



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 'Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer in January 2000, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities
- 7.2 Developing institutions of self-government and democracy

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 107 Settlements
- 404 Community services and utilities
- 401 Government and politics

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is a fine example of an Inter War Free Classical style civic building, with its symmetrical parapetted façade, a vestigial pediment, pilasters and classical elements, constructed of distinctive randomly laid local laterite. (Criterion 1.1)

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is a significant built element of the Great Northern Highway streetscape in Chittering, and, together with the Anglican Church, forms a cultural environment adjacent to Lake Chittering. (Criterion 1.3 & 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Chittering Roads Board Office (fmr) formed part of the civic precinct of Chittering in the first half of the twentieth century which included the Anglican church, oval and Chittering Hall. (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.

Chittering Roads Board Office (fmr) is indicative of the early growth and prosperity of Chittering and surrounding districts in the 1920s. (Criterion 2.2)

Chittering Roads Board Office (fmr) was the administrative center of the Chittering Road Board between 1928 and 1961, and Chittering Shire between 1961 and 1964. (Criterion 2.2)

Chittering Roads Board Office (fmr) has associations with Henry Morley and members of the Martin family, all of who were prominent civic identities in the Chittering region between 1928 and 1964. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is valued by the local community as the civic administrative center for Chittering from c.1929 to 1963. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is rare as a governmental office/administration building, constructed of laterite, in the 1920s. (Criterion 5.1)

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is relatively rare as an Inter War Free Classical style building constructed of laterite. (Criterion 5.1)

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is the only remaining place directly associated with the civic activities of the Chittering Road Board. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) is an excellent representative example of a 1920s rural road board administrative office. (Criterion 6.1)

12. 3 CONDITION

In August 2000, conservation works were carried out to *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)*. There was a lack of maintenance over a period of many years and cumulative effects of weathering on external elements. The interior had similarly been neglected with inappropriate ceiling replacements and lining of the windows, but it has been used and maintained at a functional level. Overall the place is in very good condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)* as a civic building is very clear. Although it is not possible to reinstate the original function as a governmental office/administration building, the

place has a moderate degree of integrity as it has continued to function for its civic purposes.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

Some original fabric has been removed and replaced with similar materials during the conservation works carried out in August 2000. *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)* has retained a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer, in January 2000.

Key sections used are: 3.0 Documentary Evidence (pp. 5-16), 4.0 Physical Evidence (pp. 19-30), Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (pp. 31).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer, in January 2000.

In 2003, *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)* forms part of the Brockman Centre, an arts, craft and culture centre under the auspices of the Shire.¹

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer, in January 2000.

Additional Information provided by Laura Gray regarding conservation works carried out in August 2000 -

- Entire roof re-roofed with short sheets galvanised sheeting
- Site drainage: agricultural drain constructed across the rear
- Earth build-up around external perimeter of building removed and earth graded away from building.
- Colonial profile galvanised gutters and round galvanised downpipes installed. Gutters connected to new cgi water tank on north side.
- New galvanised flashings and box gutters installed
- Brick chimneys restored(some repointing)
- Rendered front façade restored: reconstruction of some of the decorative elements
- Cracks in the parapet and NE corner of the laterite construction cut and pinned
- Stone walls restored (clean- minimal repointing)
- Rendered elements of the façade lime washed. 'Sail cloth' colour wash after site colour matching.

¹ Laura Gray, e-mail to Clare Schulz, 3 December 2003, on HCWA file P00478.

- Rear verandah reconstructed: milled timber stumps 0.100 square timber posts and spaced floor decking. All hardwood (jarrah)
- Rewiring completed throughout and new switch and plug connections installed
- New plasterboard ceilings installed
- Existing internal walls restored – some cut and pin was necessary on the NE corner front crack
- Timber framed windows, doors, architraves, skirtings, and mantelpieces restored
- Timber floors restored - some reconstructed elements. Floors sanded and finished with a traditional oil finish
- Interior ceilings, walls, timber trims, doors, and frames painted
- External timber elements painted, except rear verandah floor and posts that are oiled.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a comparative analysis, refer to 'Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan' prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer, in January 2000.

Additional Information from the HCWA database:

The database lists 71 places in the Inter War Free Classical style. Of these 71 places, 9 are/were governmental office/administration buildings. Two of these, are/were local government offices - Morawa Shire Offices, Town Hall & Lesser Hall (P01620) and Corrigin Town Hall and Road Board Office (fmr) (P00586).

Corrigin Town Hall and Road Board Office (fmr), built in 1923, has been classified by the National Trust and is on the Shire of Corrigin's Municipal Heritage Inventory. Morawa Shire Offices, Town Hall & Lesser Hall, built in 1935, is on the Shire of Morawa's Municipal Heritage Inventory. Both are included in the Heritage Council's assessment program.

Of the 71 places listed on the database in Inter War Free Classical style, 4 are constructed of stone. These include Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon (3101), Atlas Building (1975), Maylands Hall, War Memorial and Garden (4043) and Narrogin Memorial Park & War Memorial Pavilion (1819).

Of the 215 places listed as governmental office/administration buildings, 153 of these places were built before 1930. Of these 153 places, 11 places are built of local stone.² Only one of these places, Mt Marshall Shire Hall and Road Board Office (1645), was constructed in the 1920s.

² 'Laterite' is not a searchable field in the HCWA database. However, as it is a difficult stone to work, it is unlikely that many of these places used laterite.

There are 215 places listed as having been used as governmental office/administration building. Of these, 40 are on the State Register. 10 places on the State Register are Roads Board Offices.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

‘Chittering Road Board Office (fmr) Conservation Plan’ prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant in association with Irene Sauman, Historian, and Mike Carrig, Structural Engineer, in January 2000.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Chittering Road Board minutes have been destroyed for the period during which the *Chittering Road Board Office (fmr)* was constructed, and no newspaper articles relating to the place have been located. Further research is required to identify the architect, builder and additional details relating to the construction of this place.