



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.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.4 Building a system of higher education

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science
- 408 Institutions
- 605 Famous and infamous people

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The buildings of *Hale School (fmr)* form part of the prominent Parliament House/Observatory Precinct and are an integral part of the townscape in the West Perth area. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.3)

The School Building and the Boarding House of *Hale School (fmr)*, designed by Herbert Parry and Hillson Beasley (PWD Chief Architect), are noteworthy architectural designs from different periods (1914 & 1926). (Criterion 1.2)

The two buildings of *Hale School (fmr)* being set back from the street in a grassed landscape are in contrast to the heavy development of the remainder of West Perth. This openness extends to Parliament House, the Observatory and onto Kings Park, and collectively they form a significant cultural landscape. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Hale School (fmr) is important in the history of the development of education in this State, dating back to the time before the turn of the century. It is important in demonstrating the school system and accommodation needs of the time. (Criteria 2.1 & 2.2)

Hale School (fmr) is closely associated with Bishop Hale who developed the philosophy of the High School and subsequently led to the formation of the Public Schools Association. It also has associations with other prominent

* 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.

figures in Perth, such Winthrop Hackett, Dr J.S. Battye and Percy Oliver. (Criterion 2.3)

The two buildings of *Hale School (fmr)*, the School Building (1914) and the Boarding House (1926) are important examples of the scholastic architecture of these two periods and are considered significant in terms of remaining examples of this building type in the State. (Criterion 2.4)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Hale School (fmr) as a complex demonstrates a method of education and learning which is part of the foundation of the secondary education system in this State. (Criterion 3.1)

The buildings of *Hale School (fmr)* demonstrate a former education system in the State. They demonstrate by comparison with the current education system the change that has occurred. (Criterion 3.2)

The Boarding House is technically important. It demonstrates a new and economical form of building in the period 1925/1926. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Hale School (fmr) is valued by the community as the model for the development of the Secondary High School system and the subsequent formation of Hale School which forms part of the cultural and educational development of the State. (Criterion 4.1)

Hale School (fmr) is an integral and well known part of the West Perth and Perth City environs and contributes to the sense of place in the area. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Hale School (fmr) forms a rare example of a complete school complex at the start of the 19th century. *Hale School (fmr)* is, except for a number of small alterations, complete. This State does not possess many such other examples of this type. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The School Building of *Hale School (fmr)* is a representative example of the Federation Gothic Style in which it has been designed. (Criterion 6.1)

The Boarding House of *Hale School (fmr)*, designed in the 1920s style, shows references to the Bungalow style residential buildings. (Criterion 6.1)

Hale School (fmr) represents an important period in the development of Western Australia's secondary education system and the environment in which it operated at the start of the 19th century. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The School Building and the Boarding House of *Hale School (fmr)* are both in fair condition. The external walls of the School Building show in some places minor fretting of the stone, which is not serious, while internally there are signs of moisture ingress. Most of the joinery, brickwork and roofing of the

Boarding House appear sound although some water ingress was noted. The roof has been re-tiled.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

Hale School (fmr) operated as a school until 1961 when the institution relocated to Wembley Downs. The Education Department occupied *Hale School (fmr)* as its main headquarters from 1963 until 1983 when it was occupied by the Distance Education Centre. It is understood that this department will be relocated away from the site, ending a long relationship between education and *Hale School (fmr)*, with the building possibly being converted to use for State Parliament. The building is now occupied by The Constitution Centre of Western Australia.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The original form of the School Buildings of *Hale School (fmr)* is substantially intact, except for alterations, which are outlined in enclosed photocopies as supporting material. The general appearance of the Boarding House of *Hale School (fmr)* remains largely unchanged with most changes to the appearance of the building being to the rear or south side of the building. [See enclosed photocopies of outlined changes].

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the Supporting Evidence prepared by Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan, Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth', for the Building Management Authority, April 1993.

13. 1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Documentary Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan, Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth', prepared for the Building Management Authority, April 1993.

13. 2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the Physical Evidence refer to Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan, Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth', prepared for the Building Management Authority, April 1993.

13. 3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the Comparative Information refer to Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan, Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth', prepared for the Building Management Authority, April 1993.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

Palassis Architects, 'Conservation Plan, Former Hale School Buildings, Havelock Street, West Perth', prepared for the Building Management Authority, April 1993.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

By 1993, a study undertaken for the National Trust of Australia (WA) investigated the Aboriginal associations with the former Perth Observatory site (which adjoined the present study area). This study found there were no ethnographic or archaeological sites within its boundaries and that the nearest identified site was located by the Barrack Arch. This conclusion suggests that the former school site was likewise not of particular importance to Aboriginal people. However, it is possible that new information may come to light at some future time and consultation with the relevant Aboriginal communities would be desirable.