44 A.E. Clare was the Chapter's first President. Being aware of change, the need to change and the benefits from change were part of Clare's strength. As he saw the benefit to the profession in Western Australia in joining the RAlA, so he saw benefits in reviewing the architectural education process and hence was a supporter of the move to establish the first School of Architecture in 1946, at the Perth Technical School. Public Works Department architectural cadets henceforth attended that school, beginning a long tradition of excellence through PWD commitment to the development of the building professions and trades.

Most importantly Clare was well informed on the changes occurring in architectural theory and design, including the Modern Movement, the landmark work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Le Corbusier, Mies Van der Rohe and Willem Dudok. The younger pre Second World War architects, like W.L. Green, G.W. Finn, L.W. Walters, W. Leighton and a little later S.B. Cann and E.H. Van Mens, were also aware of and influenced by these trends.

The organisation's structure at this time supported the emphasis on good modern architecture. Clare, as Principal Architect was very much in control, insisting that the standard of design and documentation be kept high and maintaining a personal involvement to see this was so. Not only did he know all

the staff, but he knew their capabilities, the latter achieved by astute questioning when designs were presented for approval or when working drawings were presented for signature. ... When Paddy Clare retired in 1960 he left a capable and enthusiastic Architectural Division with a reputation of which to be proud.

The life and work of Paddy Clare, and his influence on architecture in WA could perhaps be more fully documented in a tertiary level dissertation or thesis. A highly significant public architect with a distinguished record of service to his State, Albert Ernest Clare CBE, LFRAIA, FRIBA died in his 82nd year at Floreat Park on 27 December 1975.

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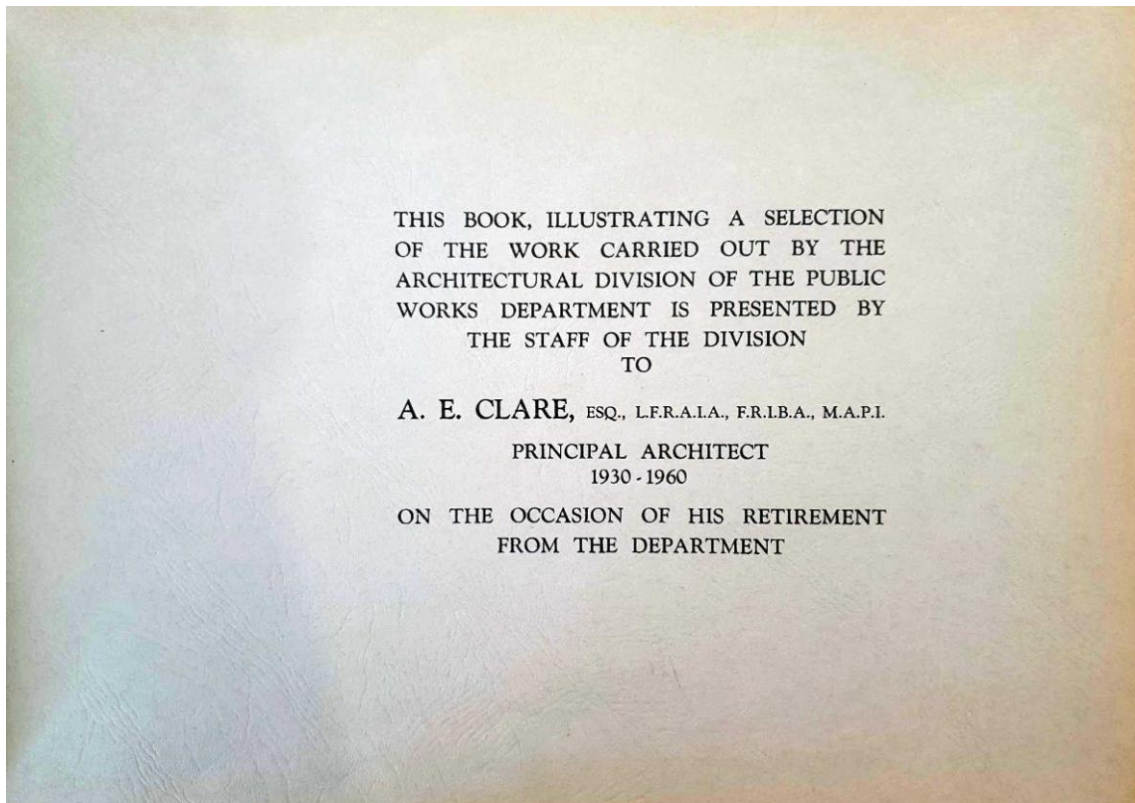
Album of around 60 pages illustrating the work of the PWD, presented to A.E. Clare by the staff of the PWD at his retirement in 1960, held by grandson Bill Clare.

