



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 1762
2. **NAME** *Fairbridge Farm School (fmr)* (1920s -1940s, 1950s)
3. **LOCATION** off South Western Highway, Pinjarra
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
 Those parts of;
 Lots 2, 3 and 4 on Plan 4496 (sheet 2), being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1842 Folio 112 and
 Lot 101 on Plan 16058, being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1786 Folio 602 as together are defined in Heritage Council of Western Australia survey drawings No. 1762 A, B and C prepared by Crossland & Hardy Pty. Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Murray
6. **OWNER** Alcoa of Australia Ltd.
 (Fairbridge Western Australia (Inc.) has been granted a lease of the place for the term of 44 years from the 10th of April 1989 with two options of renewal for the term of 25 years each.)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**

• Register of Heritage Places:	Interim Entry	24/03/1998
	Permanent Entry	02/06/1998
• National Trust Classification:	classified	04/07/1977
• Town Planning Scheme:	listed (scheme No.4)	-----
• Municipal Inventory:		-----
• Register of the National Estate:	nominated	19/07/1977
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Fairbridge Farm School (fmr), a village-like collection of pisé^{*}, timber, brick and rendered masonry buildings, predominantly constructed between 1921 and 1938 in the Inter-War Old English style, is located at the base of the Darling Escarpment within a landscaped and bushland setting on the South Dandalup River. *Fairbridge Farm School (fmr)* has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place was the first of a number of similar institutions established by the Child Emigration Society in Australia and in Canada, a common phenomenon in the first half of the twentieth century and is the only remaining site where tangible evidence remains to illustrate how the institution was organised;

the place is important as an example of child migration schemes and is a physical expression of attitudes within the British Empire typical of the early years of the twentieth century. The acceptance and support of Kingsley Fairbridge's idea mirrored the rise and fall of demographic and social concerns expressed by parliamentarians and others within the British Empire;

the place is important for its representation of the history of childhood and of educational opportunities available to children in Western Australia. Concentration on teaching practical skills to both boys and girls was typical of the social values of the inter-war years;

the buildings were exceptional in their day for their size, their organisation and for their plan. *Fairbridge Farm School (fmr)* illustrates a high point in one theory of child welfare practised in Western Australia, where the institution was run on the cottage system ;

the place is important for its associations with Kingsley and Ruby Fairbridge, its associations with the prominent architect, Sir Herbert Baker, who designed the Church of the Holy Innocents, and for its associations with the architectural firm Powell, Cameron and Chisholm;

the collective components of the place form a rare cultural environment that is an achievement in planning and design. The intention of a non-institutional, village-like setting integrated with its surroundings has been realised, while at the same time, establishing a subtle, hierarchical orderliness to the place;

the place is an excellent example of the use of the Inter-War Old English architectural style, in the design of the buildings and the use of English principles of garden design typical of the inter-war period;

the Church of the Holy Innocents, Fairbridge House and the Old Fairbridgians Clubhouse are important structures within the site, which create a focus within the wider context of the place;

the place is especially important to members of the Old Fairbridgians' Association who continue an active involvement with the place today. The place also represents memories and

* Pisé - earth or clay rammed into formwork for building walls.

associations with others for whom it played an important role in their lives; and

the place is important to the wider community in Western Australia as evidenced by the network of co-operation which included governments (British, Commonwealth and State), private institutions, and very many individuals, that ensured the survival of the farm school until 1980.

Sixty places have been assessed within the site - including buildings and landscape elements. Few elements assessed are of little significance or intrusive .