



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

Permanent Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 00463
2. **NAME** *Gascoyne River Bridge (fmr) (1931)*
3. **LOCATION** North West Coastal Highway over Gascoyne River, Carnarvon.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
Main Roads of Western Australia Bridge No. 838, portion of North West Coastal Hwy being Road No. 9480 and portion of river bed being unallocated Crown land together as defined on Heritage Council of Western Australia Drawing No. 0463 prepared by Steffanoni Ewing & Cruickshank Pty Ltd.
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Carnarvon
6. **OWNER** Main Roads Western Australia (Roads and bridge)
State of Western Australia (River bed)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
 - Register of Heritage Places: Interim Entry 27/12/2002
Permanent Entry 15/08/2003
 - National Trust Classification: -----
 - Town Planning Scheme: -----
 - Municipal Inventory: Adopted 24/01/1996
 - Register of the National Estate: Interim 26/10/1999
8. **CONSERVATION ORDER**

9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**

10. **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**
Gascoyne River Bridge (fmr), a remnant span retained from a 220.8 metre single lane traffic bridge of reinforced concrete and steel construction, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the bridge was the first concrete and steel construction bridge built in the north west of Western Australia, it was also one of the first bridges in the State designed to withstand intense river flooding and provide a trafficable all-weather crossing;

the bridge was an important part in the development of the network of all-weather roads that was needed to develop the north of Western

Australia; its construction was crucial in the evolution of this part of the State;

the construction of the original bridge was the successful achievement of a new technical innovation in Western Australia, it demonstrated a high degree of technical achievement in assessing the natural forces and applying engineering structural design analysis to design and construct economical structures in remote areas utilising concrete and steel materials, the success of this project brought about a general shift towards this type of construction;

the place is associated with engineer Ernie Godfrey who brought an innovative approach to the design and construction of bridges in Western Australia;

the place has aesthetic value as a remnant span of a well constructed structure that overcame the restrictions imposed by its isolation and extreme functional requirements with considerable elegance;

the place is the product of the period, between 1926 and 1931, in which the State Government, through the Main Roads Board, began to organise the construction of roads and bridges within the State as a network rather than being the responsibility of individual Roads Boards; and,

the place contributes to the community's sense of place as it has been a crucial link between the north west coast of Western Australia and the south of the State and between Carnarvon and the surrounding rural community.