Contributing author: John Taylor

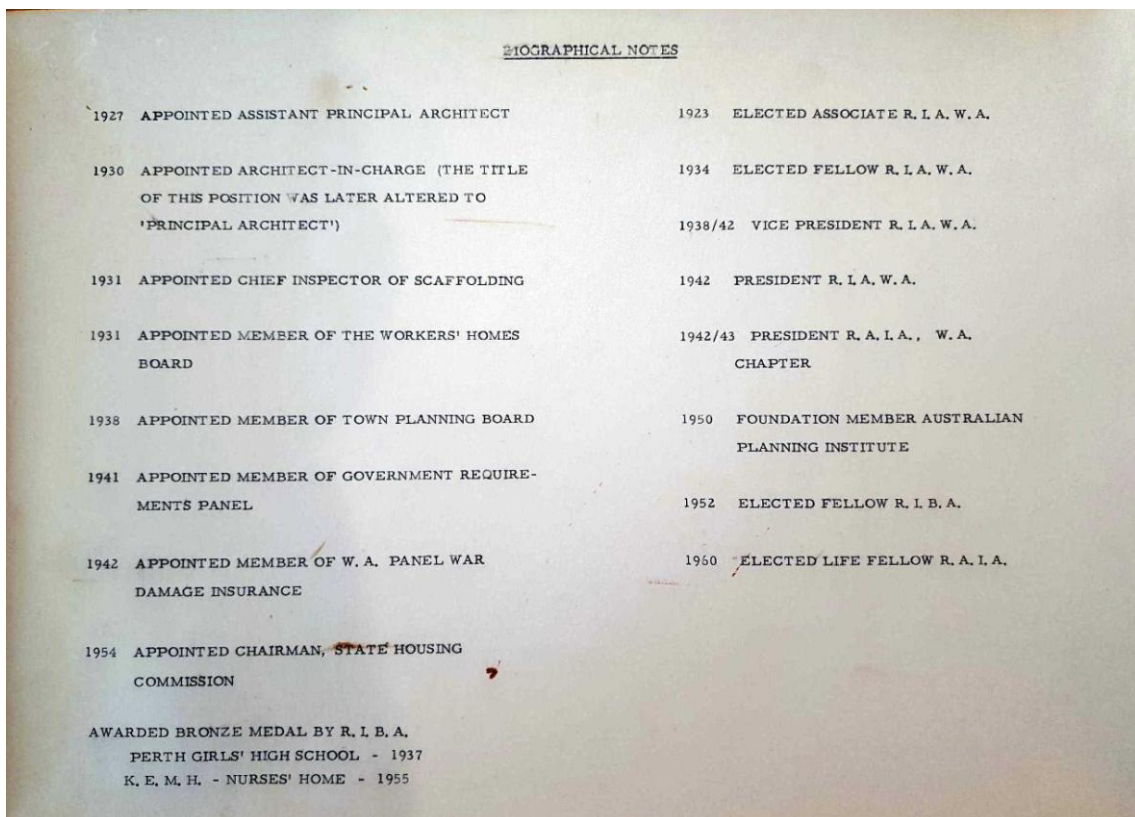
Heritage Committee meeting approval date: 14 February 2019 Last updated: 14 February 2019

