



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*

Osborne Primary School is of aesthetic significance within Osborne Park as it represents a visual focus for the surrounding residential area. The landscape setting of the school and former teacher's quarters has aesthetic significance in providing a relatively extensive green space which contrasts in scale and simplicity with the intensive residential development which now surrounds it. (Criterion 1.3)

Osborne Primary School, comprising the school buildings, former teacher's quarters, formal cultivated areas, playgrounds, playing fields, outbuildings, trees and other landscape elements, is of aesthetic significance in providing an attractive precinct or cultural environment within the Osborne Park area. The large trees around the perimeter dominate the site and provide attractive shade areas to the grassed playing fields as well as giving the site a sense of enclosure. The site of the school house is shaded by extensive tree canopy and surrounded by attractive grassed areas. (Criterion 1.4)

The main school building, which developed in its present form over the history of the site, illustrates the ability of the Public Works Department to integrate numerous stages of development into a single building. The way in which each stage of development is blended with the existing building is of aesthetic significance. The design of the school house, store, shelter and toilet block integrates with the general design of the school. Only the canteen building follows a different aesthetic; however, this building is typical of the 1960s. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Osborne Primary School illustrates the development of a Government-operated school in the context of a developing community. The fortunes and stages of development of the school and school site reflect the stages of development of the Osborne Park area. The five classrooms constructed between 1903 and

* 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* North Ryde NSW, Angus & Robertson 1989.

1949 and the teacher's quarters constructed in 1907 represent the development of the school before the rapid post World War Two expansion of Osborne Park. The classroom block constructed in 1953 is evidence of the transition of the school to serve the expanding suburb in the post war period. (Criterion 2.1)

Existing landscape elements are evidence of the development of the place over time. The jarrah tree south of the canteen is probably a remnant of the pre-development vegetation of the site. Pine trees west of the school, Queensland box trees along Hamilton Street and pepper and carob trees along Albert Street, the peppercorn tree south of the school and lemon scented gums west of the sealed playground all date from the period before 1948. The probable site of the former flower garden and wheat crop are also historically significant for their association with the school's teaching focus at that time. (Criterion 2.1)

The development of *Osborne Primary School* represents the development and role of education in communities in Western Australia since the early 1900s. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The jarrah tree is an example of pre-development vegetation of the site and the surrounding area. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Osborne Primary School is of high social significance to the Osborne Park community, as is evidenced by its inclusion on the City of Stirling Municipal Heritage Inventory. The place is significant as a local community school which has been a focus of the area from 1903 and which was attended by many long time Osborne Park residents. (Criterion 4.1)

Osborne Primary School contributes to the community's sense of place by providing a focus and an identity for the local community. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Whilst not unique, the quarters is a rare example of a teacher's residence dating from the early 1900s still extant within the school grounds. (Criterion 5.1)

The teacher's quarters represents a way of life no longer practised in Perth suburbs whereby the head teacher lived adjacent to the school in a school house provided by the Education Department. (Criterion 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Osborne Primary School forms a relatively intact example of a Western Australian primary school which has developed from a one room semi-rural school to a school serving a large suburban population resulting from the growth of the surrounding area in the post World War Two period. It is a representative example of a school designed by the Public Works Department of Western Australia which was originally established in a rural environment but is now in a suburban context. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Osborne Primary School is in excellent condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of the place is high. It has been gradually adapted to the changing needs of education over time.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of the place is moderate. The significance of the 1903 and 1912 sections of *Osborne Primary School* are reduced by the extent of subsequent alterations to the original fabric. The authenticity of early sections of the building is low. The authenticity of the teacher's quarters has been reduced by the changes carried out in 1978. The authenticity of the original shelter shed, now the store, is medium as it has been adapted to meet the changing needs of the school. The authenticity of the 1949 shelter is high.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Osborne Park Primary School Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1997.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Osborne Park Primary School Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1997.

13.3 REFERENCES

Heritage and Conservation Professionals, 'Osborne Park Primary School Conservation Plan', prepared for the Department of Contract and Management Services, August 1997.

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
