



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **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.

Supporting evidence for the Assessment of Heritage Significance has been taken from "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

Key sections used: Aesthetic Value p.36; Scientific Value p.36; Social Value p.36.

#### **11.1. AESTHETIC VALUE**

For a discussion of Aesthetic Value, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **11.2. HISTORIC VALUE**

This school building has moderate historic significance as an example of a one teacher school room of the beginning of the century. It was the first Primary School in Applecross, and continued to be used as a school room up until the 1960s.

#### **11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

For a discussion of Scientific Value, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **11.4. SOCIAL VALUE**

For a discussion of Social Value, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

### **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Supporting evidence for the Degree of Significance has been taken from "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared

by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

Key sections used: Rarity p.35; Representativeness p.35; Condition p.35 & p.41.

#### **12.1. RARITY**

For a discussion of Rarity, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **12.2. REPRESENTATIVENESS**

For a discussion of Representativeness, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **12.3. CONDITION**

For a discussion of Condition, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **12.4. INTEGRITY**

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#### **12.5. AUTHENTICITY**

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### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence for the Documentary Evidence has been taken from "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

Key sections used: Physical Evidence pp.13-15; Comparative Information p.16.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

Applecross was still a small suburb at the turn of the century, with poor roads leading to the nearest school, 4 1/2 miles away. However there were more than a dozen children in the area needing an education. Discussion with the Education Department about the issue led to the first Applecross School opening in 1905, and run from the local Road Board Hall as there were not enough pupils to warrant a school being built.<sup>1</sup> By 1909, the Hall was in a poor state of repair, and terribly hot in Summer, but despite the complaints of parents, the Education Department would still not build a new school, as there was not a large enough attendance. Gradual increases in the numbers of pupils meant that the hall was becoming increasingly crowded, and the complaints to the Department of Education increased accordingly.

Consequently the Department began looking for a suitable piece of land on which to build a school in 1912. In order to speed up the process, the Land Agents in the area offered the Department lots 304-311 for free, providing the new school was built within six months. However by the start of the school year in 1913, the school was not even started, and so a letter by the Land Agents requesting the starting and completion dates for the school building was sent out to the Department in May.<sup>2</sup> At the beginning of June the contract to build the one room school was given to Messrs. Aitken and Tillotson of Perth, to be completed on the 3rd September at a cost of £783 18s 6d.<sup>3</sup> The school was opened on the 4th September 1913.

As the suburb grew, so to did the school, and by 1918 the new school was already overcrowded, with 57 children on the roll, but the room designed for fifty. A second classroom was built soon after, and by 1934 there were still only the two, but a shelter shed was also being used as a classroom. The first of the brick classrooms were built in 1945 to alleviate crowding.<sup>4</sup> The 'baby boom' era of the late 1940s and early 1950s was a period of tremendous growth in the Applecross area, and so consequently the numbers of children attending the school increased dramatically. In 1948 the enrolment at the school was 178, and by 1950 it had nearly doubled to 310 students. Unfortunately in the opinion of the School Inspectors of the day, the old wooden buildings were 'badly in need of general renovation', but still had to be used because of the overcrowding. In the next few years, classes were placed in temporary rooms, in the staff room, in the hall, even in the cloakroom for extra space. More new brick classrooms were added in 1948, 1954 and 1959.<sup>5</sup> When the additions were made in 1954, the old wooden 1913 school room was moved to its present position to make space.<sup>6</sup> The school reached its peak of 843 pupils in 1962, and steadily decreased after that, so that by 1970 the three timber frame classrooms (all separate from the main school block) were not regularly occupied.<sup>7</sup>

In 1978, a student teacher at the school suggested that the 1913 original building be restored and then used as an example of a one teacher school. By the 1970s, the room had been used for nothing more than a storeroom, so the suggestion was seen as a good use of the old school building. The teacher Mrs. Susan Clarke, who made the suggestion, with the aid of other helpers cleaned and restored the room, and it was opened in May of 1980.<sup>8</sup> Since then the school room has been made available to teachers so that classes can be taken through and shown what school life was like at the beginning of this century.<sup>9</sup>

### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the Comparative Information, refer to "Applecross Primary School Original Buildings Conservation Plan" prepared by Ronald Bodycoat of

Duncan Stephen & Mercer Architects, for the Applecross Parents & Citizens Association in July 1996.

#### **13.4 REFERENCES**

1. Sharman, Gay, The History of Applecross Primary School 1905-1988, 1988, p. 16
2. Ibid.
3. SAWA, AN 7/14, Acc1124, PWD Contract Book 1913-1915
4. Sharman, op. cit., pp. 30, 46, 58
5. SAWA, AN 45/App, Acc 1937, Vol. 1., 1947-1953, Inspectors Book.
6. Sharman, op. cit., pp. 86-87
7. SAWA, AN 45/App, Acc 1939, Vol. 1, 1958-1976, Inspectors Book.
8. Sharman, op. cit., p. 93
9. Western Australian Education News, February 18th 1982, p. 1