



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 3.26 Providing health services
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.13 Living in cities and suburbs

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 306 Domestic activities
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany is a good example of a family home designed in the Federation Bungalow style, in an open garden setting. (Criterion 1.1)

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany is part of a group of historic houses along the north side of Grey Street, which are on the whole set well back from the road, positioned to take advantage of views over Princess Royal Harbour, with retaining walls at the front of their blocks. (Criterion 1.3)

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany contributes to the residential streetscape of Grey Street and the historic character of central Albany. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany was constructed in 1914 at a time that Albany was consolidating as a regional centre, having lost its earlier role as the State's major port. As a substantial residence it indicates continued confidence in the future of the town at the time. (Criterion 2.1)

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany was purchased by the Government in 1958 to provide urgently needed staff accommodation for the nearby Albany District

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Hospital, which was expanding rapidly as a result of the post-World War II agricultural boom swelling the population of the district, and was used as rental accommodation by the Albany District (later Regional) hospital until 1999, with many of the tenants being hospital staff. (Criterion 2.2)

The place was constructed for notable local residents William Rae, the district surveyor, who died in World War I, and his wife Nora Rae, who lived there until 1949 and continued to visit into the 1950s after she relocated to Perth to assist the Governor and former Premier of Western Australia, her brother, Sir James Mitchell. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany contributes to the local community's sense of place as part of an historic streetscape, as indicated by its inclusion in the Local Government Inventory. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany is a good representative example of the style and scale of housing constructed for moderately wealthy professionals at the end of the Federation period. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

The place is in fair to good condition.

The roof sheeting has been replaced to address issues of damp, and requires ongoing monitoring. There is some evidence of cracking, spalling brickwork and fretting mortar, and drainage requires attention. The place requires a structural assessment.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The place has high integrity, as it continues in use for its original purpose as a single-storey residence.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place has high authenticity. Most original fabric remains. The roof sheeting has been replaced, and there have been changes to the fitout of the kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Modifications that have been made are minor.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been compiled by HCWA staff based on information from '206 Grey Street Albany Conservation Plan' prepared for Ms Ramakrishnan and Mr Patel by Annabel Wills, Conservation Architect, and Prue Griffin, Historian, in February 2005, with amendments and/or additions by the Register Committee.

Key sections used: Documentary evidence pp. 8-17, Physical evidence pp. 22-28 & 44-45, Comparative analysis p. 53.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to '206 Grey Street Albany Conservation Plan' prepared for Ms Ramakrishnan and Mr Patel by Annabel Wills, Conservation Architect, and Prue Griffin, Historian, in February 2005.

Additional information

During the time Nora Rae lived at *Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany*, her brother, James Mitchell (later Sir James), held several influential parliamentary offices, becoming Premier and later Governor of Western Australia. In this period, Mitchell was responsible for establishing the Group Settlement Scheme which impacted on the settlement patterns of the southwest of Western Australia.

During his long and distinguished parliamentary service (1906-33) Mitchell was a Minister in every conservative government except one, his portfolios mostly impacting on lands and agriculture.¹ He was consistent in promoting policies to open up new land for agriculture, and by 1921 was supervising the implementation of a pilot program offering land in the southwest of the State to the unemployed. Under the scheme, a wage of £3 a week was paid to each person, to be repaid once his or her farm was economically viable. They were to work together in groups to clear land and establish productive agricultural land.²

During his first term as Premier of Western Australia (1919-24) Mitchell negotiated with the British government to implement a similar scheme to the pilot program described above, in which British citizens could receive assisted passage to Western Australia to settle on land in the southwest and establish farms. Known as the Group Settlement Scheme, the program was generally considered unsuccessful, but none the less had a significant impact on settlement patterns in the State. The British migrants, and some unemployed West Australians who participated, found the land selected was generally unsuitable and required more resources and endeavour than originally anticipated. Many farms were abandoned by families whose already insufficient incomes were further affected by the Depression in the early 1930s.³

Mitchell was the Leader of the Opposition from 1924-30, and served his second term as Premier from 1930-33.⁴ Nora Rae was still living at *Residence, 206 Grey Street, Albany*, during this time, and it is likely that Mitchell visited the house during this period.

1 Black, D., & Bolton, G., *Biographic Register of Members of the Parliament of Western Australia, Vol. One, 1870 - 1930* (Perth: West Australian History Project, 2001), p. 140

2 Blond, P.E.M., *A Tribute to the Group Settlers* (Nedlands, WA: University of Western Australia Press, 1987), p. 1

3 *ibid*, pp. 2 - 4

4 Black, D., & Bolton, G., *op cit*, p. 140

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to '206 Grey Street Albany Conservation Plan' prepared for Ms Ramakrishnan and Mr Patel by Annabel Wills, Conservation Architect, and Prue Griffin, Historian, in February 2005.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to '206 Grey Street Albany Conservation Plan' prepared for Ms Ramakrishnan and Mr Patel by Annabel Wills, Conservation Architect, and Prue Griffin, Historian, in February 2005.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'206 Grey Street Albany Conservation Plan' prepared for Ms Ramakrishnan and Mr Patel by Annabel Wills, Conservation Architect, and Prue Griffin, Historian, in February 2005.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
