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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE COMMITTEE

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REPORT ON PROPOSED INTERIM ACCOMMODATION FOR THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY PARLIAMENT IN THE CHAN BUILDING DURING CONSTRUCTION
OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

MAY 1989

**REPORT ON PROPOSED INTERIM ACCOMMODATION FOR THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY PARLIAMENT IN THE CHAN BUILDING DURING CONSTRUCTION
OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE.**

INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 April 1987 the Sessional Committee known as the New Parliament House Committee was re-appointed with the following membership:

Mr Speaker

Mr Firmin

Mr Lanhupuy

Mr Leo

Mr Setter.

2. On 17 May 1988, Mr Firmin was discharged from further attendance on the Committee and the Minister for Transport and Works, the Honourable F A Finch, was appointed to the Committee in his place. On 25 May 1988, Mr Lanhupuy was also discharged from further attendance on the Committee and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr T E Smith, was appointed in his place. At its Meeting on 21 July 1988 Mr Speaker was elected Chairman.

3. Apart from the Committee being charged with duties relating to the planning, design and construction of the New Parliament House, the Committee is also charged to:

"act for and represent the Legislative Assembly in all matters concerned with the planning, design and construction of any interim accommodation proposed for the Legislative Assembly, its Committees, Members and officers and all matters incidental thereto."

4. The Chief Minister, the Honourable Marshall Perron MLA, announced on 14 July 1988 that the Government intended to proceed with the State Square project and that the project will include the building of a New Parliament House on the site presently occupied by the Legislative Assembly buildings and the Nelson Building.

5. On 16 February 1989, your Committee reported to the Assembly on the proposed conceptual plans for the New Parliament House for State Square. This report was adopted by the Assembly on 22 February 1989.

6. Following the competition for a New Parliament House design in 1984, it had been proposed that during the construction period of the New Parliament House, Legislative Assembly Members and staff of the Department the Legislative Assembly would be housed in the Nelson Building, and the Legislative Assembly Chamber would be situated on the ground floor of the Chan Building in the old cafeteria, now the Reception Room.

7. Under the State Square proposal, however, the Nelson Building has to be demolished to accommodate the New Parliament House. Your Committee was informed that the Ministry is to vacate those areas of the Chan Building which it presently occupies and that it will move to the new TIO building, Northern Territory House, on its completion. Your Committee was also informed that completion date for that building is anticipated to be early in September 1989.

8. With the concurrence of the Minister of Transport and Works, the Honourable F Finch MLA, your Committee examined the possibility of accommodating the Legislative Assembly totally within the Chan Building, and had plans drawn up for its consideration. The matter was initially referred to a sub-committee comprised of Mr Finch, Mr Leo and Mr Setter. Your Committee, having considered the report of the sub-committee concluded:

9. In the plans, your Committee has attempted to accommodate all needs of the Legislative Assembly with minimum changes to present partitioning. In the main, partitions will have to be removed rather than erected. There is some discrepancy in size between Members' rooms and Members should appreciate that the accommodation there will be temporary. It may be that Mr Speaker will have to exercise the "judgement of Solomon" in allocating rooms to Members. The major expense associated with the move is in constructing a temporary Chamber on the ground floor. The dimensions of the Reception Room area there are very similar to the dimensions of the present Legislative Assembly Chamber and your Committee is of the opinion that whilst the accommodation may not be commodious it will be adequate for the next two and a half years. Copies of the proposed plans for the Chan Building are attached at Appendix "A".

10. It will be necessary for the Legislative Assembly also to take control of the parking area immediately adjacent to the Chan Building and some of the parking area to the rear of the Building. Your Committee is of the opinion that the Legislative Assembly should amend the Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act to determine the precincts of Parliament as the Chan Building and associated areas during the period of construction of the New Parliament House. To this end your Committee has requested the Clerk of the Assembly to have a schedule of the proposed Parliamentary Precincts

drawn up with a view to amending the Act as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee recommends:

- (A) that on the removal of the Ministry from the Chan Building to Northern Territory House, the Legislative Assembly Chamber, offices for its Members and accommodation for the Department of the Legislative Assembly be temporarily relocated in the Chan Building in accordance with the proposed plans attached to this report;

