



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE *

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops exhibit a unity in the style of construction, being almost exclusively of timber and iron, and their form expresses their simple functionality. This overall unity derives from the use of local timber by the company to construct all the buildings within the workshops and the town, demonstrating a typical aesthetic characteristic of timber towns. (Criterion 1.1)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops are located on the only flat area of the town, east of the railway tracks and an area which is a dominant visual feature at the foot of the hills. (Criterion 1.3)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops form a part of the significant townscape of Yarloop, which is a fine example of a substantially intact timber town. Within Yarloop there are a number of clearly defined significant precincts, most notably *Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops*, 'Happy Valley', 'Nobs' Hill', and the hospital, the doctor's residence, and the residences in Barrington Knight Road. The workshop precinct is the largest and most visually significant of these elements. A sufficient density of buildings exists in each of the precincts for them to be clearly distinguished. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops are important as an industrial complex associated with the company town, Yarloop. The scale and diversity of the operations which have been carried out at the workshops in the late nineteenth century and for more than sixty years of the twentieth century are of great importance. The operations include all the railway workshop functions; administrative operations and design of timber mills, machinery and equipment; trade education; and the service of machinery and equipment for the timber industry. (Criterion 2.1)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops are the largest of the workshops developed to service the timber industry and its associated railway system in the State. As such, they were central to the development of Millars, the largest timber company in Western Australia and the largest privately owned and operated

* 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.

railway in the world. In this role, the workshops were integral to the development of the timber industry in Western Australia, which in turn has contributed significantly to the economy of the State. (Criterion 2.2)

In World War One, *Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops* manufactured armaments. The war service of workshops personnel and others from the timber industry in the Yarloop area was significant in both world wars. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is associated with various individuals involved in the development of the timber industry in Western Australia. The individuals include the Millar Brothers, Henry Teesdale Smith, W. C. Thomas, A. C. Munro, and Arthur Christian, as well as the various Chief Engineers, including John Bradshaw who presided over the Workshops at their peak in the 1930s. (Criterion 2.3)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops demonstrate the technical and design features of purpose built, timber industrial buildings of the late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth centuries. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops has the potential to yield information about the industrial history of Western Australia, particularly the timber industry. It has potential as a teaching site for the study of industrial archaeology, traditional and contemporary trade skills, social and cultural history relating to the development of the timber industry in Western Australia. (Criterion 3.1)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops provide evidence of the development of technological processes associated with the manufacture, repair and maintenance of railway rolling stock, machinery and equipment for the timber industry in Western Australia from the late nineteenth century to the 1970s. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

For a period of over 80 years, the labour force of the workshops was representative of a specific group of Western Australian industrial workers including tradesmen, technicians, engineers, designers, and administrators all of whom collectively made a significant contribution to the development of the timber industry of Western Australia. Through apprenticeships and training, *Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops* have provided skilled workers for the State's industrial work-force and for the timber industry in particular. (Criterion 4.1)

The fact that the workshops and the town of Yarloop have survived and been conserved is to a large extent the result of concerted voluntary effort since 1978. This reflects the high value of the place to the local community. The listing of the place by the Australian Heritage Commission, the National Trust of Australia (WA), and on the Municipal Inventory of the Shire of Harvey is evidence of the social value of the place to the wider community. (Criterion 4.1)

Yarloop Timber Mills Workshops has been a particular focus of community effort, reflecting the importance of the place to the local community. The workshops has contributed to the strong sense of local identity of Yarloop. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops was the largest timber industry workshop in Western Australia for more than 80 years servicing and manufacturing locomotives and rolling stock, machinery and equipment. It is the only extant major privately owned railway workshop in the State and one of the few late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial sites that is substantially intact. (Criterion 5.1)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops is a significant component of the town of Yarloop which is the only large collection of timber industrial and associated railway buildings still extant. (Criterion 5.1)

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops is a significant component of the town of Yarloop which demonstrates a period when large numbers of people were employed in the industrial processes associated with the timber industry. This way of life has disappeared in the post industrial late twentieth century. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops is a significant component of the town of Yarloop which represents the focus of railway activity associated with the timber industry in Western Australia from the 1890s to the 1970s, through the age of steam power in the timber industry.

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops are representative of the period in which railways and steam were essential to the timber industry for transport and power. The workshops are also representative of workshops once involved in the manufacture, service and repair of locomotives and equipment associated with the timber industry. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

The condition of *Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops* ranges from fair to good. The condition of the place reflects its importance to the local community.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops is a museum itself and retains a high degree of integrity. The complete range of workshop activities is either represented by built fabric or is reasonably well documented such that interpretation of the site is mainly available through the physical evidence supplemented by the documentary evidence.

The integrity of the workshops is increased when considering the broader context of the town of Yarloop, which itself has a high degree of integrity and authenticity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of *Yarloop Timber Mill Workshops* is high. Other elements such as the reconstructed elements of the Workshops are clearly not authentic, and these are readily distinguishable, either by their styling and detailing, or by the plaques which are attached to them.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian, 'Yarloop Conservation Plan' (prepared for Yarloop Workshops Inc. in December 1998).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian, 'Yarloop Conservation Plan' (prepared for Yarloop Workshops Inc. in December 1998).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian, 'Yarloop Conservation Plan' (prepared for Yarloop Workshops Inc. in December 1998).

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

13.4 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd with Robin Chinnery, Historian, 'Yarloop Conservation Plan' (prepared for Yarloop Workshops Inc. in December 1998).

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
