



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)

- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 401 Government and politics
- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) is a good simple example of a single-room timber roads board office in an inter-war Vernacular style. (Criterion 1.1)

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) makes a contribution to the streetscape, townscape and character of Nungarin as a small timber building, with an individual identity, in the town centre. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) was constructed in 1922 to serve the Roads Board formed the previous year, and represents the early establishment and development of the district. Its replacement in 1936 by another purpose built office provides evidence of the expansion of the district. (Criterion 2.1)

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) is associated with members of the inaugural Nungarin Roads Board, formed in 1922. (Criterion 2.3)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) is valued for its associations with the establishment of the Nungarin Roads Board in 1922, and with the early development of the district. (Criterion 4.1)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) is a rare surviving example of a single-room weatherboard road board office, typical of the modest beginnings of many small rural road boards. (Criterion 5.1)

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) demonstrates a distinctive function, associated with the administration of a small rural road board between 1922 and 1936, that is no longer practiced and of considerable interest to the community within the Shire of Nungarin. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) demonstrates the characteristics of a small rural road board and its initial development between 1922 and 1936, and is representative of the expansion of local government authorities across the State in the inter-war years. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

Maintenance has not taken place over a period of many years. The cumulative effects of weathering and the lack of regular programmed maintenance and financial resources is evident. Overall the place is in fair condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The original design and functional intention of the place is clear. The place has retained a high degree of integrity.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The original fabric has been retained for the most part and the place has a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been adapted from "Conservation Plan Draft Nungarin Road Board Office" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant & Maxine Cornish, Honorary Historian for the Shire of Nungarin, for the Shire of Nungarin in November 2001, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The documentary evidence has been taken from 'Nungarin Shire Municipal Heritage Inventory: Brief History of the Nungarin District', prepared by Maxine Cornish in 1998, with references updated in 2004, and used as the documentary evidence for "Conservation Plan Draft Nungarin Road Board Office" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant & Maxine Cornish, Honorary Historian for the Shire of Nungarin, for the Shire of Nungarin in November 2001.

From 1936, when it ceased to function as a Roads Board Office, *Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr)* was the meeting place for Toc H. Toc H is an international charity organisation with a Christian base, established in Belgium during World War One, which aims to undertake worthwhile grassroots projects to develop communities, to reduce divisions between peoples and, ultimately, to work for peace.¹ The Nungarin branch of Toc H disbanded c.1958.

In 2004, the place has no regular function. It retains many original fittings and is opened on occasion as a tourist attraction.²

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence refer to "Conservation Plan Draft Nungarin Road Board Office" prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant & Maxine Cornish, Honorary Historian for the Shire of Nungarin, for the Shire of Nungarin in November 2001.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The HCWA database includes 79 roads board offices, of which three are predominantly constructed of timber, being:

P00437 Roads Board Building (fmr), Capel, constructed 1926, a single-storey domestic scale weatherboard building, restored in 1996 and now used as a community hall. It was extended in 1957, before the Roads Board vacated the place in the late 1960s, and is larger than *Nungarin Road Board Office (fmr)*.

P02691 Drakeswood Roads Board Office (fmr), Waroona, constructed 1933, a single-storey domestic scale weatherboard building with a prominent pediment creating an entry statement to the street. The place has been use as a library and, more recently, a tourist centre. It is larger than *Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr)*.

P15408 *Upper Gascoyne Roads Board Office (fmr)*, constructed 1912, a small, timber framed building clad with weatherboards, with a steeply pitched pyramid-shaped corrugated iron roof and a separate surrounding verandah roof supported on timber posts wrapping all sides of the building. The original timber verandah floor has been replaced with concrete. Internally, the building consists of only one

¹ 'What is Toc H?' at www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dave/TOC_H/Whatis/, 23 July 2004.

² Bill Fensome, CEO, Shire of Nungarin, phone conversation with Clare Schulz, 22 July 2004.

room and features ripple iron to both the walls and ceiling. This is a permanently Registered place.

Of the 79 roads board offices listed in the database, 30 were constructed in the interwar period. This proportion is representative of the rapid expansion of rural areas in the State in the interwar years, and the subsequent need for greater numbers of local government authorities.

Nungarin Roads Board Office (fmr) is rare as a single-room timber roads board office. It is representative of the expansion of local government authorities across the State in the inter-war years.

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

“Conservation Plan Draft Nungarin Roads Board Office” prepared by Laura Gray, Heritage & Conservation Consultant & Maxine Cornish, Honorary Historian for the Shire of Nungarin for the Shire of Nungarin in November 2001.

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH
