

## Airservices Australia Heritage Register Place Record

<b>Airservices Australia Place ID# :</b> 386-01 HB-APT-CTC Control Tower
<b>Airservices Australia Place Name:</b> Hobart Airport Air Traffic Control Tower
<b>Location of Place (inc. link to plan/map image if appropriate):</b> Hobart ATC Tower, Hobart International Airport, Cambridge, TAS 7170. Lat: 42 50' 08.6''S Long: 147 30' 06.5''E
<b>CHL/RNE ID# (inc. link to CHL/RNE):</b> No.
<b>Other known Heritage Listings Associated with Place:</b> No.
<b>Potential (non-listed) Heritage Values Associated with Place (note if investigation conducted):</b> A Heritage Assessment commissioned in 2009 by Airservices Australia concludes the Hobart Airport Air Traffic Control Tower meets the CHL criterion (a), (b) & (d) at a level indicative of Commonwealth Heritage values. Refer to Statement of Significance.
<b>Details if Place Located within or adjacent to known Heritage Place:</b> Nil.
<p><b>Statement of Significance for the Place (listed and/or potential):</b></p> <p>The Hobart ATC tower is of historical significance in a national context as a rare and representative surviving example of a post-World War II era control tower equipped to an international standard following guidelines devised by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). It was one of eight Australian ATC towers built to the same operational specifications between 1952 and 1959 in the first major phase of control towers development in the post-WWII period. The Hobart tower was built between 1956 and 1958, and commissioned in 1958. It is one of the oldest operational towers in Australia. Its contemporaries are the Essendon ATC tower, commissioned on 4 October 1956, and Launceston, which is believed to have been commissioned in 1958. All three were designed by the Commonwealth of Australia Department of Works (Victoria &amp; Tasmania Branch) for the Department of Civil Aviation. The building comprises a two-storey base building surmounted by an octagonal cabin. The cabin is raised on a partly chamfered and partly square duct and service drum. On three sides, an observation deck cantilevers from the flat roof of the base building. To the west the walkway is supported on the base of the broader stairwell. The ATC tower was a central element of the new Hobart Airport at Llanhern, which replaced Cambridge Aerodrome as the city's primary airport in 1956. Like the original terminal building, the tower was not complete by time daylight operations commenced at the airport. The tower has been used for its intended purpose since completion and is relatively intact. The ATC tower is situated on a hill to the west of the runway, and north-west of the terminal buildings. Hobart ATC tower is unusual and may be unique in Australia in that it serves two airfields: Cambridge Aerodrome, from 1936-56 Hobart's main airport and now a general aviation airfield; and Hobart International Airport, approximately two kilometres to the east.</p>
<b>Known History and Current Use of Place:</b> The Hobart tower was built between 1956 and 1958, and commissioned in 1958; it remains Essendon Airport's current operational Control Tower.
<p><b>Summary Description of Significant Physical Characteristics/Elements of Place:</b> Hobart ATC tower comprises an octagonal cabin on top of an asymmetrical two-storey red brick base building. The cabin is raised on a partly chamfered and partly square duct and service drum. On three sides, an observation deck cantilevers from the flat roof of the base building. To the west the walkway is supported on the base of the broader stairwell.</p> <p>The building's primary publicly visible face, the east elevation, comprises four small windows at ground level, with modern security grilles, and three timber-framed windows across the width of the upper level. The window returns to the broader north and south elevations.</p>

A bay projecting from the west end of the south elevation houses the switch room and toilet above. Steel safety hoops have been added to the vertical escape ladder to the east of the south elevation. The steel balcony at the first floor level is a replacement of a narrower concrete original. The original concrete portal entry on the west elevation was replaced with the present canted glass canopy in 2006. The steel frame of the original entry had corroded in the saline, windy conditions. The walkway around the duct and service drum is essentially intact as built. A window facing north-east has been filled in, and air conditioning units have been added to the north and south. The cover to the escape ladder is modern. The canted steel window frames are original, as is the fixed steel ladder to the roof (at the west). The balustrade around the cabin roof is steel piping, like the balustrade to the walkway. The original rotating beacon is extant.

Hobart ATC tower is largely intact as built. Aside from systems upgrades, alterations for OH&S compliance and the replacement of worn fabric, the major alteration is the removal of the original concrete entrance portal entry and installation of the modern canted glass canopy.

**Tenure Arrangements:** The Hobart Airport Control Tower is owned by Airservices Australia. The tower is located on land leased from the Hobart International Airport Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Tas Ports Corporation. Hobart International 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 Hobart ATC tower, where that modification may affect the tower's original external form and fabric (the two-storey base building and octagonal cabin). There is scope for adaptation of the interior, but such works must be sympathetic with the identified values of the place. While new development could occur in the general vicinity of the tower if required, the building should be retained as an essentially free-standing structure. Lovell Chen Heritage Consultants recommend where feasible consideration be given to the removal of the modern entrance canopy and the reconstruction of the original concrete awning supported on steel columns, based on documentary or visual evidence.

**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:** Hobart 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