



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)

- 4.3 Developing urban institutions
- 5.2 Organising workers and work places
- 7.6.3 Policing Australia

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 403 Law and order

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is an important example of Federation Free Style architecture and one of only a few significant examples of this style remaining in Geraldton. (Criterion 1.1)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is an unusual example of the use of the Federation Free Style in a residential building. (Criterion 1.2)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) has been a prominent part of the Geraldton townscape since its construction in 1912. Through its size and location it has always been a prominent landmark in what was once a smaller scale residential area, but which is now a commercial business area. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is closely associated with the development of the town of Geraldton and the region in general, reflecting a continued period of growth in Geraldton, and the confidence of the State Government in the future of the town. (Criterion 2.1)

The construction of *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)* reflected a change in policy, at the time, as to the housing of police officers in the country. It remains the most significant example of the implementation of this policy in Western Australia. (Criterion 2.2)

* 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.

The role of the Police Service in the establishment and development of a new town is one of significance. *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)* represents one part of the evolution of Policing in Geraldton. (Criterion 2.2)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is one of only a few examples in Geraldton of the work of Chief Government Architect, Hillson Beasley, who is recognised as a significant practitioner of Federation Free Style architecture, and whose body of works is of importance to the heritage of the State of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

From 1912 until 1999, *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)* was the place of residence for many members of the Police Force and their families, who served a posting to Geraldton. *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)* has social value for these Officers and their families. (Criterion 4.1)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is valued for its contribution to the built architecture of the town and the streetscape. (Criterion 4.1 & 4.2)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) continues to be fully occupied as residential rental accommodation and its grounds continue to receive care and maintenance demonstrating regard not only for its purpose, and for the value of its physical presence, but also its commercial value. (Criterion 4.1 & 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The design and concept of the large Police Barracks for the housing of police officers is unique in country Western Australia, and one of only a small number of Police Barracks anywhere in the State. (Criterion 5.1)

The design of *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)* through its scale, detailing and density of accommodation is unique to Geraldton. The only other buildings of this scale, in Geraldton at the time were non-residential public and commercial buildings. (Criterion 5.2)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is rare as it demonstrates a policy of collectively housing officers in one large building which is no longer favoured by the Police Service, the current trend being to integrate police accommodation into general suburban housing. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The planning and design of *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)*, is representative of the Federation Free Style of architecture that was favoured at the time, particularly for Government buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is an example of the evolution in design of a form of accommodation traditionally favoured by the military, to a form suitable for the housing of police officers and their families. The building is a response to its function and style, and does not respond specifically to its site or the climate. (Criterion 6.2)

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) embodies many of the traditional policing practises in the early 20th century, the police force being not unlike the armed forces in terms of discipline, respect and ritual. (Criterion 6.2)

The planning of *Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr)*, and subsequent alterations and additions to wet areas, demonstrate a change in attitude towards these areas, typical in the community at this time, from one of total separation to one of integration. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) is generally in fair condition with a few parts in poor condition. Areas of masonry and render have deteriorated due to rising damp and moisture ingress, and minor cracking has occurred in the original walls as a result of movement. All windows have deteriorated with use and exposure to the elements. The roof is in fair condition. However, the gutters are in poor condition and will need attention. The interior fittings are relatively intact and in good condition, as are the internal surfaces and finishes.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) has a high degree of integrity. The place continues to be used for its original purpose as residential accommodation (albeit no longer Police Force accommodation), and will continue to be used as such in the short to medium term.

Only maintenance restoration and servicing is required to enable their continued use for accommodation.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Geraldton Police Barracks (fmr) retains a considerably high degree of authenticity. Most of the fabric is extant from the original 1912 building and the 1969 addition.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting Evidence has been taken from 'Former Police Barracks, Geraldton, Western Australia Conservation Plan', prepared by Eastman and Poletti Pty Ltd Architects, with Gary Martin, historian, for CAMS and The Government Employees Housing Authority, August 2001.

Key sections used: 1.0 Documentary Evidence (p7-22), 2.0 Physical Evidence (p40-50), 3.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (p59-72)

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence, refer to 'Former Police Barracks, Geraldton, Western Australia Conservation Plan', prepared by Eastman and Poletti Pty Ltd Architects, with Gary Martin, historian, for CAMS and The Government Employees Housing Authority, August 2001.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to 'Former Police Barracks, Geraldton, Western Australia Conservation Plan', prepared by Eastman and Poletti Pty Ltd Architects, with Gary Martin, historian, for CAMS and The Government Employees Housing Authority, August 2001.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a Comparative Analysis, refer to 'Former Police Barracks, Geraldton, Western Australia Conservation Plan', prepared by Eastman and Poletti Pty Ltd Architects, with Gary Martin, historian, for CAMS and The Government Employees Housing Authority, August 2001.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Former Police Barracks, Geraldton, Western Australia Conservation Plan', prepared by Eastman and Poletti Pty Ltd Architects, with Gary Martin, historian, for CAMS and The Government Employees Housing Authority, August 2001.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
