

Airservices Australia Heritage Register Place Record

Airservices Australia Place ID# : 014-02 BK-APT-CTC Control Tower
Airservices Australia Place Name: Bankstown Air Traffic Control Tower
Location of Place (inc. link to plan/map image if appropriate): Bankstown Control Tower, Tower Road, Bankstown Airport, Bankstown NSW 2198. Lat: 33 55' 18.7"S Long: 150 58' 55"E.
CHL/RNE ID# (inc. link to CHL/RNE): <u>Not a listed place on either the CHL or RNE.</u> However, the DEWHA Australian Heritage Database provides that the Bankstown Airport has the following status on the RNE: "Indicative Place", RNE Place Id # – 103900, Place File No: 1/16/003/0009.
Other known Heritage Listings Associated with Place: Bankstown Aerodrome is listed in Schedule 6 (Heritage Items) to the Bankstown Local Environmental Plan 2001.
Potential (non-listed) Heritage Values Associated with Place (note if investigation conducted): A Heritage Assessment commissioned in 2009 by Airservices Australia concludes the Bankstown Airport Air Traffic Control Tower meets the CHL criterion (d) at a level indicative of Commonwealth Heritage values. Refer to Statement of Significance.
Details if Place Located within or adjacent to known Heritage Place: DEWHA Australian Heritage Database provides that the Bankstown Airport has the following status on the RNE: "Indicative Place", RNE Place Id # – 103900, Place File No: 1/16/003/0009.
Statement of Significance for the Place (listed and/or potential): Bankstown ATC tower is of historical significance in a national context as a representative and substantially intact example of a standardised air traffic control tower form dating from the first phase of post-World War II design in air traffic control facilities (1950s-late 1960s). The Bankstown air traffic control tower, together with the equipment room and powerhouse, was designed by the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Works (NSW branch) for the Department of Civil Aviation. The complex was commissioned in 1970. The control tower is a utilitarian design comprising a square four-storey base in reinforced concrete with a face brick cladding, below a rectangular cantilevered walkway, also in reinforced concrete, around an octagonal cabin. The cabin is raised on a part-chamfered half-height duct and service space and octagonal cabin. Bankstown is one of a group of control towers built essentially to the same operational and technical standards and specifications across Australia and Papua New Guinea from the 1950s until the late-1960s, when perimeter frame towers became the standard model for control towers at secondary and general aviation airports in Australia. Its design is derived from the 1950s air traffic control towers (Essendon, Hobart, Launceston and others) a model which was repeated and refined through the 1960s. While a late example of this standard type, Bankstown is distinguished from the majority of the other surviving examples through its intactness. Other than for the modification of windows at the upper level on the eastern elevation, the building is unaltered externally; internally it also retains the majority of its plan form and fabric. It is unusual in retaining its original timber-framed console, albeit modified. The associated radio equipment room and power house are also intact externally.
Known History and Current Use of Place: The Tower was commissioned in 1970. The building has been used for its intended purpose since completion.
Summary Description of Significant Physical Characteristics/Elements of Place: Bankstown ATC tower is composed of a square four-storey base in reinforced concrete with a face brick cladding, below a rectangular cantilevered walkway, also in reinforced concrete,

around an octagonal cabin. The tower is built on standard raft footings, with a central stair in reinforced concrete. A single-storey brick wing (radio equipment room) extends westward from the tower base and a power house is located a short distance to the north. Both are original to the ATC complex and appear to be intact externally.

The bulk (approximately 60 per cent) of the ground floor plan is dedicated to the air conditioning plant roof, which is separated from the entrance lobby by a load-bearing concrete wall painted white. The concrete floor of the entrance lobby is finished in vinyl tiles, as are the treads of the concrete staircase that runs the height of the building. The balustrades throughout are white-painted metal, with the handrail coated in black plastic. The ground floor is higher than levels 1-3, possibly to accommodate the air conditioning plant, or for the height of the cabin to achieve the required sightlines over the apron. The layout of the first, second and third floors are almost identical.

With the exception of upgrades to finishes and fabric, and modifications to accommodate technical changes, the control cabin is intact as built. The frame of the central timber console is original. The canted double glazed cavity windows are and lined with felt.

Tenure Arrangements: The Bankstown Airport Control Tower is owned by Airservices Australia. The tower is located on land leased from the Bankstown Airport Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of BAC Airports Pty Limited. BAC Airports is a privately held company. Bankstown Airport is on Commonwealth land.

Summary of Works, etc relevant to Heritage Values of Place: Airservices' Environment and Climate Change Branch must be consulted prior to giving approval to any proposed modification to the Bankstown ATC tower, where that modification may affect the tower's original external form and fabric. The interior could be altered and adapted if required. In the event that the console requires replacement it should be retained and consideration given to its relocation to an appropriate repository, such as the Airways Museum at Essendon Airport, Victoria. The adjacent equipment room building and power house should preferably also be retained as part of the original complex.

Property or Information Restrictions/ Requirements Associated with Place: Public access restricted – access only permitted by approval of Airservices Australia.

Stakeholder Consultation Requirements related to Place: Heritage related statutory obligations exist.

Location/Details of 'off-site' Objects, Records etc of Significant Association with Heritage Values of Place: Nil.

Relevant Conservation Documents or References: Bankstown Air Traffic Control Tower. Detailed Heritage Assessment, June 2009. Report by Lovell Chen Architects and Heritage Consultants, commissioned by Airservices Australia.

Last Record Update Date: 23 July 2009