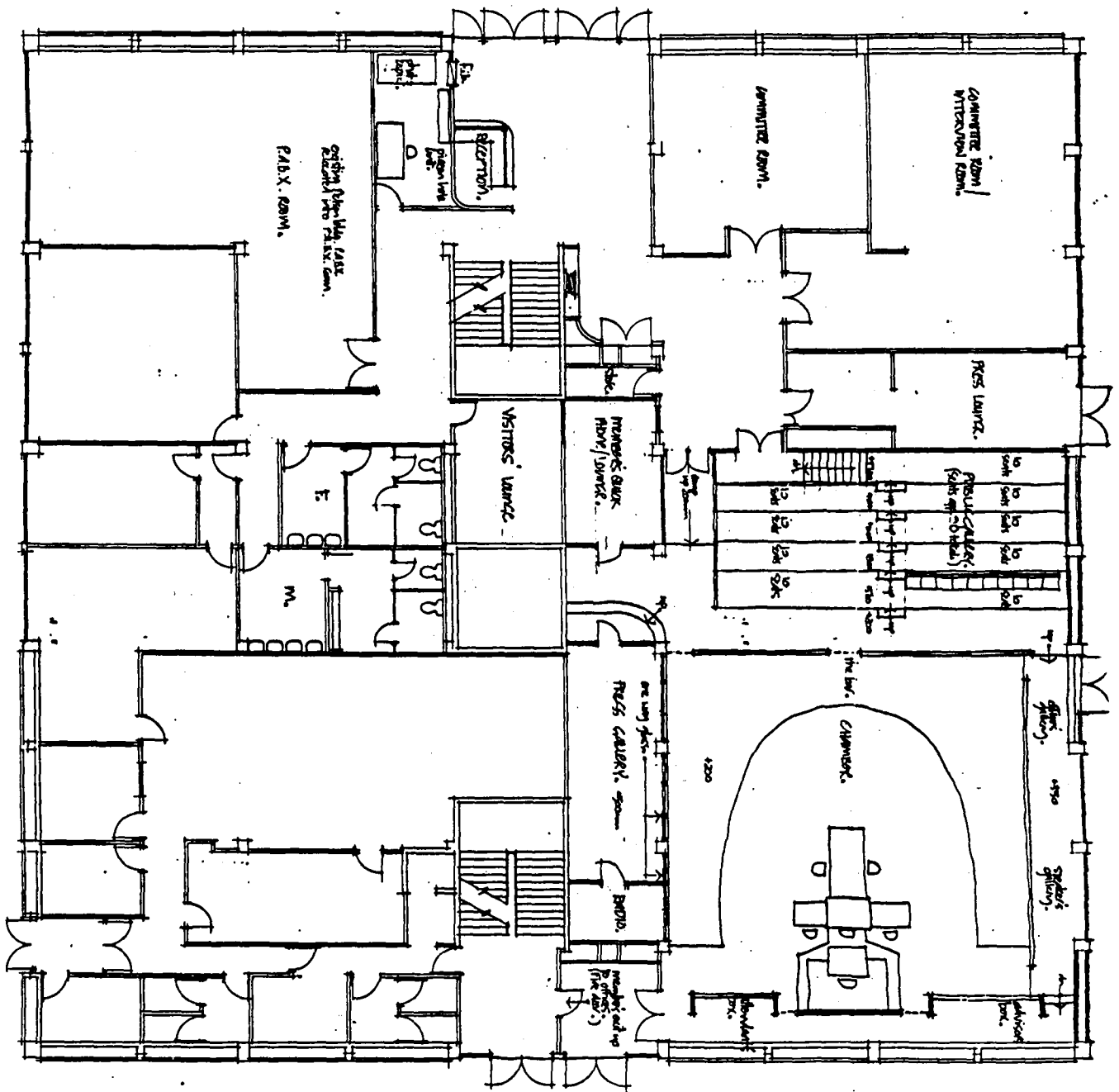
- (B) that prior to the Legislative Assembly being accommodated in the Chan Building, the Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Act be amended to establish the Chan Building and appropriate adjacent areas as the Parliamentary Precincts during construction of the New Parliament House; and

(C) that the Assembly authorise the Committee to act as its client to implement these plans and associated works, and to co-ordinate the timing of the relocation of the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Members' offices and the Department of the Legislative Assembly to the interim accommodation following the vacating of the Chan Building by the Ministry.

