



HERITAGE
COUNCIL
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 4946
2. **NAME** *Darnell's General Store* (1927-28)
FORMER NAMES Fearn's Cash Store
3. **LOCATION** Redgate Road, off Bussell Highway, Witchcliffe
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Witchcliffe Lot 6, being the whole of the land comprised in Certificate of Title Volume 1299 Folio 599.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
6. **OWNER** William Darnell
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 20/10/2000
Permanent Entry 05/01/2001
 - National Trust Classification:
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 04/11/1996
 - Register of the National Estate:
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Darnell's General Store, a group of buildings comprising a retail store, with two w.c.'s, a chemical store (former single men's quarters), and a seed store, all constructed of timber, with iron roofs, with floors and verandahs of timber, and retaining much of the early fitout and examples of stock on display, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place exhibits the aesthetic characteristics of a simple vernacular collection of buildings typical of the modest structures built in Group Settlement hamlets and timber towns in the South-West of Western Australia. Its simple underlying design overlaid with alterations, wear and tear, and decay, make the place a visually rich experience. It is its ordinariness, the adaptations, and patination that give it much of its aesthetic interest and is very much a part of its significance;

the place has a high degree of integrity and authenticity and is an integral part of a South-West hamlet, where almost all the buildings are simple timber framed structures;

the place is a fine representative example of building construction associated with timber towns and Group Settlements;

the place is a good representative example of a mode of trading that was once common in the late nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth century, but is now rare, where goods and services were offered over the counter and from display cabinets by sales assistants;

the early period fitout and stock has been retained on display to reinforce the 'old fashioned character and charm' of the place;

the place was constructed in 1927, and was associated with the Group Settlement Scheme in Western Australia following World War One;

the place was owned and run by George Shervington and Bill Darnell, the joint owners of the place from 1941 to 1960, and following the death of Shervington, Bill Darnell as sole owner; and,

the place is highly valued by the community of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, for the important role it has played in the development of the district.

The carport attached to the former single men's quarters, the present chemical store is considered to be of little significance.