



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES - ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in October, 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Guildford Primary School is significant because the remnants of the 1870s structure, in particular the west wall of the hall, and the 1899-1919 additions are valued by the community for their scale, form, detailing and materials. (Criterion 1.1)

The 1899-1919 structures are also valued for the quality of environment they provide. (Criterion 1.2)

The mature trees contribute to the overall setting of the school within the historic urban village of Guildford. (Criterion 1.3)

Guildford Primary School is valued by the community for its contribution to the aesthetic character of the historic village of Guildford. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

The location of *Guildford Primary School* within the urban village reflects the civic ideal that informed the town plan of 1839, which was amended to locate buildings above the Helena River flood plain. (Criterion 2.1)

Guildford Primary School is important as the first purpose built Government school in the area and the only purpose built school of the colonial period which is still in operation. (Criterion 2.2)

The remnant portions of the 1870 school buildings, designed by Richard Roach Jewell, represent tangible reminders of the longevity of the school. (Criterion 2.3)

The subsequent alterations and additions to the original building and the grounds reflect the growth and development of Guildford and illustrate the physical changes resulting from changes to education philosophy. In particular these include the 1899-1919 additions, the 1940s outbuildings, the Bristol classrooms, the 1973 additions and the pre-primary building. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Guildford Primary School, having operated on the site since 1870, is important for its potential to inform on changing educational practices and school material culture. It also has potential to inform on the changing living conditions and material culture of resident teachers. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Guildford Primary School, as an organisation, is the oldest continuously operating Government school in Western Australia. (Criterion 4.1)

Guildford Primary School is highly valued for the role it has played in the community, not only providing free education, but also providing a venue for community activities. In providing education it has supported the growth of a middle class in Guildford which in turn has led to increased parent and community involvement in the school. (Criterion 4.1)

The value of the school to the community is reflected in the high level of involvement by parent groups regarding the operation and maintenance of the school. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Guildford Primary School is the only school established during the colonial period which is still in operation on its original site and is utilising original school buildings, albeit in a substantially altered condition. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Guildford Primary School buildings and grounds demonstrate physical changes resulting from changes in education philosophy from colonial times to the present day, including the implementation of Jackson's new standard school design over a previous sub-standard model, the provision of interconnecting classrooms and the separation of pre-primary facilities. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The main building of *Guildford Primary School* dating from 1870 to 1919 is in a reasonable condition and is generally well maintained. The roof and gutters will require replacement or substantial works in the near future. There is limited evidence of structural movement or spalling of mortar and brickwork which will need to be investigated and rectified. The 1973 additions are in a reasonable condition and require minor works.

Site drainage around the main building is poor and will require immediate investigation and resolution.

The Bristol classrooms vary in condition from poor to fair and although planned for removal from the site, they would appear to have the ability to be renovated and re-used.

The outbuildings dating from the 1940s are in a reasonable condition and recent works are in an excellent condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

With its continued use as a school, the place has a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The scale and form of the 1870s building has been completely obscured by subsequent alterations and additions however remnant walls such as the west wall of the hall has a reasonable level of authenticity.

Whilst the exterior of the 1899-1919 works have a high level of authenticity, the interiors of the classrooms in particular, have been substantially modified. It is possible, however, that original fabric and finishes could be uncovered through investigation of the existing fabric. The hall and corridor, despite its partitioning, are the most authentic areas of the building.

Overall, the buildings have a moderate degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of supporting evidence prepared by Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan Guildford Primary School, Guildford' (prepared for Contract and Management Services on behalf of Education Department of Western Australia, March 1997).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence refer to Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan Guildford Primary School, Guildford', (prepared for Contract and Management Services on behalf of Education Department of Western Australia, March 1997).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan Guildford Primary School, Guildford', (prepared for Contract and Management Services on behalf of Education Department of Western Australia, March 1997).

13.3 REFERENCES

Allom Lovell Hocking Conservation Consultants: 'Conservation Plan Guildford Primary School, Guildford', (prepared for Contract and Management Services on behalf of Education Department of Western Australia, March 1997).

13.4 FURTHER RESEARCH
