



# REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

## Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE NO.** 1898
2. **NAME** *Railway Institute, Northam* (1898; 1940)
3. **LOCATION** Cnr Wellington & Morrell Streets, Northam
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**  
Lot 453 on Deposited Plan 194103, being Vacant Crown Land and being the whole of the land comprised in Crown Land Title Volume 3112 Folio 919.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Town of Northam
6. **OWNER** The State of Western Australia
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 14/05/2002  
Permanent Entry 22/11/2002
  - National Trust Classification: -----
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 25/02/1998
  - Register of the National Estate: -----
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
*Railway Institute, Northam* comprising a brick and iron hall (1898) in Federation Free Classical style, brick and iron library extension, timber and iron billiard room extension, and timber railway cabins, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:
 

the place was the first Railway Institute established in Western Australia. It is a unique example, representing the development of the facility from 1898 though to the 1940s and beyond, and has had one of the longest uses for its original purpose of any Railway Institute in the State;

the place provided for the educational and recreational needs of railway workers from 1898 to 1986, following the development of Northam as a major railway town at the junction of the Great Southern and Eastern Goldfield Railway lines and the home of several hundred railway workers;

the main building is a fine example of Federation Free Classical style of architecture in Northam, and within the railway environment throughout the State;

the place contributes to the local community's sense of place and is highly valued as a remnant of the town's railway history, and as a substantial and attractive building which has stood on the corner of Morrell and Wellington streets since 1898; and,

the establishment of the place in 1898 with the active support of prominent citizens of Northam, including George and Anne Throssell, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union is indicative of certain social attitudes of the period that encouraged workers to take up sober and mentally stimulating activities.

The railway cabins are intrusive.