



## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### Permanent Entry

#### 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.

The wording of this document has been adapted from 'Former Irwin School' Conservation Plan with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

##### PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

##### HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education and science
- 404 Community services and utilities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Yardarino School (ruin)* demonstrates the simple, functional design attributes of the Victorian Georgian style of architecture, and reflects the aesthetic characteristics of the standard Public Works Department 720 design for single-roomed, provisional school buildings from the 1870s in Western Australia. (Criterion 1.1)

*Yardarino School (ruin)* makes a picturesque contribution to its rural environment as a simple stone building, located on a grassy knoll amongst a stand of gum trees. (Criterion 1.3)

#### 11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

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\* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The construction of *Yardarino School (ruin)* in 1878 in a sparsely populated rural environment, at a time when rural populations were largely transient, demonstrates the importance placed on education at the time, while the scale of the building reflects the modest nature of the early development of the Irwin district. (Criterion 2.1)

*Yardarino School (ruin)* predominantly catered to the children of railway workers stationed at the Irwin siding on the Midlands railway line, and of tenant farmers working for large land-owners in the district, and demonstrates the influence of these occupations on the development of the area, and the importance of the railway in the establishment of rural settlements. (Criterion 2.1)

*Yardarino School (ruin)* was constructed in 1878 to a standard plan for a 40-student school, developed as part of the standardisation of buildings by the Public Works Department throughout Western Australia in the mid to late 1800s. This 40-student school design was superseded in 1893. (Criterion 2.2)

### **11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE**

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### **11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE**

In addition to its educational use, *Yardarino School (ruin)* was important to the local community as the only public building in the locality, and was used for church services, weddings, and other community events. (Criterion 4.1)

*Yardarino School (ruin)* contributes to the sense of place of the Irwin community, as demonstrated by its 'Indicative Place' status with the Australian Heritage Commission, its inclusion in the Shire of Irwin Municipal Inventory and its 'Classified' status with the National Trust of Australia (WA), and is an important social landmark for former teachers, students and their families. (Criteria 4.1 & 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **12. 1. RARITY**

*Yardarino School (ruin)* is rare as an example of a single-roomed school constructed in the 1870s in Western Australia to the Public Works Department 720 design, which was superseded in 1893,. It is one of only four known surviving examples of stone, single-roomed, 40-student schools constructed in Western Australia in the mid to late 1800s, and one of only two remaining such stone schools built to the PWD plan form 720. (Criterion 5.1, 5.2)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Yardarino School (ruin)* is representative of single-roomed, 40-student schools built in the mid to late 1800s. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12.3 CONDITION**

*Yardarino School (ruin)* is in a partial state of ruin with the east wall and roofing structures collapsed. The remainder of the building is in various stages of instability with the majority of surfaces being severely weathered both internally and externally. The remaining fabric is in fair to very poor condition.

### **12.4 INTEGRITY**

The aesthetic and historic values of the place remain evident in its existing form and fabric: however, the integrity of *Yardarino School (ruin)* has been compromised by its previous use for storage and subsequent dilapidation and partial ruin.

Nevertheless, the quantity of extant physical and documentary evidence associated with *Yardarino School (ruin)*, suggest it is highly possible that in the long term the place could be restored to a high level of integrity through conservation processes.

### **12.5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Yardarino School (ruin)*, has moderate to high authenticity. The original form of the schoolroom is readily discernable, with the majority of the original fabric remaining on site. Some minor changes to the fabric of the place, including works carried out for general maintenance and repairs, and the bricking up of two windows, the front door fanlight and the northern edge of the front door; however, these are easily reversed.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

Supporting evidence has been taken from “Former Irwin School, Shire of Irwin Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, architect for the Shire of Irwin and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in April 2003.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence (pp.8-38), Physical Evidence (pp.39-63), Analysis of the Documentary and Physical Evidence (pp.64-70).

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “Former Irwin School, Shire of Irwin Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, architect for the Shire of Irwin and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in April 2003.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “Former Irwin School, Shire of Irwin Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, architect for the Shire of Irwin and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in April 2003.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to “Former Irwin School, Shire of Irwin Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, architect for the Shire of Irwin and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in April 2003.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

“Former Irwin School, Shire of Irwin Conservation Plan” prepared by Naomi Lawrance, architect for the Shire of Irwin and the Heritage Council of Western Australia in April 2003.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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