



**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 November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 3.22 Lodging people
- 8.5 Forming associations
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 311 Hospitality industry and tourism
- 407 Cultural activities
- 408 Institutions

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

The Albany Club is an excellent, substantial example of a residence constructed in the Victorian Italianate Style. (Criterion 1.1)

The Albany Club makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Aberdeen Street, which is part of the historic Albany central area, as one of the most substantial and prominent of the large proportion of Victorian and Federation buildings in the street. (Criterion)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

The solid construction, generous proportions and aesthetic properties of *The Albany Club* reflect the prosperity and growth of Albany in the 1880s when the building was constructed; a time when Albany was Western Australia's main port and the State was booming following the discovery of gold. (Criterion 2.1)

Since 1894, the place has been the premises of Albany's 'Gentlemen's Club', 'The Albany Club', which has included large proportions of influential local businessmen and public servants as members, and is an important social institution in the town and in the region. (Criterion 2.2)

The Albany Club was initially constructed in 1886/87 as the intended residence of John Moir, an influential late nineteenth and early twentieth century Albany businessman and a member of 'The Albany Club', to whom he rented and eventually sold the building. (Criterion 2.3)

Members of 'The Albany Club' have included important figures in the history of Albany, the region, the state and internationally. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

The place is highly valued by the Albany community for its role as the premises of 'The Albany Club' since 1894. (Criterion 4.1)

The Albany Club is valued by the local community as a prominent landmark building in the historic central Albany area, and is part of the stock of historic buildings that make Albany a popular tourist destination. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Established in 1890, 'The Albany Club' is the second oldest established Gentleman's club in Western Australia, after the Weld Club in Perth (est. 1871). It is the oldest in the State outside the Metropolitan area, and has occupied its present premises, *The Albany Club*, since 1894, the longest continual occupancy of any private club outside the metropolitan area. (Criterion 5.1)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

The place is representative of a residential building in the Victorian style constructed as the home of a wealthy merchant in Albany in the Victorian era. (Criterion 6.1)

The Albany Club is representative of the way in which the English tradition of the Gentleman's Club was transported to the British colonies to consolidate a power base for the new ruling elites of colonised areas. (Criterion 6.2)

12. 3 CONDITION

The significant sections of the building, especially the original 1886-87 two storey construction and the c. 1900 additions to the rear, are in fair to good condition. There is damp present in the building, both rising and falling, which requires treatment. There is also some cracking in the rendered finish to the external walls. Stormwater discharge requires adequate treatment, as this is contributing to the damp and cracking. The significant sections of the building have been well maintained. Damp is present in the walls and ceilings of the ground floor office which requires rectification.

12. 4 INTEGRITY

The place displays a high degree of integrity. Although it was originally constructed as a residence, it is unclear if it was ever occupied as such. 'The Albany Club' occupied the premises in 1894, and has been in continuous occupation since. The building was easily adapted to suit the needs of the club.

12. 5 AUTHENTICITY

The place displays a moderate degree of authenticity.

Externally, the original 1886/87 two-storey building and the c. 1900 two-storey Stewards Quarters additions are largely authentic. The single-storey office and adjacent lobby and passage are authentic although the form of the roof over this section is unlikely to be authentic. Internal treatments in the Billiard Room mask much of the original fabric. The original cladding to the west wall has been covered with brickwork. The rest of the single-storey additions are not original.

The authenticity of the external form of the building is also diminished by the removal of the original cast iron balcony and chimney stacks.

Internally, the authenticity of the original two-storey dwelling has been altered by removal of some walls and some internal fireplaces, replacement of the first floor ceiling with plasterboard, installation of covered cornices and ceiling roses, bars and toilets, construction of the kitchen and laundry areas and replacement of original windows.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The wording of this document has been adapted from “The Albany Club Conservation Plan” prepared by David Heaver and Associates Architects for The Albany Club in March 2002, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

Key sections used: Documentary Evidence pp. 20-30; Physical Evidence pp.38-71; Comparative Analysis of the Place pp.75-76.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to “*The Albany Club Conservation Plan*” prepared by David Heaver and Associates Architects for *The Albany Club* in March 2002.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

For a discussion of the physical evidence, refer to “*The Albany Club Conservation Plan*” prepared by David Heaver and Associates Architects for *The Albany Club* in March 2002.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

For a discussion of the comparative information, refer to “*The Albany Club Conservation Plan*” prepared by David Heaver and Associates Architects for *The Albany Club* in March 2002.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

“*The Albany Club Conservation Plan*” prepared by David Heaver and Associates Architects for *The Albany Club* in March 2002.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH
