



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing Schools
- 6.3 Training people for workplace skills
- 8.10 Pursuing excellence in the arts and sciences

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science
- 407 Cultural Activities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Old Midland Junction School* has important aesthetic significance to the community in its 'blood and bandage' red brickwork and rendered bands, sills and asymmetric exteriors which are in the Federation Free style. The grounds and mature trees also contribute to the aesthetic value of the site. (Criterion 1.1)

The design of the three buildings was innovative as it was an early manifestation of the trend in Australian architecture, Federation Free style, that dominated the decade that followed. (Criterion 1.2)

The prominence of the buildings on the site on the corner of Great Eastern Highway and Viveash Street gives it a landmark quality which serves to define the eastern gateway to Midland and the eastern extent of the old town centre. While trees do obscure the vista of the buildings to a certain extent, it is important to note that they themselves contribute to the landmark quality of the site. (Criterion 1.3)

The group of buildings comprising *Old Midland Junction School* site form a precinct and collectively add to the street and townscape that enriches the old Midland town centre which has lost many of its earlier buildings. (Criterion 1.4)

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\* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, Richard; Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Old Midland Junction School* has important historic significance as one of a group of similar Public Works schools of the period in other parts of the State and metropolitan area. As a group of buildings on the site and in relation to Midland it reflects the diverse educational needs of the district at the time, with the technical school role reinforcing the working class educational needs of the people. (Criterion 2.1)

The educational institutions and organisations that have occupied the place have played important roles in the development of the locality and State, both in Midland and elsewhere, because of industry, the rail workshops and links with the agricultural hinterland that Midland has embraced. The site still makes an important contribution in its current role as a business incubator centre and regional arts facility. (Criterion 2.2)

*Old Midland Junction School* is important for its associations with the work of prominent Public Works Architects Hillson Beasley, and Grainger initially, who both made a great contribution to the richness of the State's architectural heritage. (Criterion 2.3)

The main building has important historical significance for the State and the region as an excellent example of the style of the period and as one of the few remaining substantial buildings from the historical period of Midland's development. (Criterion 2.4)

## **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

*Old Midland Junction School* has importance as a combined education site for infant, primary and technical education. (Criterion 3.1)

The site has high local and regional significance in contribution to an understanding of the development of education facilities and needs of the region. (Criterion 3.2)

## **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Midland Junction School* site is highly valued for the associations it has had with the development of education needs of the region. In addition, as the site of a school, the community places great social significance on the buildings and grounds as having played an integral part in the life of the town and the population of Midland in general. (Criterion 4.1)

The site has contributed to the community's sense of place through the landmark qualities of the buildings and the grounds. It has also strengthened local identity because of the role it has played in the education of many of the local citizens. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

The main building is an excellent and important example in the State of the educational establishments of the period and the integration of progressive stages. The place is one of the few remaining substantial buildings in Midland of its period. (Criterion 5.1)

*Old Midland Junction School* site is one of few in the State to have had such a large and diverse cross section of facilities across the range of infant, primary,

secondary and technical education. It also clearly demonstrates an evolution of educational needs in the Midland area. (Criterion 5.2)

## **12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

The place is highly representative of educational institutions of the period during which the buildings were constructed. (Criterion 6.1)

The place is one of few in the State to have has such a large and diverse cross section of facilities across the range of infant, primary, secondary and technical education. (Criterion 6.2)

## **12.3 CONDITION**

The condition of the place is very good having been continuously occupied and maintained, although the Headmaster's House was not as robustly built as the two other buildings and its fabric is now showing greater signs of dilapidation.

## **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The original intent of the place as an educational institution is still intact, however the nature of the education is altered. The place has very high integrity which will easily allow the original fabric to be maintained or restored. Where there has been intervention with the fabric, this generally can be reversed and still allow viable usage of the building because of the functional nature of spaces and finishes. The integrity of some internal spaces in the Infant's School and Headmaster's House is obscured and should be reinstated.

## **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The main building is very authentic with a high percentage of the original fabric still intact and well maintained. The modification of several entries and some of the other (later) buildings on the site has diminished the authenticity of the original Infants School site and Headmaster's House. The internal spaces are very much in their original condition although replacement of some of ceilings and internal partitioning has obscured original fabric and diminished authenticity to some degree (particularly in the Infant's School and Headmaster's House).

## **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd 'Old Midland Junction School Conservation Plan' for the Midland Enterprise Centre, 1995.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence (p6-13), Chronology-Key Dates (p14-20), Physical Evidence (p26-35), Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p36-44).

### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd 'Old Midland Junction School Conservation Plan' for the Midland Enterprise Centre, 1995.

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd 'Old Midland Junction School Conservation Plan' for the Midland Enterprise Centre, 1995.

### **13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd 'Old Midland Junction School Conservation Plan' for the Midland Enterprise Centre, 1995.

### **13. 4 REFERENCES**

Bruce Callow & Associates Pty Ltd 'Old Midland Junction School Conservation Plan' for the Midland Enterprise Centre, 1995.

### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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