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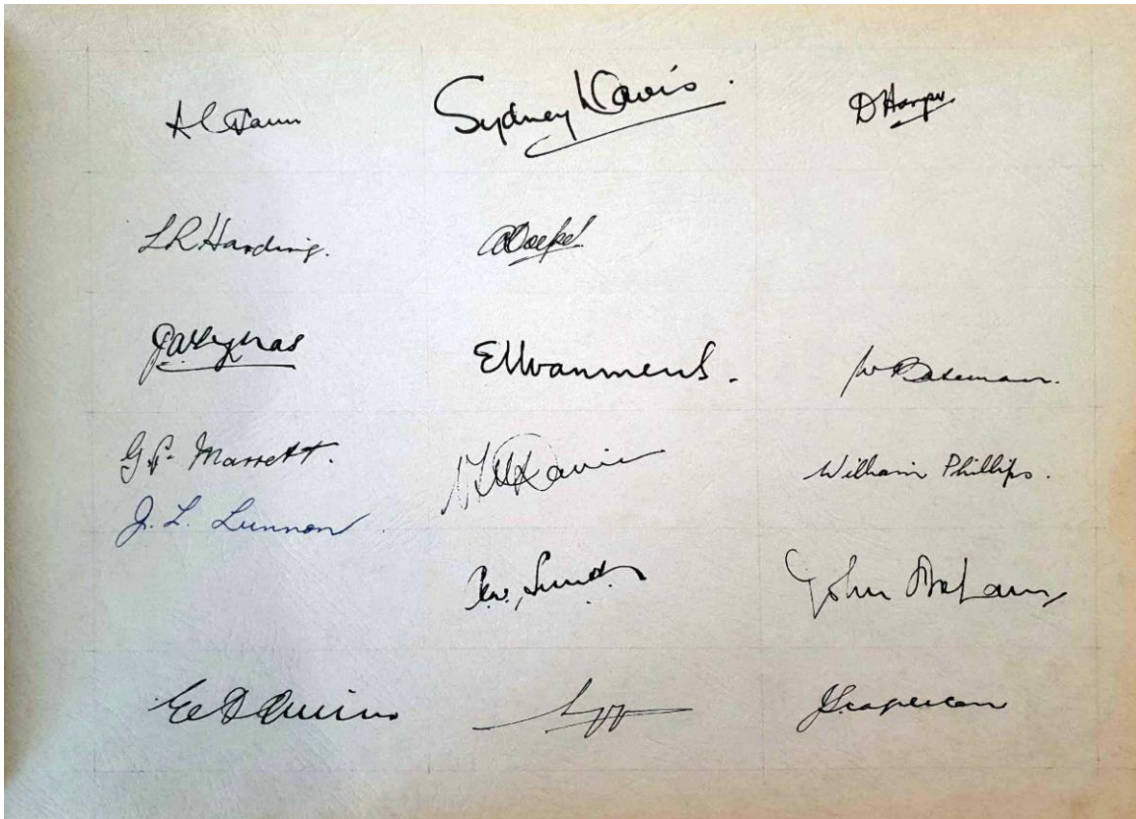
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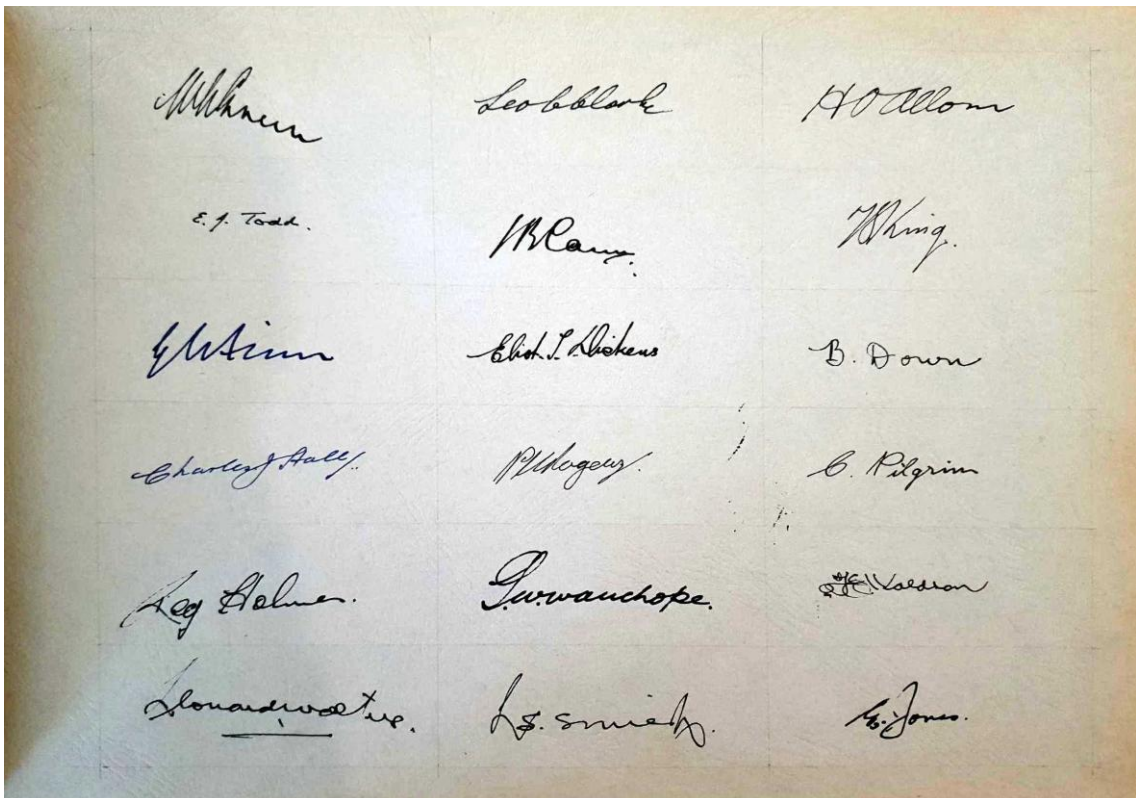
Introductory page to album of around 60 pages illustrating the work of the PWD, presented to Clare by the staff of the PWD at his retirement in 1960 (Bill Clare)



"Biographical Notes" page to album presented to Clare by the staff of the PWD at his retirement in 1960 (Bill Clare)



Signatures page (1 of 2) in album presented to Clare by PWD staff at his retirement in 1960 (Bill Clare)



Signatures page (2 of 2) in album presented to Clare by PWD staff at his retirement in 1960 (Bill Clare)



Perth Girls' High School of 1934, RIBA Bronze Medal winner in 1937 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Maylands Blind School 1937, Narrogin Agricultural High School 1951 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Caves House Yallingup 1938 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Royal Perth Hospital 1939 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Wongan Hills State Hotel 1940 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)





Albany High School Additions 1945 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



King Edward Memorial Hospital Nurses' Home of 1947, RIBA Bronze Medal winner in 1955 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Mount Henry Old Women's Home 1947 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Perth Chest Hospital and Quarters 1955 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



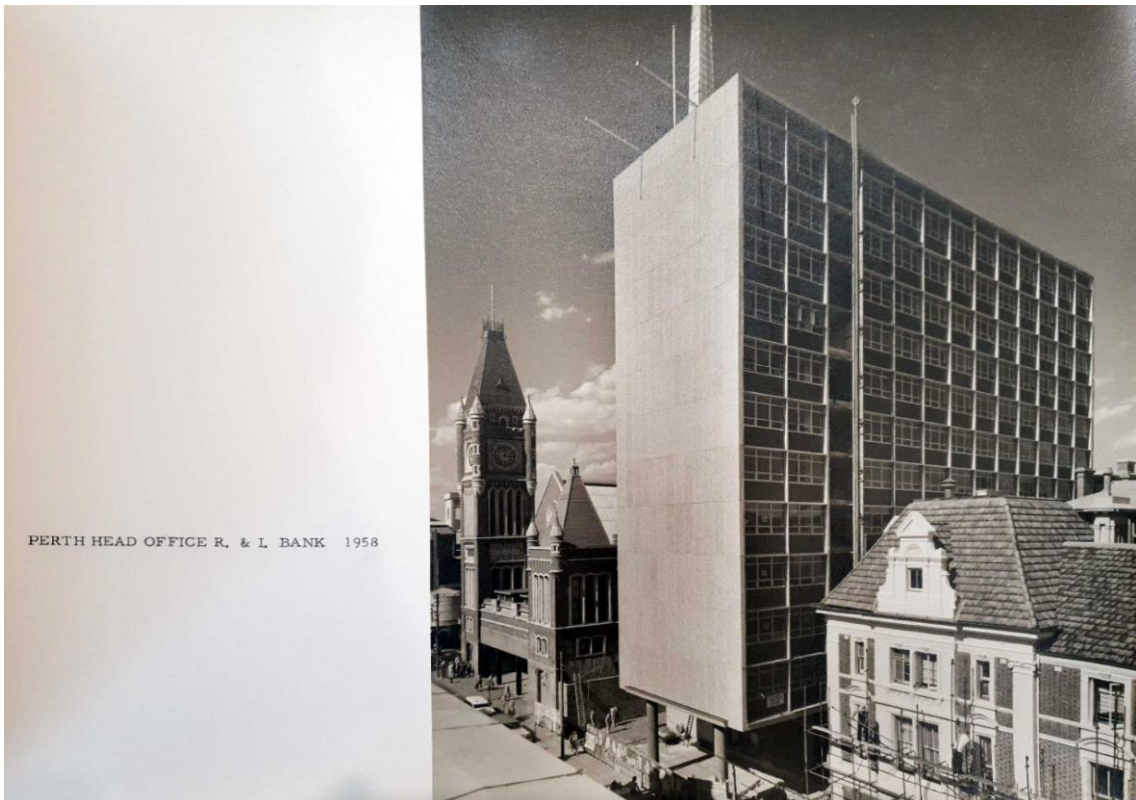
Lotteries Commission Offices 1957 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Claremont Police Station 1957 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Biochemistry Block Medical School 1957 (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)



Rural & Industries Bank Head Offices, Barrack Street Perth 1958 – now demolished (retirement album 1960, courtesy Bill Clare)