

FACT SHEET

BOULDER TOWN HALL HISTORY



The Boulder Town Hall is a Federation Free Classical style building built in 1908. The hall is home to the last known Philip Goatcher, Theatre Curtain painted in 1908 for the opening of the Town Hall.

Despite the glowing description, at the time of the tender, there was some local resistance to the building. Despite this, the opening of the Town Hall and Council Chambers was a cause for celebration in Boulder. A great number of ordinary citizens turned out to be involved in the opening of the Town Hall on the 23 June 1908.

It had been noted with appreciation by the Mayor that such interest had been shown. However there was insufficient room inside the hall for all the people present to be included in the actual ceremony.

The Governor, Admiral Sir Fredrick Bedford, was presented with a souvenir gold key, manufactured by Messrs. Mazzuchelli and Downes, bearing an inscription that recorded the details of the event. The presence of the Governor indicates the significance of the occasion and the importance of the building in the town's development.

In his speech the Mayor, James Lyon Johnston C.M.G, outlined the background events that led to the eventual construction of the Boulder Town Hall. The workmanship of the contractor is reflected in a comment in the Western Australian Mining, Building and Engineering Journal in September 1908, *"The erection of the Boulder Town Hall was carried out so well by the contractor, Mr. O. Stubbs that during the three month's period of maintenance practically nothing had to be done to the building."*

Once the Town Hall had been officially declared open, the musical section of the function commenced. The festivities surrounding the opening of the Town Hall continued for a number of days with further musical performances being held at the Town Hall.

The Boulder Town Hall is an imposing brick and stone building with a clock tower on the street corner. It comprises municipal offices, a council chamber, library, main hall, theater and eight dressing rooms. The ceilings are all pressed metal manufactured in Sydney by the Wunderlich Company. The Boulder Town Hall cost £11,200 to construct.

The foundation stone was laid by Philip Collier, Esq., M. L. A., on the 13 November 1907. The Boulder Town Hall is registered with the Heritage Council WA and carries a Category 1 listing. The Boulder Town Hall has played a central role in the life of the Boulder community, a civic resource with a rich and diverse history. Community activities and performances have always been a strong feature. Meetings, ceremonies, concerts, film nights and events have graced the hall and its stage.



THE MAIN HALL

The exuberant interior detailing of the building reflects the pride, confidence and new wealth of the goldfields community, as well as contemporary aesthetic values.

The hall is 70ft long by 55ft wide by 32ft clear height to the ceiling which features a wrap-around dress circle which is lofty and well ventilated, with numerous exits. The dress circle is supported on numerous ornate cast iron pillars; the dress circle balustrade is of delicate, ornate cast iron filigree work. A

mechanical sliding roof has been constructed and this can be opened or closed as required.

The stage has been constructed with a view to the accommodation of the most modern scenery. The stage mechanism was specially designed by Mr. Black, Chief Mechanist, at His Majesty's Theatre, Perth. The dimensions of the stage are 42ft by 34ft deep behind the proscenium walls, and 39ft deep to the footlights. The stage has a clear height of 45ft to the gridiron and has the usual fly galleries on three sides, scene dock, stage loft etc. The Drop Curtain, which is a scene of "The Bay of Naples", is painted by the well-known scenic artist, Phil W. Goatcher & Sons, of Perth. The stage frontage is all hand painted pressed tin.

There are two ticket booths situated in the Hall, on the Brookman Street side for patrons buying tickets for seating in the hall.

The lighting in the building was designed by Mr. H. G. Alder, Manager of the Boulder Municipal Electric Light Station. A special feature was made of the hall lighting with the stage being illuminated by 275 colored lights.

THE FOYER

The foyer has two staircases, one leading to the Library and the other to the Council Chamber and Mayors Reception Room. There are two ticket booths to the left and right of the foyer for patrons buying tickets to the Dress Circle.

THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

This room originally had light from both sides of the chamber, with a window being placed on the inside wall for the purposes of obtaining as much light as possible. The furniture now in the Council Chamber is from 1942; the Boulder Council presided here from 1908 – 1970, at which time Council was relocated to newly constructed Davidson Street offices until amalgamation with the Town of Kalgoorlie.

THE MAYORS RECEPTION ROOM

This room contains the clock tower which is built on top of over half of the room. The Clock tower is reached via a spiral staircase. The clock itself did not feature until more than a year after the opening. A four-faced non-striking clock was installed in November 1909 by Stewart Dawson & Co. for a fee of £198.