



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES- ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in September, 1991 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The townscape value of *Warders Terrace* is enhanced by its proximity of the 'Law and order' complex of historic buildings and by its visual link with the Prison, a link established by the general use of limestone walls and corrugated iron roofs. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Warders Terrace is significant in the evolution of worker accommodation. As the most recently built of the surviving warders' terraces it demonstrates, through the higher architectural standard and quality of craftsmanship (due to a greater availability of skilled labour to draw upon) than nearby warders' cottages, the improving attitudes of the time towards standards of accommodation and the needs of prison warders and their families. (Criterion 2.1)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Due to the intact and original nature of the building fabric, *Warders Terrace* has the potential to contribute to an understanding of late nineteenth century construction techniques and materials in Fremantle. (Criterion 3.1)

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Warders Terrace is highly valued by the community for its association with the Prison and as a reminder of the status enjoyed by warders within the convict establishment. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Warders Terrace is significant in demonstrating the principal characteristics associated with the development and evolution of terraced housing for workers in Fremantle. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Warders Terrace is in a sound condition. A program of ongoing maintenance and upkeep is in place.

12.4 INTEGRITY

The building continues to be used for residential purposes and maintains a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

The existing fabric of the *Warders Terrace* appears largely unchanged from the original construction and the place retains a high degree of authenticity. Minor alterations (ie. enclosures of rear verandahs) did not damage the original fabric as the new enclosure was added to the original house.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Warders Terrace is a row of four single-storey, five-roomed, terraced cottages constructed in 1897, to provide additional warders' quarters for the prison staff.¹ The new quarters were built in Holdsworth Street (originally Doonan Street and later Queen Street).

In 1850, Captain E.Y.W. Henderson, Comptroller General of the Convict Establishment, brought the first boatload of convicts to a colony which was totally unprepared for its arrival. The small port of Fremantle had to absorb not only the first 75 convicts, but also their warders and their families and the Pensioner Guards and theirs. Accommodation was stretched to the limit and rents were high. Under these circumstances the need for extra housing for the staff of the prison was pressing. Henderson wrote to his London superiors seeking to remedy the situation.

As a result, Henderson embarked on a project to increase accommodation which included the construction of two sets of warders' cottages. By November 1851, the first surviving block of warders' cottages had been built at 19-29 Henderson Street.² The following year the second surviving block of terraces was built at 33-41 Henderson Street. The third surviving

¹ Unless otherwise stated, information in this report is taken from: BMA, 'Fremantle Prison Conservation and Future use: Warders' Cottages', (BMA, 1990).

² There were three other sets of terrace housing, (Henderson Street/South Terrace, Hampton Road and Henderson Street), that have been demolished.

block was constructed in 1858 at 7-17 Henderson Street.³ As mentioned, it was not until 1897, that the fourth surviving block, *Warders Terrace* was built.

The warders' terraces in Henderson Street, constructed in the early 1850s, are based on designs for worker housing then current in England. At the time when they were built terrace housing was almost unknown in Western Australia. There was no call for any attempt by the small population to save land by building them. Their location in the town, so close to the Convict Establishment helped to ensure that the warders could respond quickly to any alarm bell rung at the Prison.

Warders Terrace, as the most recent of the terraces built, demonstrates a standard of design and quality of craftsmanship that suggests that there was a greater availability of skilled labour to draw upon and a better managed P.W.D. administration. This terrace provided a reasonably comfortable living space for each family.

After the Commission of Inquiry into the Prison in 1899, £400 was spent on providing kitchens and widening the verandahs. In 1916, the quarters were connected to the sewer.

Warders Terrace is still used for residential purposes, although it is now managed by Homeswest.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

A limestone wall with piers and iron infill marks the front boundary of *Warders Terrace*, on the south side of Holdsworth Street. A higher limestone wall extends to the east and around the western boundary of the site to the police facilities. The wall to the east of the cottages changes to cement mortar in a distinct band in the upper part of the wall.

The walls of the building are constructed from ashlar limestone. Decorative stonework is evident on the front elevation. Quoins are used on the corners of the end dwellings which project towards the street. Quoining is also used on the side of windows and ends of party walls. Decorative skirts occur under the sills of windows on the recessed wall line. Twin stone brackets support the eaves line of the main roof. The stone piers of the front fence have shaped capitals. An inset panel with a pointed arched head and two vent blocks is set into the gable of the end dwellings. The end of the central party wall projecting above the roof is patterned.

Further decoration is provided by the fretwork barges and finials on the front gables. The front verandah is covered by bullnosed corrugated iron sheets. Inset panels provide relief to the blank party walls dividing the front verandah into the individual dwellings. Corrugated sheetmetal awnings shelter the windows on the gable ends of the end dwellings. These awnings are strutted off the wall.

³ Refer to: BMA, 'Fremantle Prison Conservation and Future use: Warders' Cottages', (BMA, 1990). for a more detailed account of the history of the Henderson Street warders' cottages.

The west wall of the terrace has been rendered, covering the limestone. The east and rear walls are not rendered. The two gabled end walls have been recently rendered.

The laps of short sheets of corrugated iron on the roof can be seen on all planes of the roof. Sheetmetal covers have been fitted to the party walls where they project above the roof sheeting. The chimneys are decoratively moulded, especially near the top, and have been painted.

At the rear, fibro-cement sheeted framed walls and corrugated sheetmetal skillion roofed areas have been constructed between projecting limestone walled parts of the dwellings. A separate limestone walled outbuilding was constructed along the rear boundary for each dwelling; however only one of these remains, as the others were removed to provide access and parking facilities for the Homeswest development at the rear of the site. These buildings contained laundry and toilet facilities. Some laundries are not used.⁴ Exclusive use of kitchen and bathroom facilities for each family were provided in contrast to the shared facilities of the original blocks.

P.W.D. drawings of 1914 show the addition of new troughs to the rear washhouse outbuildings and new kitchen sinks and baths in each dwelling, when the sewer was connected.

The decorative elements, particularly along the street elevation, indicate very different construction standards from those encountered during construction of the terraces in Henderson Street. A greater availability of skilled tradesmen and a less pressing need for haste in construction would have allowed the craftsmanship on show in this block.

Since 1990, the following work has been carried out on *Warders Terrace*: roof sheeting replaced; interior and exterior repainted; kitchens upgraded; bathrooms at rear rebuilt and general maintenance to verandahs and fences. The maintenance has been carried out by the Building Management Authority on behalf of the State Housing Commission (Homeswest).

In September 1993, a Homeswest development of 12, two-storey, units was completed at the rear of the site, resulting in the removal of significant outbuildings. However, this development is not the subject of this heritage assessment.

13.3 REFERENCES

BMA, 'Fremantle Prison Conservation and Future use: Warders' Cottages', (BMA, 1990).

Considine and Griffiths Architects P/L, 'Fremantle Prison Conservation and Future Use: Detailed Conservation Policy for the Warders' Cottages' (for the BMA, November 1991).

Australian Heritage Commission Data Sheet.

⁴ Although inspections were possible in dwellings No.9 and 5 in 1990, when the Report was written, no photographs of the interior were obtained.