



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.

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The complex of buildings that comprise *Artillery Barracks* and their setting have aesthetic value as a predominantly unified architectural and planning concept in an expression that is best described as Federation Free Classical Style. (Criterion 1.1)

The buildings that are part of Beasley's concept are carefully designed and detailed and exhibit a subtle range of variation to suit the various purposes for which they were intended. The original buildings are fine examples of Beasley's prodigious output. (Criterion 1.2)

The Navy Store and the *Fremantle Harbour Signal Station* (fmr), designed by Hobbs, Winning and Leighton, while not part of the original concept, have aesthetic value in their own right, both as pieces of design and as landmarks that announce the arrival from the north shore of the Swan River to Fremantle. (Criteria 1.2 & 1.3)

The natural environment, comprising limestone cliffs and outcrops and remnant heath, is also of aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.3)

The commanding views to and from the place are of great and enduring aesthetic value. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Although degraded somewhat by European colonisation and over 160 years of post-settlement use, the place has importance as one of a small number of places in the City of Fremantle that contain remnant indigenous heath vegetation on part of the Spearwood Dune system. A management plan is in place and the vegetation has been subject to rehabilitation planting and management. (Criterion 2.1)

The place demonstrates among other things, the topography, flora and culturally modified features, such as the former quarries, indicating the environment encountered by the European colonists, together with evidence of some of their early attempts to exploit the resources of Cantonment Hill. Further, the setting of the culturally modified parts of the site are a

demonstration of the Army's attitude to site planning and landscaping in the first quarter of the twentieth century. Though the physical evidence of plantings from that time is sparse, the organisation of the site and its setting remain clear and unaffected and demonstrate the planning requirements of a military establishment. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is significant in connection with the development of the State and, in particular, with the increasing importance of Fremantle as the State's chief port. With the increase in the strategic importance of the port came the necessity to ensure its defence. (Criterion 2.2)

The place is representative of a time when it was assumed that potential enemies would mount seaborne rather than aerial attacks. *Artillery Barracks* was designed to service the two batteries at forts Arthur and Forrest, as part of the harbour defences prior to World War One. Prior to World War Two, the barracks played a key role in the development of the national coastal defence system and was in the centre of the development and control of coastal batteries for the west coast of Australia, including those constructed offshore at Rottnest and Garden islands. (Criterion 2.2)

The place has an association with Lieutenant Colonel (later Lieutenant General) Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, who was influential in ensuring that the location was secured for the barracks and who enjoys a prominent place in the nation's military and architectural history. The place has strong associations with Hillson Beasley who was an important influence on the development of the State's building stock in the period of the gold boom and up to the time of World War One, in his capacity as chief draftsman and later as chief architect at the Public Works Department of Western Australia. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The reserve under the control of the City of Fremantle contains the majority of the remnant coastal heath and has already been recognised as a teaching resource. It is the intention of the City of Fremantle, under the guidance of its 'Cantonment Hill Management Plan', to ensure that, in concert with a rehabilitation programme, trails and interpretive material are set in place so the site can be better accessed and understood. (Criterion 3.1)

Artillery Barracks has a role in contributing to a wider understanding of human occupation in Australia and, in particular, to the early use of the site in terms of the quarrying that occurred there, the aspects of military barracks operations and living, the story of coastal defence and for its more recent role as the Army Museum, which will contribute to an understanding of the role of the Army in Western Australian and Australian history. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Artillery Barracks has strong associations for service personnel who trained or were stationed at the barracks throughout its eighty-four year history. The relocation of the Army Museum to *Artillery Barracks* has made the place a reference point for former service personnel and their families seeking information about their, or their relatives, involvement in Western Australian military history. (Criterion 4.1)

Artillery Barracks is associated with the life and development of Fremantle and contributes to Fremantle's sense of place by its landmark qualities. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

The place is important on a local level for its natural and modified topography and natural landscape, especially its remnant coastal heath. (Criterion 5.1)

Artillery Barracks is evidence of a distinctive way of military life that has passed and, in a State context, is rare for its authentic, complete and intact state. (Criterion 5.1)

Barracks exist elsewhere in the State, but with the continual rationalisation of defence facilities, evidence of this nature is in danger of becoming rare as such properties are put into the disposal process and pass into alternative uses. Although other facilities, such as Swan Barracks, may also be conserved it is unlikely that they will retain a military or military-related use or presence. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Of the total site area of Cantonment Hill, there is an area in excess of a hectare of remnant coastal heath, both within the reserve and the army property. It demonstrates the principal characteristics of the Spearwood Dune system and its remnant vegetation. (Criterion 6.1)

The 1911-1914 barracks structures, parade ground, support buildings, quarters and the general layout and planning of the facility offer a clear and unambiguous demonstration of military planning, organisation and architecture for an early twentieth century army base, and of the standing of the personnel involved in its operation. The additional structures and adaptations demonstrate the fulfilment of requirements for operations in preparation for and during World War Two. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The buildings generally appear in sound condition. Apart from sections of the buildings needing specific, and in some sections, urgent, maintenance, the complex is in fine fettle. Except where ceilings have been either subceiled or replaced, the original finishes of the complex generally are simply 'under the paint'. In the main, additions since the inchoate construction are not excessively intrusive. Many original interior fixtures and fittings remain in useable condition.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The integrity of the elements of heritage significance does not appear to be under threat with the recent installation of the Army Museum into some of the buildings. The burgeoning interest in defence heritage should ensure the long term maintenance and viability of the complex when seen in the context of the heritage of the nation. Generally the original intentions are intact and *Artillery Barracks* has a high level of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Most of the external and internal fabric, including many internal fittings and fixtures, is in its original state, or a state which could be recovered without major work. *Artillery Barracks* has a high level of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Attached are key sections of the supporting evidence prepared by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Artillery Barracks Fremantle Conservation Plan' (for the Commonwealth Department of Defence, March 1996).

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the documentary evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Artillery Barracks Fremantle Conservation Plan' (for the Commonwealth Department of Defence, March 1996).

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a detailed discussion of the physical evidence of the place refer to the report by Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Artillery Barracks Fremantle Conservation Plan' (for the Commonwealth Department of Defence, March 1996).

13.3 REFERENCES

Considine and Griffiths Architects Pty Ltd: 'Artillery Barracks Fremantle Conservation Plan' (for the Commonwealth Department of Defence, March 1996).

National Trust of WA Assessment.

'Fremantle Artillery Barracks' (report prepared by the Architectural Division of the Commonwealth Department of Works, c.1970) Q725.18216