ROGER VALE
CHAIRMAN

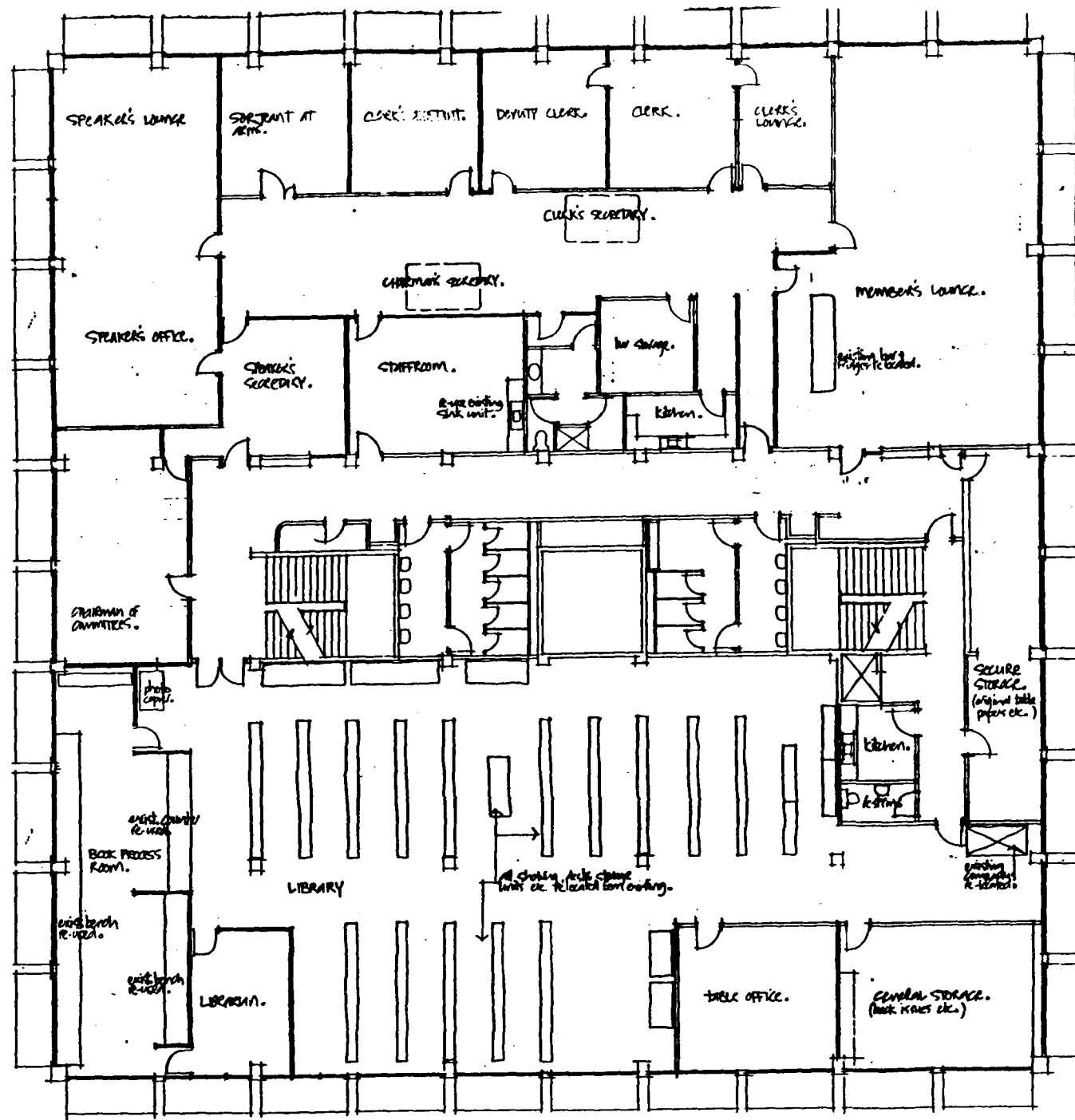
May 1989

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED PLANS FOR THE CHAN BUILDING



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

AA - DRIVER'S VISITOR'S LOUNGE SWAPPED.
 AB - DRIVER'S LOUNGE DELETED
 PRESS LOUNGE & MEMBER'S GEAR RACK SWAPPED



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

