



## 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 Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

#### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 4.2 Supplying urban services
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self education
- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities

#### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

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

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is a fine example of a brick and rendered stone Federation Free Classical style building. With its symmetrical fenestration, brick detailing, proportioned elements and simple form, the building makes a strong statement, appropriate for its rural setting. The main hall in the interior of the building retains its essential character and spatial qualities. It has refined proportions and finely detailed elements. (Criterion 1.1)

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is important for its aesthetic contribution to Northampton as a National Trust designated Historic Town. Though a small building, its prominent siting makes a significant contribution to the streetscape and the sense of place in Northampton. (Criterion 1.4)

#### 11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

As the centre for local government for nearly sixty years, *Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is an important civic building for the community and reflected the growth of the town and the development of local government in the area. (Criterion 2.1)

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\* 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.

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is the product of the growth of rural areas in Western Australia and reflects the needs and development of local government in these areas. It is also evidence of the recent heritage preservation movement in rural and urban areas. (Criterion 2.2)

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is closely associated with Mr A.I. (Arthur Isaac) Johnson, a ticket-of-leave convict and well known Northampton identity who was the Chairman of the Northampton Roads Board between 1896 and 1913, and, being a gifted stonemason, worked on the construction of the building. It is also associated with Captain Samuel Mitchell who was Chairman of the Board for four terms between 1876 and 1902 and who played an integral part in the development of the Town of Northampton and of the midwest mining industry. (Criterion 2.3)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* has social value for the historic role it played in provision of local government from 1898 until the new Shire Offices were constructed in 1957. It accommodated meetings of the Board, an office for the Secretary of the Board and a community hall for various groups. Since 1957, the place has continued to fulfill an important social role in the community through its use as a local meeting venue, library, craft centre and tourist bureau. (Criterion 4.1)

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is highly valued by the local community as a key element of the historic built environment of the town, as evidenced by the National Trust of Australia (WA)'s listing of Northampton as an Historic Town, and the inclusion of the place on the Shire's Municipal Inventory of Heritage Places. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

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### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)*, through its use as a centre for local government and community use since its construction, demonstrates the principal characteristics of a civic centre within a small country town. It demonstrates, with the assistance of interpretation, the needs and role of a Roads Board office. (Criterion 6.1)

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* is a representative example of a rural building in the Federation Free Classical style. (Criterion 6.2)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

The setting of the place has been substantially altered with the addition of landscaping held back by retaining walls which has raised the ground level and has had a negative impact on the exterior fabric of the place. The breach of the damp proof course has resulted in substantial damage to the render and stonework. The doors and windows on the elevations are in fair to good condition within the generally poor condition of the walls. The replacement roofing material is in good condition.

#### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* has ceased to be used for its intended purpose, and the use of the place as a Roads Board Office or library is no longer obvious. In conversion from Roads Board to library and then to craft shop, the nature of the use has changed, but the community nature and spatial qualities of the building have been retained. The integrity of the place is high.

#### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

The changes to *Northampton Roads Board Building (fmr)* have been additive and have involved the replacement of material. Internal detail has been retained within the main hall, but elements of the original setting have been removed. The rear elevation has undergone substantial change with little change to the front and side elevations. The degree of authenticity of both the exterior and the interior is moderate.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from 'Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan', draft, prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for the Northampton Shire Council in September 1999.

Key section used: 1.0 Documentary Evidence (pp1-18), 2.0 Physical Evidence (pp19-37), 3.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (pp38-40), 6.0 Graded Zones and Elements of Significance (pp48-53)

#### **13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence, refer to 'Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan', draft, prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for the Northampton Shire Council in September 1999.

#### **13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to 'Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan', draft, prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for the Northampton Shire Council in September 1999.

#### **13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a Comparative Analysis, refer to 'Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan', draft, prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for the Northampton Shire Council in September 1999.

#### **13. 4 KEY REFERENCES**

'Northampton Roads Board Building Conservation Plan', draft, prepared by Considine & Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd for the Northampton Shire Council in September 1999.

#### **13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

The precise nature and timing of all changes are not known, but the lack of accurate information on all change is not an impediment to assessing significance. There have been no invasive investigations, so that colour schemes through time have not been ascertained.

No visible evidence of the 1952 internal sub-division of the office was found. Similarly, there is no trace of the timber and iron structure added to the rear of the building in 1913. Floor cavities were not inspected because floors are carpeted and access is not readily available.