



**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)

- 2.5 Promoting settlement
- 3.4.3 Mining
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.7 Establishing communications
- 3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 7.6.6 Providing services and welfare

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

- 107 Settlements
- 108 Government policy
- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 202 Rail and light rail transport
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism and dairying
- 303 Mining
- 404 Community services and utilities

#### 11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE\*

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is a fine simple example of Federation Free Classical architecture constructed from local stone. (Criterion 1.1)

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct*, together with its setting, comprises an important cultural landscape. (Criterion 1.4)

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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

## **11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE**

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is indicative of the growth and development of the Mid West and in particular the continued exploitation of the Northampton mineral field and the agricultural resources of the region. (Criterion 2.1)

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is symbolic of the crucial role the railways played in the history and development of Western Australia, without which, the exploitation of the Mid West region's copper and lead mines, agricultural and pastoral produce, and the subsequent development of the region, would have been impossible. (Criterion 2.1)

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* was an integral component of the 1911-1912 extension of the Geraldton-Northampton railway to Ajana, which enabled the agricultural development of vast areas of the region and replace the declining mining industry as the foremost user of the railway. (Criterion 2.2)

The opening of *Northampton Railway Station Precinct* enabled passengers and holidaymakers to travel between Geraldton and Ajana frequently and efficiently. (Criterion 2.2)

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is indicative of the state wide expansion and improvement of the railway system that occurred in the early twentieth century, and particularly in the wheat-growing areas of the Mid West, which saw the railway lines treble in length, expanding from 1353 miles in 1902 to 3538 miles in 1919. (Criterion 2.2)

The transportable Refreshment Room building which was constructed in 1914 to the south of the Station Master's Office at *Northampton Railway Station Precinct* reflects standard policy for railway buildings and structures that was employed in the first half of the twentieth century by the Public Works Department, where a range of portable buildings were developed and readily available to be transported, installed and removed as required. The Refreshment Room was removed in 1933. (Criterion 2.4)

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

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* and the surrounding area is likely to contain archaeological evidence relating to the functioning of the place as railway yards with the ability to provide important information about both infrastructure and site use. (Criterion 3.1)

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

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is valued by the local community due to the important role the place played in the development of the Mid West. (Criterion 4.1)

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* contributes to the community's sense of place as a significant landmark for the town of Northampton adding to their pride in their place in the historical development of the area. (Criterion 4.2)

## **12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is a relatively rare example of a small regional, Federation era railway complex, and more specifically for its coursed and pointed stone constructed Federation Free Classical Station Master's Office and extant timber ladies' waiting room. (Criterion 5.1)

### **12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS**

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* represents the development of small regional railway stations built in response to community demand for better infrastructure in regional areas to assist in their development. (Criterion 6.1)

### **12. 3 CONDITION**

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* is in fair condition overall. The Station House is in fair condition externally and good condition internally. The Weighbridges are in fair condition. The Ladies' Waiting Room and Platform are in fair to poor condition. The Loading Ramp and remains of the Turntable are in poor condition.

### **12. 4 INTEGRITY**

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* has high integrity as it retains key structures with relatively minor changes. The location of the appliance shed is intrusive as it is in the position of original rail lines and therefore reduces the ability to read the place as a former railway station.

### **12. 5 AUTHENTICITY**

*Northampton Railway Station Precinct* has high authenticity. Little change has been made externally except to the northern elevation of the ladies waiting room. The internal layout of the Station House has been retained along with many original fixtures. The Ladies' Waiting Room has moderate authenticity internally due to the installation of a toilet and replacement of the floor.

### **13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

This document has been based on 'Northampton Railway Station Conservation Plan' prepared by Philip Griffiths Architects and Robin Chinnery Historian for the Shire of Northampton in September 2009, with amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage staff and the Register Committee.

#### **13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE**

For discussion of the documentary evidence, refer to 'Northampton Railway Station Conservation Plan' prepared by Philip Griffiths Architects and Robin Chinnery Historian for the Shire of Northampton in September 2009.

The extension of the Geraldton-Northampton railway to Ajana was prompted by the increased demand for lead, just prior to the First World War and the increased production at the Northampton Mineral Field. The extension allowed for the area to become more accessible to miners and facilitated easier transport of minerals to Geraldton, as well as activating the agricultural, pastoral and mining development of the region between Northampton and Ajana.

#### **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

For discussion of the physical evidence, refer to 'Northampton Railway Station Conservation Plan' prepared by Philip Griffiths Architects and Robin Chinnery Historian for the Shire of Northampton in September 2009.

#### **13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION**

For discussion of the comparative information, refer to 'Northampton Railway Station Conservation Plan' prepared by Philip Griffiths Architects and Robin Chinnery Historian for the Shire of Northampton in September 2009.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

'Northampton Railway Station Conservation Plan' prepared by Philip Griffiths Architects and Robin Chinnery Historian for the Shire of Northampton in September 2009.

#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

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