



## 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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from Narrogin Town Hall Complex Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 7.8 Establishing regional and local identity
- 8.1 Organising recreation

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

- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

The Town Hall of *Narrogin Town Hall Complex* is an excellent example of a Federation Free Classical style town hall. Its features include a finely detailed loggia and portico, distinctive stained glass fanlights with the 'Narrogin Town Hall' monograph, and an oregon lined hall ceiling with decorative wrought iron scroll brackets. (Criterion 1.1)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* is a landmark as a striking two-storey building with a corner tower, sited at the intersection of two main streets, Federal and Fortune Streets, and having a significant visual impact on the vistas along both these streets. (Criterion 1.3)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* contributes to a commercial and civic precinct of single and two-storey buildings constructed between the late 1890s and early 1900s, which is an important visual element of the streetscape, townscape and character of Narrogin. (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**

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* was constructed from 1908 as a prominent public building to serve the rapidly growing Narrogin community, and reflects the growing confidence in, and importance of Narrogin as a major town in the Great Southern Region at this time, one of a limited number of significant towns developing in the Region, in association with the railways. (Criterion 2.1)

The construction of the Lesser Hall in 1928 is indicative of the growing prosperity of the region at the time, following agricultural expansion in the Great Southern Region in the 1920s. (Criterion 2.1)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* was an administrative centre for the Narrogin Town Council from 1908 to 1966, in addition to the nearby Roads Board Office, and also provided library services for the town throughout this period. (Criterion 2.2)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* was designed by architect George Lavater, Architect and built by Hugh Marsh, Building Contractor, both of whom were local residents, and is associated with the many Narrogin Town Councillors who served the town in the period prior to 1966, when the Council moved to new premises. (Criterion 2.3)

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

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

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* is valued by the Narrogin community for the many cultural and social events held there since 1908, as evidenced by the balls, theatre productions, touring concerts, private functions, sporting events, and cinema screenings, held there. (Criterion 4.1)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* contributes to the Narrogin community's sense of place as a substantial public building, as demonstrated by its use in the Council's logo, and its inclusion on the Town of Narrogin's Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Narrogin Town Hall* is a relatively rare example of a two storey town hall in the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Narrogin Town Hall* is an excellent example of a civic building in the Federation Free Classical style of architecture. (Criterion 6.1)

*Narrogin Town Hall Complex* is representative of the development of central Narrogin in the early 1900s through to the late 1920s and the subsequent evolution of the main street of the town. (Criterion 6.1)

The place demonstrates the characteristics of the social and cultural activities associated with the municipal authority in a major regional community. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

Maintenance has taken place over a period of many years however, it has been of an adhoc nature. The cumulative effects of weathering are evident on the exterior. The interior has been maintained at a functional level. Overall the place is in a fair condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear although many of the functions have altered within the complex as it has developed and evolved over the years. The place has retained a moderate degree of integrity.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

The original fabric on the exterior is for the most part intact except for some alterations to the upstairs verandah on the Fortune Street side of the Town Hall building corner. The interior fabric throughout has been retained for the most part in the main hall of the Town Hall, although the stage proscenium has been altered. The Lesser Hall has had varying degrees of intervention and alteration to the fabric over the years. The place has a moderate to high degree of authenticity.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from “Conservation Plan Narrogin Town Hall Complex” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant and Lucy Williams, Historian & Heritage Consultant for the Town of Narrogin in October 2001.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to “Conservation Plan Narrogin Town Hall Complex” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant and Lucy Williams, Historian & Heritage Consultant for the Town of Narrogin in October 2001.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to “Conservation Plan Narrogin Town Hall Complex” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant and Lucy Williams, Historian & Heritage Consultant for the Town of Narrogin in October 2001.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a comparative analysis refer to “Conservation Plan Narrogin Town Hall Complex” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant and Lucy Williams, Historian & Heritage Consultant for the Town of Narrogin in October 2001.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

“Conservation Plan Narrogin Town Hall Complex” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant and Lucy Williams, Historian & Heritage Consultant for the Town of Narrogin in October 2001.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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